

HOT SPRING COUNTY AGRICULTURE

HSC Extension Office

Summer 2018

GoGreen Natural State Preconditioned Calf Program

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Cattle buyers looking for the best Arkansas livestock may need to look no further than the green ear tag awarded as part of the Natural State Preconditioned Calf Program.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture program is meant to produce calves that are better prepared - or preconditioned - to deal with the stress that goes with leaving their birth ranch.

"Preconditioning involves vaccination, castration and calves who are weaned and understand how to find food and water in troughs," said Shane Gadberry, professor-ruminant nutrition or the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

High-quality calves are important in Arkansas, which is ranked No. 11 in the nation for the number of beef cows. Most of the calves raised in Arkansas are not farm-to-plate, which means they will likely be spending part of their lives in another barn by the time they are six or seven months old.

"When preconditioning is done right, everybody wins," he said. "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."

The program's nickname "GoGREEN," refers to the green ear tags placed on cattle meeting the program requirements, which include delaying marketing for at least 45

days after weaning.

How to enroll

To participate, the rancher must first be Beef Quality Assurance certified. Beef Quality Assurance certification class will be offered late this summer through the Extension Office or online at www.bqa.org.

Once enrolled in the GoGREEN program, ranchers should look at the criteria listed on the qualifying form and must have documentation of health products purchased and dates administered. After all the best management practices have been documented, tags can be picked up from the county Extension office.



The GoGREEN program is not free. There is a ranch enrollment fee of \$10 for 3 years and a \$2 per calf qualifying fee. The fees are used to cover the cost of tags and program administration and promotion.

If you're ready to GoGREEN, visit the Extension office to get started and visit the GoGREEN website at www.uaex.edu/gogreen for additional program details and call Rachel at the office.

"We hope this will be a welcome marketing plus for sale barns that featured the green-tagged program calves," Gadberry said. "We are launching this program now, hoping to see GoGREEN tags showing up in sale barns this fall."

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Hay Season is looking short this year

Rain has been short this summer already, and many producers are concerned about their hay crop this year. Even those looking to get their hay orders in are struggling to find the hay.

If you still have or are going to have hay for sale this season, please call the office. I will add you to a list for buyers that we keep here. If you are a buyer looking for hay, please also call the office and I can add you to a

list to share with producers. This is just another way we can help connect producers through the office.



Long horned Tick has been found in Arkansas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced this week that researchers have confirmed the presence of the Long horned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) in Benton County, Arkansas.

Loftin said that while the Long horned tick may be a new arrival to Arkansas, residents should exercise the same precautions they would with the state's existing tick population, rather than simply panic.

or animal populations, Loftin said.

“There’s a fear that it could transmit the Powassan virus, various other pathogens, possibly *Anaplasma* spp., and so on,” he said, referring to a parasitic proteobacteria that can affect dogs. “But we already have ticks capable of transmitting these pathogens.”

Loftin said there are a number of preventive measures concerned residents should take whenever exposure to ticks is likely. These include bodily protective measures, such as wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, tucking pants into socks, and applying insect repellent to both skin and clothes. Try to inspect yourself for ticks thoroughly as soon as possible after potential exposure.

Residents should maintain an effective tick control program on pets that are allowed outdoors. Keep piles of wood or rubbish should be kept far away from animals and homes, as they tend to serve as shelter or habitats for rodents, which can carry ticks, insects and disease.

The tick, which is native to East Asia, was first detected in the United States in November 2017 in New Jersey. It has since been confirmed in



Virginia, West Virginia and now Arkansas. The Long horned tick is known to carry and transmit both viral and bacterial tickborne diseases.

Kelly Loftin, extension entomologist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, is involved in a statewide study of ticks and the diseases they carry. He said that the study, launched in May 2017, has collected and identified more than 7,000 ticks.

“I think the big concern right now is the unknown,” Loftin said. “We don’t know how it arrived in Arkansas, how widespread it is. The Long horned is a big pest to cattle in some parts of the world, so of course that’s a concern here, along with the viral and bacterial pathogens it may transmit.”

He said that while many articles in the popular press have noted the Long horned tick’s capacity to transmit a virus associated with thrombocytopenia syndrome, the virus itself has not been confirmed in the United States.

And while the tick should certainly be taken seriously, the Long horned tick doesn’t necessarily present any new challenges to the state’s human

Face Flies in Livestock

We are beginning summer with face fly populations (*Musca autumnalis*) in north Arkansas well above the economic injury level. This is not a big surprise considering the number of complaints received and investigated this past winter. The complaints were from homeowners and others with tremendous numbers of flies inside homes and other structures, especially following warm periods. In nearly all of these complaints, the culprits were face flies. Why? Face fly winter survival is unique in that they overwinter as adults in protected areas such as attics, cracks and crevices and even church steeples.

