



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

*University of Arkansas System*

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## **Faulkner County Agriculture News**

### **Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training**

The Faulkner County Extension office will conduct a Beef Quality Assurance training on **Thursday October 3 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 **October 1, 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](mailto:rbeard@uaex.edu).

### **Natural State Preconditioning Calf Program Meeting**

The Natural State Preconditioning Calf Program (GoGreen) improves the image and welfare of Arkansas calves by adopting Best Management Practices from calf hood through marketing. Preconditioning involves vaccination, castration, calves who are weaned at least 45 days and understand how to find food and water in troughs. Advantages of preconditioning includes buyers spend less time and money treating sick cattle, sale barns provide healthier cattle and attract new business, and sellers often receive market incentives that cover vaccine costs and short-term retained ownership may advance market weights and total sale dollars.

There will be a **Natural State Preconditioning Calf Program Meeting on October 10, 2019 at the Conway County Fairgrounds Multi-purpose Building. The meeting will start at 5:30 and end with a meal at 6:30.** The address for the multi-purpose building is 308 Will St, Morrilton.

The agenda includes:

Precondition Sales and Marketing – *Chris Oakley, 101 Livestock Auction*

Procedures and Protocols, Preconditioning Value and the GoGreen Program- *Dr Shane Gadberry, U of A Cooperative Extension Service*

## **Estate Planning 101 Workshop**

Estate planning, a rather complicated process, has a straightforward definition. In short, estate planning is arranging for the orderly transfer of your assets (property) following death. The ideal estate plan minimizes taxes, expenses and delays, and assures that your assets reach intended heirs.

To help residents in the county with this process, The Faulkner County Extension Office will be offering a two night **Estate Planning 101 Workshop on October 22 and 29 from 6:00 to 8:30 each night at the OEM Building located at 57 Acklin Gap Road, Conway AR.** We will start off each night with a light meal followed by the program. There will be a charge for the meal and materials of \$30 for one person or \$50 for a couple. This covers both nights.

To register for this program please call the office at 501-329-8344, or email Mindy Beard at [rbeard@uaex.edu](mailto:rbeard@uaex.edu) by **Monday October 14.**

## **Fall Brucellosis Schedule**

Faulkner County's Fall Brucellosis (Bang's) Vaccination Program will be held **Tuesday October 22, Wednesday October 23 and Thursday October 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](mailto:rbeard@uaex.edu) by **Friday October 11** to be added to the schedule.

When calling in or emailing please include:

1. Name
2. Phone number
3. Email address
4. Mailing address
5. Address of where the cattle will be
6. Number of head.

After the registration deadline, a schedule will be put together and producers will be notified by mail and email.

**The vaccinator will be using a modified live virus. Since this is a modified live virus, heifers that are being vaccinated need to either be weaned or will be weaned as soon as the shot is given. There is a risk of allowing vaccinated calves to go back and nurse to transfer the vaccine back to the mother, which if the mother is bred could lead to her abortion.**

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.*

## **Pesticide Applicator Training**

In order for a producer to purchase and apply a restricted use pesticide, they must obtain a private pesticide applicator license from the Arkansas State Plant Board. In order to get this license you must first attend a certification training. Producers that already have a license must attend this training every 5 years to be recertified. The Faulkner and Perry County Extension Offices will be offering the following Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings for 2019 and 2020. There will be two more trainings offered by Conway County and when those are finalized I will send those dates out.

**Thursday, November 14, 2019**

**6:00 p.m. at First Electric Building (801 S Fourche AVE, Perryville, AR)**

**Thursday, December 12, 2019**

**1:00 p.m. at Greenbrier City Events Center (5 Lois Lane, Greenbrier)**

**Thursday, March 5, 2020**

**6:00 p.m. at First Electric Building (801 S Fourche AVE, Perryville, AR)**

**Thursday, April 2, 2020**

**6:00 p.m. at Faulkner County Extension Office (844 Faulkner St, Conway)**

The fee for the training is \$20 per person and will be payable at the door. 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.

## **Low Forage Quality**

The intermittent rains that have saturated Arkansas for most of the past year have taken their toll on forage quality, confirming the suspicions of producers and forage quality researchers alike.

Shane Gadberry, professor of ruminant nutrition for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said the rains affected every aspect of raising forage, from planting and fertilization to pest management.

“Putting up good quality hay was challenging for Arkansas ranchers in 2019,” Gadberry said.

“Rain and water-logged soils kept ranchers from getting fertilizer out, weeds sprayed, and hay harvested in a timely manner. We’re starting to see the consequences in the lab.”

Between May 1 and August 27, 92 cool-season grass hay samples and 368 warm-season grass hay samples were analyzed through the Division of Agriculture's Diagnostics Laboratory in Fayetteville. Testing results show protein averaging 9 percent in cool-season grasses and 9.8 percent in warm season grasses, with total digestible nutrients (commonly referred to as TDN) averaging 51 percent in-cool season grasses and 56 percent in warm-season grasses.

"We typically see protein above 10 percent and TDN around 54 percent in fescue, our most commonly harvested cool-season grass," Gadberry said. "Bermudagrass is the predominate warm-season grass harvested for hay, and historically we've seen the protein around 12 percent and TDN close to 58 percent."

A drop of 2 to 4 percentage points in overall quality means cows will need more supplementation through the winter. About 50 percent of available hay is testing too low in protein and energy for non-lactating cows in late gestation, Gadberry said. About 80 percent of the hay is too low in protein and energy for early-lactation cows.

"It's uncommon to see this many hay samples not meeting the nutrient requirements of non-lactating cows," Gadberry said.

In the short term, the extra body fat many cows are carrying from this summer's abundant pasture growth will help them endure the winter. But if they lose too much body conditioning before calving, or are in a negative energy balance during breeding, next year's calf crop will suffer, Gadberry said.

"The current excess supply of pasture forage is going to start dropping in quality as we move into fall," he said. "Ranchers should visit with their county Extension agents about testing pasture forages for protein and TDN, like they would hay. If pastures test below 8 percent protein, supplemental protein may help the cows better digest those carryover grasses."

Supplemental feed costs are likely going to be higher this winter, Gadberry said.

"The best approach to choosing the right type and amount of supplement is testing on-farm hay stocks," he said. "Hay quality is too variable, from farm to farm and cutting to cutting, to make assumptions about supplemental feeding."

## **Wheat Update**

The 2019 Wheat Update is available for producers thinking about growing wheat for grain this fall. The Wheat Update is a condensed summary of the data generated from the Arkansas Wheat Variety Testing Program. The update only includes information on varieties that should be commercially available and have been tested at least 2 years. If you are interested in the update contact me or you can download it on the web at:

[https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/wheat/2019%20Wheat%20Update%20August%2028%202019\\_Final.pdf](https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/wheat/2019%20Wheat%20Update%20August%2028%202019_Final.pdf)

## **Text and Email Updates**

If you would like to sign up for ag text alerts from the Extension Office you can go to [www.uaex.edu/faulkner](http://www.uaex.edu/faulkner) and click the **sign up for text link** which is located on the main page.

You can also text the message **uaex FaulkCrop** or **uaex FaulkBeef** to the number **313131**

I am also sending out a Faulkner County Weekly Agriculture Update email. I send this out every Friday and if anyone wants to sign up, they can email me at [klawson@uaex.edu](mailto:klawson@uaex.edu) and I will add you to the list. This update can also be found on our website under the newsletter section.

Sincerely,



Kevin Lawson

County Extension Agent – Staff Chair, Faulkner County

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