

General Conditions

Weather: The County received around 0.4 inches of rain on Monday night and about 0.75 inches last night. I know a few places got a little more but on average that is what everyone got. It feels like we have moved backwards temperature wise for the next few days. We have moved back into the 40's at night. We shouldn't get down close to freezing, but some higher elevations north of us could see some frost. Hopefully by this time next week we will be back to normal temperatures.

Arkansas River: The river continues to fall. We are sitting at 258 right now and should be down to 255 by the middle of the week.

Row Crop

Corn: Early planted corn is up to V2 and almost V3. Weeds are moving on pretty good, but hopefully we can wait until next week to apply herbicides and try to take advantage of the longest residual we can. We will be looking at sidedress fertilization next week also. Several acres were planted this week, and they should emerge fast. I will pull nematode samples next week on the earliest planted fields. I established a hybrid trial and a plant population demonstration down in Lollie on Wednesday. This week pretty much wrapped up corn planting for 2020.

Heat units this week started out really high, but by the end of the week temperatures fell below 50 degrees which really brings down heat unit accumulation. Hopefully we will get back on track next week.

Total Heat Units Accumulated Since April 18	Heat Units Accumulated April 25 – May 1
304	120.5

Rice: We had great progress on rice acres this week. We have several acres of water seeded rice with varying success. Command has worked well on earlier planted rice but has started to play out this week so it is time for another application of herbicide. We need some dry weather to get some progress on this crop. I have had some questions on how late we can plant rice, Dr. Hardke's Rice Update below has some good information on that.

Dr. Jarrod Hardke's 7th Arkansas Rice Update: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/Arkansas%20Rice%20Update%205-1-20.pdf>

DD50 program: <https://dd50.uaex.edu/>

2020 Managing Water-Seeded Rice for Arkansas: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/2020%20Managing%20Water-Seeded%20Rice%20in%20Arkansas.pdf>

Furrow Irrigated Rice Handbook: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/rice/ArkansasFurrowIrrigatedRiceHandbook.pdf>

Wheat: Wheat is slowly approaching maturity. The earliest planted field I know of is at hard dough and starting to turn color. The later planted fields are at soft dough and getting close to hard dough. I still see a few armyworms around and we need to keep an eye on them in case they decide to move over to rice or corn.

Enlist Training: <https://courses.uaex.edu/course/index.php?categoryid=79>

Paraquat Training: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applicators>

Beef & Forage

Fire Ants in Forages: I have been getting several questions about fire ants in forages. Fire ants don't like to be disturbed, so the majority of mounds that we see are in pasture situations. We will see some new mounds in hay fields, but by the end of the year they have usually moved on to the fence line. I approach fire ants as a lost war, but we can still win a few battles. There are some options for applying fire ant baits in pastures, but the success rate is low. Even if you get rid of them, they will just re-infest the field. I prefer to concentrate my efforts around working facilities and places where the cattle and people might congregate. Extinguish Plus is a good bait to use in places like this. These baits aren't meant to be applied to the mounds. Fire ants forage for their food just like cattle. Baits need to be spread around the area where the ants will go out, get it and bring it back to the mound. Make sure there isn't a chance of rain when you put out the baits, rain will mess up the bait. There are other insecticides made for individual mound treatments, but I still like the baits the best.

Cool Season forages and eye problems: If you are grazing cool season forages like fescue or ryegrass this might be a good time to go ahead and clip the heads off. Unless your goal is to spread seed, the stem and seed heads are useless. If you watch a cow graze, they are putting their head down to get the leafy part of the forages, which leaves their eyes right at the level of seed heads. This will cause irritation to the eyes and could cause some eye issues. Go ahead and clip off that stem and seed head down to the leaf level.

Buttercups: Those darn yellow flowers has been a common response I have heard from several people lately. Buttercups are in full bloom and showing up everywhere we didn't get a spring application of herbicide out. I have had several people want to spray them and get rid of them, and you can. A quart of 2,4-D or a quart of Grazon will make them curl up and look ugly. I think a good option is just bush hog the tops off. This will open that canopy up and let the warm season grasses come on through. This works well also if you have fescue or ryegrass or another cool season grass that has a stem on it. You can kill two birds with one stone.

Brucellosis: Just a reminder that we will not have a spring schedule this year and if you need your heifers vaccinated please call Ebert and he will come to your farm and vaccinated them for you.

If you have heifers that need brucellosis vaccinations call **Ebert McClure at 501-351-1000.**

2020 Census

The Faulkner County 4-H'ers have started a campaign to get as many people as possible in Faulkner County counted. The 2020 Census is very important to our county. The census will have a lasting economic impact on Faulkner County and we need everyone counted. If you haven't done your census yet go to <https://2020census.gov/> and fill it out. It only takes about 10 minutes to get counted.

Follow our 4-H'ers of Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Faulknercounty4H> for more information.

Pesticide Applicator Training

The May 19th PAT in Morrilton has been cancelled. If we do another in person class now it will probably be in the fall.

So anyone that needs a private applicators license can use the online course as their required training to obtain a license. The online training is located at www.uaex.edu/pat. The Arkansas State Plant Board has made an exception and will allow producers that are certifying for the first time to be able to use the online training.

Upcoming Events

Pesticide Applicator Training:

THIS TRAINING HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

6:00 p.m. at Workforce Training Center (Timberwolf Drive UACCM Campus, Morrilton, AR)

Extension Service Voluntary Tax

Residents of Faulkner County have a chance this year to help the Faulkner County Extension Service. There will be a chance for residents to give to an Extension Service Voluntary tax on their tax statements. The money will be used to support the Faulkner County Extension Service which includes not only agriculture, but also family and consumer science and 4-H. We really appreciate the support of Faulkner County residents.



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