During May we have observed cattle with face fly populations well above the treatment threshold of ten flies per animal, and so far, the population is still on the rise. When face fly abundance is high, disrupted grazing occurs, resulting in reduced weight gain and milk production. This fly is a potential mechanical vector of *Moraxella bovis*, a principal pinkeye (infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis) bacterium. Because face flies spend little time on the animal and intermittently feed, they can feed on multiple animals in a day

thus potentially spreading the pathogen to several animals.

The face fly life cycle requires fresh bovine manure for egg laying and larval development. Even though cattle are essential for face fly populations to develop, this fly readily feeds on horses and can cause serious problems. With the horse being a companion animal, it is more difficult to establish a treatment threshold. In some horses, presence of just a few flies can cause extreme annoyance making the animal very difficult to work with.

More importantly, face flies can also transmit the bacterium responsible for pinkeye in horses.

In cattle, an average of ten flies per face can cause economic loss. At this population control is necessary.

To monitor face flies, count the number of flies on the face of 10-15 animals. If average number per animal begins to approach ten flies per face, treatment is justified. Face flies can be difficult to

control because: 1) they primarily occur on the hard-to-treat animal's face; 2) only a very small percentage of the population will be on the host at any given time; and 3) face flies are intermittent feeders and spend little time on the animal.

Face flies are usually controlled with self-treatment devices or insecticide impregnated ear tags. A few pour-on insecticides that allow for application to the face are effective. Forced-use back rubbers equipped with Face Flies charged with a pyrethroid insecticide such as permethrin or an organophosphate insecticide such as coumaphos are effective.

Paired insecticide dust bags will also provide control when hung properly. Some of the insecticide impregnated ear tags cattle will provide control while others simply reduce the population. Be certain to read the ear tag label. Label statements that read "controls face flies" are generally more effective than ear tags with labels that read "reduces face

flies". Because face flies only develop in cattle manure, feed-through larvicides/IGRs (insect growth regulators) such as ClariFly® will prevent new flies from emerging. However, proximity to untreated herds and the longer flight range of face flies can reduce the level of control.

Generally, face flies are less difficult to treat in horses than cattle simply because horses are more accustomed to routine grooming, which makes frequent treatment possible. Wipe-ons, pastes, ointments and roll-on insecticides containing permethrin, pyrethrins and/or piperonyl butoxide are effective at repelling face flies from around the eyes. Examples of products used to spot treat for face flies around the eyes of horses include War Paint insecticide paste, Pyranna Equine Roll-on, Swat

Clear ointment and Fly Rid ointment. Be careful during application to avoid applying the product directly into the eye. Products registered for use against insect pests of cattle and horses are listed in the MP 144.





Arkansas Timber Price Report



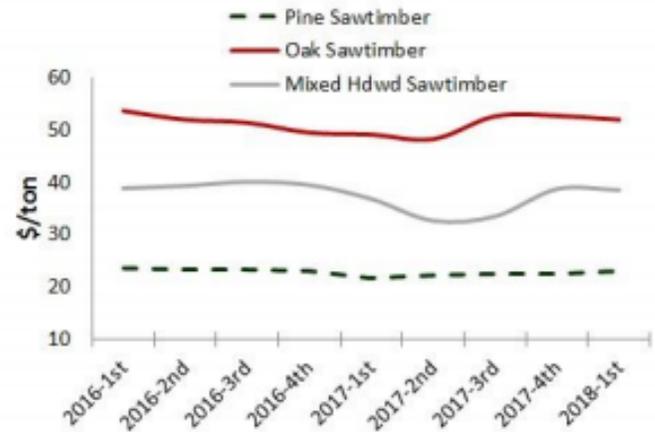
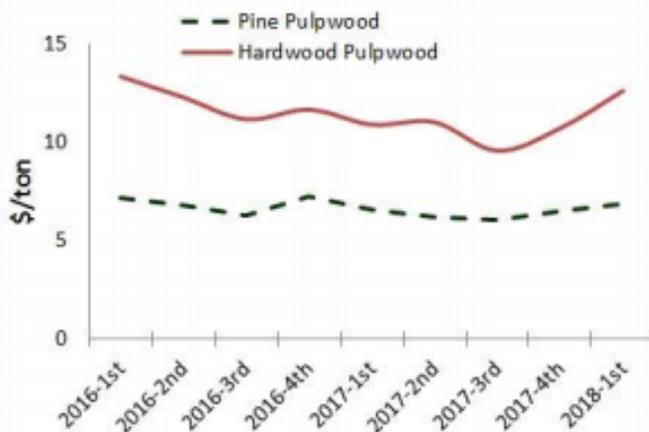
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System
**ARKANSAS FOREST
RESOURCES CENTER**

The Arkansas Timber Price Report is a quarterly report of timber stumpage prices in Arkansas. Survey data for this report are provided by [Timber Mart-South](#). The price summary is provided to illustrate current, statewide market trends in timber product values for standing timber. These values may not reflect the stumpage values for a particular tract of timber. Timber prices may vary greatly depending on many factors including: location in the state, species, products, access, distance to mills, and site conditions. To obtain a report visit www.uaex.edu and go to the Environment and Nature tab, or www.afrc.uamont.edu. You can also contact your local county Extension agent. If you have questions about the report, please contact: Dr. Kyle Cunningham at 501-671-2145 or kcunningham@uaex.edu.

