Mark Your Calendars!!!

Pesticide Applicator Trainings Scheduled

- **Tuesday, December 9 – 6:30 p.m.**
  First National Bank Community Center – Paris

- **Tuesday, January 20 – 6:30 p.m.**
  Jeral Hampton Meeting Place – Booneville

- **Tuesday, February 24 – 6:30 p.m.**
  First National Bank Community Center – Paris

*Cost is $10 payable at the door – no need to preregister. If you have any questions, give the Extension office a call.*

**River Valley Beef Cattle Conference**

Calf health and what types of calves buyers and feedlots are looking for are among the agenda topics for the 2015 River Valley Beef Cattle Conference set for **February 11 at Ouachita Livestock Auction in Ola.**

The conference speakers will include: Dr. Jason Cater, DVM Assistant Professor/Extension Veterinarian, Mark Weddle, Landmark Cattle Company/Ouachita Livestock Auction, and Chris Burris of Ward Feed Yard.

A registration fee of $20 will be collected at the door. The conference is from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Extension office at 963-2360. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

**Tri-County Forage Meeting**

We will be conducting a tri-county forage meeting with Johnson and Franklin counties as we have in the past. We have not set a date at this time, but it will be the same time as last year. The meeting will probably be the first or second week in March, so plan on attending this year’s meeting.

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**Bangs Vaccination Dates Set**

Logan County Extension offices, along with the Arkansas and Poultry Livestock Commission, will be offering free Bangs vaccinations on **Wednesday, October 29.** Heifers 3-12 months of age may be vaccinated. **Producers wishing to have cattle vaccinated must register with the Extension office NO LATER than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 27.**
Arkansas Forage and Grassland Council Fall Forage Conference
The Arkansas Forage and Grassland Council will be hosting its Fall Forage Conference on
**Thursday, October 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** It will be held at the Woodland Heights Baptist Church Education Building in Conway. Some topics covered will include: Beef: The real health food, Pros and cons of producing grass-fed beef, Environmental & Endangered species issues, Alternate watering systems, Native grass establishment, and crop insurance for livestock and forage producers. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the registration fee is $45. For more information or to pre-register, call Kim Fryer at 501-671-2171 or John Jennings at 501-671-2350.

**Time to take Soil Samples**
Fall is a great time of the year to take soil samples on your pastures or hayfields. Phosphorus and potassium concentrations will remain relatively unchanged over the winter, so samples taken in the fall will be accurate for the following spring. If lime is called for, fall is a good time to apply it because the lime will have time to lower pH by the spring. Soil samples are a free service of the Extension service; just bring them in and the results will be back in around two weeks.

**Recommendations for Collecting Soil Samples from Soils Used for Pasture and Forage for Hay Production**

1. Identify representative sampling areas/zones that are uniform in soil and previous management history. Each sample area should represent < 20 acres. Avoid livestock loafing and feeding areas.
2. Using a clean soil probe, collect 25 to 35 individual subsamples to a 4-inch depth per sample area or composite sample in a random zigzag pattern.
3. Combine individual subsamples in a clean plastic bucket and mix thoroughly. Place a subsample of the mixed composite in a clean soil box and label with the field name and grower information.

**Fall Weed Control – Dr. John Boyd and Blair Griffin**

Fall is the ideal time to control certain species of grasses and weeds. Always calibrate your spraying equipment before application; this is crucial for accurate application and good control. You can contact the extension office, and I will be happy to help you calibrate your equipment before you spray.

**Dallisgrass**
- There is a period in late fall to early winter when bermudagrass goes dormant and dallisgrass remains green. This is a good time to control dallisgrass in bermudagrass. **Applying 16 oz/ A of 4 lb/gal glyphosate** will provide fair to good control. The quicker after bermudagrass dormancy it is applied, the better it will work.

**Tall Fescue**
- Tall fescue can be eradicated from bermudagrass in late December to January, when the bermudagrass is completely dormant. **Apply Panoramic (imazapic) at 10 fl oz/A + 32 fl oz/A glyphosate.** Glyphosate alone will not be effective this time of year.
**Buckhorn Plantain**

- Two proven treatments for buckhorn plantain are **Grazon P+D at 1.5 qt/A or Cimarron Max at 1 qt/A + 0.25 oz/A**. These products provided 90% to 100% control of buckhorn plantain. Add 0.25% nonionic surfactant to the spray mix. Apply in fall when there is adequate moisture and the weeds are actively growing. **Metsulfuron 60 DF or Cimarron Plus at 0.5 oz/A** are also effective herbicides for this weed.

**Thistle**

- The key to effective thistle control is spraying while the thistles are in the rosette stage of growth (before the flower stalk appears). Biennial thistles in Arkansas are readily controlled with a properly timed application of 2,4-D amine at 1.5 qt/A. Spring applications should be made from late February to early March. Fall applications from late October through November will enhance a thistle control program. Grazon P+D, GrazonNext HL and dicamba + 2,4-D also provide excellent control of thistles at 1 qt/A.

**Red Cedar**

- Apply undiluted Tordon 22K to the soil prior to periods of expected rainfall. Apply directly to the soil within the drip line and on the upslope side of the tree. Application to trees taller than 12 feet is not recommended. Apply 3 to 4 mls (cc’s) per 3 feet of plant height in either spring (April-May) or fall (September-October). Soil spot treatments with Velpar are also effective on cedar less than 6 feet tall. Use a Spraying Systems Meterjet applicator or a livestock worming gun to apply a precise amount of the herbicide.

**Grazing Johnsongrass in the Fall**

Johnsongrass, sorghums, and sorgum-sudan grasses all can develop high levels of a toxic agent called hydrocyanic acid (HCN) or prussic acid. This chemical is generally formed by these plants during times of growing stress, such as drought or frost. HCN can result in the death of animals consuming this toxin. It interferes with the body’s ability to absorb oxygen from the blood and results in suffocation. Symptoms of poisoning from HCN include: anxiety, progressive weakness and labored breathing, and death may follow when lethal amounts of HCN are consumed.

Johnsongrass is the most common plant that we have in this area that is capable of forming prussic acid. It is most likely to develop during times of drought stress or at first frost. Some tips to follow when grazing fall johnsongrass are:

- Do not allow animals to graze short succulent growth, johnsongrass should be grazed when it reaches 18-24 inches in height.
- Do not graze drought stressed plants within four days following a good rain; this is a time when HCN levels could be highest.
- Do not graze wilted plants or plants with young regrowth.
- Do not graze johnsongrass for at least seven days following a frost. Make sure the plants are brown and dried out after the frost.
- If you want to use potentially toxic johnsongrass as forage, consider baling it for hay. Prussic acid levels decline in stored hay and well cured hay should be safe for cattle.

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The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your County Extension office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.