



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Faulkner County Agriculture News

Livestock, Forage and Row Crop Text List

I am starting a new texting list for anyone that is interesting in signing up. Texts will include updates about problems in the county, meetings or updates that will be available on the web.

For Livestock and Forage text to the number **313131** the message **uaex FaulkBeef**

For Row Crop text to the number **313131** the message **uaex FaulkCrop**

If anyone has any problems signing up, just give me a call and I can help you out.

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training

The Faulkner County Extension office will conduct a Beef Quality Assurance training on **Thursday May 30 starting at 6:00 pm**. The program will be held at the Faulkner County Extension Office at 844 Faulkner Street in Conway. BQA training is a required certification for producers to participate in the Arkansas Natural State Calf Preconditioning Program known as GoGreen. Even if a producer chooses not to participate in the GoGreen program, BQA certification is a great asset for your livestock operation. You will learn about proper injection methods and sites, handling vaccines and antibiotics, and methods to reduce stress and health risk on your farm. There will be a test following the training for you to be certified in the program and receive BQA Certification. This is a free program but we do ask that you contact the Extension office May 24, 2019 so we can get a head count for meeting space and materials. To register at the Faulkner County office please call (501) 329-8344 or email Mindy Beard at rbeard@uaex.edu.

Pesticide Applicator Training

There will be one last Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) in our area on **Tuesday, May 7 starting at 6:00 pm**. This training will be at the UACCM Campus Workforce Training Center in Morrilton. The fee for the training is \$20 per person and will be payable at the door. Checks should be made payable to the Conway County Extension Service. This registration fee **DOES NOT** affect the price you pay the Arkansas State Plant Board for your license. This fee is just for the certification training, you will still be responsible for paying the state plant board for your license. This certification will be good for 5 years.

Spring Brucellosis Schedule

Faulkner County's Brucellosis (Bang's) Vaccination Program will be held **Thursday, May 23 and Friday May 24.**

Even though it's no longer a state law, it is **highly recommended to have your heifers vaccinated between the ages of 4 and 12 months against Brucellosis** to keep brucellosis eradicated in Arkansas.

A representative from the Livestock & Poultry Commission and the Faulkner County Cooperative Extension Service will offer the on-farm vaccination program at no cost to all Faulkner County cattle producers. If you are interested please **CALL** the office at 501-329-8344, or **EMAIL** Mindy Beard at rbeard@uaex.edu by **Monday, May 13** to be added to the schedule. When calling in or emailing please include your name, number of head, phone number, mailing address and address of where the cattle will be. After the registration deadline, a schedule will be put together and producers will be notified by mail. Since the vaccinator will be using a modified live virus, please make sure that the heifers that will be vaccinated are either weaned or will be weaned after the shot is given. Leaving treated calves on cows may lead to abortion if they are bred.

The Livestock & Poultry Commission has stated that each farm where cattle are to be vaccinated MUST have a chute or squeeze chute with a head gate where cattle can be subdued. Even with good facilities, the chances of someone getting hurt are possible. *If the proper facilities are not available or safe, the vaccinator has the right to refuse to vaccinate your calves. Calves will not be vaccinated unless the owner or someone representing the owner is present.*

Fertilizing Pastures and Hay

Our recommendation on the initial application of fertilizer for pastures and hay fields is waiting until the night time temperatures are around 60 degrees for a week. It looks like we have finally hit that mark. Also we are about 30 days out from our first cutting of hay, and I like fertilizing and then harvesting about 30 days later. Pastures and hay fields require two different timing recommendations.

For warm season grasses like bermudagrass on pastures, you will apply your fertilizer now, and then if you get rain and good growing conditions through the year you can supplement growth with 175 lbs of ammonium nitrate or 130 lbs of Urea every 4 to 6 weeks.

Hay needs to be fertilized on the number of cuttings you project having and also how many tons of hay you will remove over the season. Typically we are looking at 4 tons of hay and 3 cuttings. The majority of the hay fields in Faulkner County are low in potassium. Getting a good soil sample will allow you to know about how much potassium you are going to need throughout the year to grow good warm season grasses. It is important to spread the potassium applications out over the season because grasses like bermudagrass will consume whatever you apply and it will be gone with the first cutting. A typical application that I have seen through soil samples is a fertilizer mix of 100 lbs of Urea, 100 lbs of DAP and 150 lbs of Potassium per acre. When you put these in the mixer you would apply that combination at 350 lbs per acre. Then you would follow up after the 1st harvest and then again after the 2nd harvest

with 150 lbs of Urea and 150 lbs of Potassium per acre applied at 300 lbs per acre. This will give you in the end 200 units of Nitrogen, 46 units of Phosphorus and 270 units of Potassium. That is very common for our soils, but I recommend getting a soil test and then I can recommend a custom blend for you.

How late can I plant corn? (Dr. Jason Kelley)

Data from irrigated planting date studies conducted from 2008-2013 in Southeast (Rohwer), East-Central (Marianna), and Northeast Arkansas (Keiser) showed that on average 100% of maximum yield could be maintained with planting dates as late as April 25th in Southeast Arkansas and approximately April 30th in areas further north. This goes against common thought that corn has to be planted as early as possible to get maximum yields and that planting date is not always the most important factor for yield.

A six-year summary of % relative yield potential by planting date and location in the state (NE, EC, SE) is shown below.

Estimated % Relative Corn Yield Potential Based on 2008-2013 Planting Date Trials in Arkansas (Bt hybrids only).			
	Keiser (NE)	Marianna (EC)	Rohwer (SE)
Planting Date	-----% Relative Yield -----		
March 15-April 25	100%	100%	100%
April 26-30	100%	100%	98%
May1-10	98%	98%	95%

Once corn yields started to decline, they slowly declined until Mid-May and then started to more rapidly decline through mid-late May at all locations. This data is in agreement with multi-year data generated from Dr. Erick Larson at Mississippi State University (<http://www.mississippi-crops.com/2016/04/01/when-does-corn-yield-potential-begin-to-suffer-from-planting/>) where he found that irrigated corn still produced optimum yields when planted as late as May 1 at Stoneville and Mississippi State University Campus locations.

Early planting in some years can be of benefit, but our studies have shown that there is a broad planting window of approximately 6 weeks from Mid-March to Late April where yields are still maximized. During the time of March-April when optimum yields should be realized, the goal should be to plant to achieve the best stand of corn possible and not consider the date as the most important factor for achieving high yields. I would much rather wait a few days for soil conditions to improve to get an optimum stand than plant a few days earlier into a soil that is marginally too wet and have a poor stand that will hurt yield more than a few days of delay in planting. Since it looks like we will have only one opportunity to plant corn this year we have to make the most of it. Focus should be on making sure that soil conditions are conducive for tillage and planting. Avoid performing tillage on soils that are too wet which will likely lead to compaction and a cloddy seedbed, both of which will likely have season long negative effects on corn yield.

Enlist Duo Training

Online training is open for Arkansas farmers seeking the mandatory license for ground applications of Enlist 2,4-D in 2019.

The online module covers both Enlist One and Enlist Duo™. Applicators must complete the certification to apply.

Once applicators complete the training module, they will have to achieve a 90 percent score on a 20-question test to pass and receive their license.

To complete the training:

1. Go to uaex.edu or <http://bit.ly/ArkApplicator2018>
2. Complete the registration form
3. Select the training for the chemistry to be sprayed
4. Complete the module
5. Pass the 20-question test with at least a 90 percent score
6. Print and keep the certificate.

Sincerely,



Kevin Lawson
County Extension Agent – Interim Staff Chair
Faulkner County
Email – klawson@uaex.edu