1st Quarter 2018 Stumpage Prices (\$/ton, statewide average)

Product	Price	Change
Pine Sawtimber	\$ 23.00	0 %
Oak Sawtimber	\$ 53.00	0 %
Mixed Hardwood Sawtimber	\$ 38.00	-3 %
Pine Chip-n-Saw	\$ 15.00	0 %
Pine Pulpwood	\$ 6.00	0 %
Hardwood Pulpwood	\$ 13.00	18 %

Time Series by Quarter Since 2016



Trends: Stumpage prices remained steady for most products in the 1st quarter of 2018. Strong markets remain in both red and white oak sawlogs, with AR running over 8 dollars per ton above the SE average. Hardwood pulpwood demand and prices continued to rebound, likely a combination of weather and demand. Pine pulpwood demand remained low, continuing to cause problems for non-certified, small-scale stands in need of thinning. Infrastructure investment continues across the South potentially expanding capacity by 19 percent, a good sign for future timber markets.

Timber Mart-South has more detailed data available by subscription that contains products and regions not included in this report. TMS is compiled and produced at the Center for Forest Business, Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, under contract with the Frank W. Norris Foundation, a non-profit corporation serving the forest products industry.

Rosette or Double Blossom in Blackberry

Rosette or Double Blossom, caused by the fungus *Cercospora rubi*, is a serious disease of many cultivars of blackberries. Infection causes reduced yields, poor quality fruit, and cane death. Buds on primo canes become infected in early summer, but there are no symptoms until next spring. At that time a proliferation (witches-broom) of shoots occurs at the infected bud site. These shoots are usually smaller than normal and have pale green foliage that later turns bronze. Unopened flower buds are elongated, coarser, and often redder than uninfected buds. Sepals enlarge and sometimes

differentiate into leaves. The petals of unfolding flowers are usually pinkish, wrinkled, and twisted, giving the appearance of a double bloom. Berries do not develop from infected flowers. Double Blossom can be controlled in areas where it is not severe with sanitation. Infected rosettes and blossom clusters should be removed before they open, to prevent dispersal of the spores. Old floricanes



should be removed and destroyed immediately after harvest. The removal of all wild blackberries and dewberries around the planting is also recommended. In areas where disease pressure is more severe both primocanes and floricanes may be cut to the ground immediately after harvest. The primocanes are then allowed to regrow from buds at the base. Chemical control starts at first bloom. Abound, Cabrio, and Pristine are labeled for Double blossom.

Bermuda grass Stem Maggot Plaguing Hay Fields

A relatively new pest has made pastures and hay fields throughout Hot Spring County home. This South Asia native begins as a small fly. Eggs are laid at the base of Bermuda stems and become home to the larva BSM.

The life cycle, from egg to adult, requires about three weeks. The adult female fly will lay eggs on the Bermuda grass stem near a node. The maggot will hatch from the egg, crawl up to toward the last plant node (where the leaf blade emerges from the stem) and



burrow into the shoot and begin feeding. Usually by the time the top leaves have died, the maggots have exited the stem and pupated on the ground.

With such a short generation period, multiple generations occur and populations tend to increase later in the season causing an accumulation of damage. Losses include dead tops and stunted growth causing producers to see fairly significant losses of hay production.

Physical observations include

seeing a “frost” to patches of Bermuda grass. The maggot can many times still be found in the stem at the last node. The most common sign is the brown top due to the dead leaves.

Hot Spring County will soon be working on a demo for BSM control on Hwy 222 near Rolla. The planned control is to apply Lambda-cyhalothrin 7-10 days after hay harvest. This time period allows for greater coverage at the base of the grass and allows for application before the eggs hatch. If you suspect BSM in your field, contact our office for a positive identification.

HOT SPRING COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://UAEX.EDU/COUNTIES/
HOT-SPRING/](http://uaex.edu/counties/hot-spring/)

Summer is here and already hot. Drought conditions have already set in, in some areas of the county, which makes it that much harder on producers. If there is anything we can do here at the Extension Office to help, don't hesitate to give me a call.

Happy Summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachel Bearden'.

Rachel Bearden

County Extension Agent- Staff Chair

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating. The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.



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