Arkansas River Valley Rice Production Meeting:

There will be a rice production breakfast meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at the Conway County Coop store in Morrilton. Breakfast will be served from 7:30-8:00 am. The meeting agenda will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-8:30</td>
<td>Controlling Rice Insects</td>
<td>Gus Lorenz</td>
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<td>8:30-9:00</td>
<td>Rice Weed Control</td>
<td>Bob Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:30</td>
<td>Rice Update</td>
<td>Jarrod Hardke</td>
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River Valley Beef Conference Set for Feb. 12

The 2013 River Valley Beef Cattle Conference is scheduled for Feb. 12 at the I-40 Livestock Auction in Ozark, Ark. Topics to be discussed will be; rebuilding of pastures and beef herds, as well as alternative feed-stuffs and the beef cattle outlook.

The conference is a joint educational effort of the University of Arkansas (UA) Division of Agriculture and Farm Credit of Western Arkansas.

The 2012 drought that crippled the cattle industry in Arkansas is continuing to linger. The goal of this year’s River Valley Beef Cattle Conference is to give cattle producer’s new tools to help manage and survive if 2013 is a repeat of 2012.

Dr. Tom Troxel, Associate Professor/Department Head of Animal Sciences will discuss when to rebuild herds while U of A Extension forage specialist Dr. John Jennings will speak on rebuilding pastures. Dr. Paul Beck, U of A Animal Scientist, will make a presentation on uses and limitations of alternative feedstuffs for cattle. A representative from CattleFax will speak on the future of the cattle market.

The conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A registration fee of $20/person will be collected at the door.

The meetings mentioned in this newsletter are open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, martial or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities that require alternative means of communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc) should notify the Faulkner County Extension office (501-329-8344) as soon as possible prior to this activity.
Soybean Updates:

Hundreds of soybean varieties are commercially available to growers in Arkansas. Varieties should be selected based on yield potential, disease susceptibility, maturity, height, lodging, herbicide tolerance and chloride sensitivity. This information is contained in the 2012 Soybean Update and can be found at this site: [http://www.aragriculture.org/crops/soybeans/varietyyields/full_season_roundup/ConvSP2012.pdf](http://www.aragriculture.org/crops/soybeans/varietyyields/full_season_roundup/ConvSP2012.pdf). Hard copies are also available at the Faulkner County Extension office.

Ryegrass Control in Wheat:

Ryegrass is a very competitive weed and fields should be closely monitored for ryegrass infestations. Populations of above 4 plants per square foot will warrant an herbicide application. For the most part, all of the ryegrass in Faulkner County is ALS and Hoelon resistant. Weed control failures have occurred with application of Hoelon, Osprey and Powerflex. The only available control option at this time is Axial and there could be an incidence of resistance to this herbicide based on last year’s observations. The recommended Axial rate is 16.4 ounces per acre. It can be tankmixed with Harmony for control of garlic and other broadleaf weeds.

**Do not tank mix with 2,4-D due to antagonism and loss of ryegrass control!!!**

Wheat Fertilization:

It is time to start applying spring nitrogen on the wheat crops. The recommended rate for sandy or light textured soils is 90-100 units of nitrogen. If ammonium sulfate was not applied in the fall, it should be applied in combination with urea to offset a potential sulfur deficiency. The recommended rate is 21-30 units or 100-150 lbs/A. For fields with a heavier soil type or more clay content, the recommended spring nitrogen rates are 100-120 units of nitrogen. On fields that tend to water log, Nitrogen should be applied in two splits. The splits should be timed 3-4 weeks apart. Ideally, the soil surface should be dry or relatively dry before a nitrogen application is made. Wait till later in the month before fertilizing wheat that is very large or has excessive growth. Fertilize the later planted or smaller wheat first.
Decision time near for early-season stripe rust management:
BY GENE MILUS, PROFESSOR, PLANT PATHOLOGY-WHEAT

One of the first stripe rust hot spots was found in a Lonoke County wheat field in December, 2012. Additional fields with stripe rust hot spots are being reported, and the time for early-season management is approaching quickly, especially in south Arkansas. Tank-mixing a labeled fungicide with a spring herbicide application for broadleaf weeds or ryegrass is the most cost-effective means of dealing with early stripe rust. All fungicides labeled for wheat will stop the epidemic for several weeks, so choose the least expensive option, but be sure the fungicide and herbicide are compatible as a tank mix. The best time to scout for hot spots is shortly before the planned herbicide application because this will allow more time for the rust to develop on upper leaves and make it easier to find. All wheat varieties are more or less susceptible to stripe rust at this time, and most develop adult-plant resistance as they mature. However, the adult-plant resistance can be overcome by new races of the stripe rust fungus, so it is important to control stripe rust early before it really gets going as it did in 2000.

2013 Crop Budgets
BY SCOTT STILES, EXTENSION ECONOMIST

The 2013 crop budgets are available in two (2) formats, pdf and Excel, at the links below.

**pdf link:**

**Microsoft Excel:**
http://www.uaex.edu/depts/ag_economics/budgets/interactive_2013.htm

Sincerely

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