Pesticide Applicator Training Scheduled

The Logan County Extension will be offering three Pesticide Applicator Training dates in the coming months. You must complete this class in order to get a restricted-use pesticide license. You must have this license to use any 2,4-D products. The dates are as follows:

**Monday, December 5, 2016**
6:30 p.m. - Paris - First National Bank Community Center

**Tuesday, January 17, 2017**
6:30 p.m. - Booneville - Jeral Hampton Meeting Place

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017**
6:30 p.m. - Paris - First National Bank Community Center

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

Bangs Vaccination Dates Set

Logan County Extension offices, along with the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission, will be offering free Bangs vaccinations on **Wednesday, October 26**. Heifers 4-12 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 24.**

River Valley Beef Cattle Conference

Using genetic selection tools for selecting breeding stock, farm income management, and feed supplementation options are among the agenda topics for the 2017 River Valley Beef Cattle Conference set for February 22 at Ouachita Livestock Auction in Ola. 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**

Again this year, we will be conducting a tri-county forage meeting with Johnson and Franklin counties. We have set the date for **Tuesday, February 28**. Topics and speakers have not been definitively scheduled at this time. More on this in our next newsletter. For now, just mark the date on your calendar.

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**Acorn Poisoning in Cattle**

*Dr. Jeremy Powell – Associate Professor – Veterinarian – University of Arkansas*

In the fall of the year, cows grazing in timbered areas will, many times, eat acorns. This potential threat, of over-consuming acorns can be poisonous to cattle, and can even be fatal. Almost all acorns dropped in Arkansas can be poisonous to cattle if over-consumed. Tannins are the toxic agents in acorns. Consumption of tannins can lead to gastrointestinal problems, severe kidney, damage or even death. Some cattle can eat acorns without being affected while others suffer severe disease. Early signs of the poisoning include abdominal pain, poor appetite, black or bloody diarrhea, or even constipation. As the disease progresses evidence of kidney failure will become apparent. Dehydration, increased thirst, dry muzzle, weight loss, and eventually edema.

There is no specific antidote for the poison, but constipated cattle can be given mineral oil or a saline cathartic orally as a mild laxative. Activated charcoal can also be given to aid in the absorption of the toxin. Emphasis should be placed on prevention. The best practice is to keep cattle away from the acorns by fencing off the area where the acorns are present. If that is not possible, providing the cattle with a ration that contains up to 10% hydrated lime can help lessen the hazard of acorn poisoning. Hydrated lime will need to be part of a mixed ration, as it is not very palatable alone. The goal should be to get 0.4 lbs. of lime per head to help prevent poisoning.

There seems to be fewer reported incidents of acorn poisoning after a few hard freezes. This is likely because of the reduced palatability of the acorns after freezing.

For more information about this disease and other diseases affecting cattle, contact your local county Extension office.

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**Perilla Mint Toxicity in Cattle**

*Larry Steckel, Assistant Professor, Plant Sciences
Neil Rhodes, Professor and Department Head, Plant Sciences*

**Perilla Mint Peri indicutescens (L.) Britt.**

Also known as: beefsteak plant, common perilla, purple perilla, purple mint, shiso, Chinese basil, wild basil, blueweed, Joseph’s coat, wild coleus, rattlesnake weed
**Classification and Description**

Perilla mint is a member of the Lamiaceae or mint family. About 200 genera and 3200 species make up the mint plant family. Perilla mint is an erect, herbaceous annual that can grow to heights of 2 feet. It is native to East Asia. The cotyledons are longer than they are broad, with the broadest portion near the tip. The leaves are simple, opposite and can be purple or green tinged with purple, making it an attractive plant. Leaves have coarsely serrated (toothed) leaf margins pointed toward the tip and can be up to 5 inches wide and 7 inches long. Leaves are egg-shaped, with the largest part nearest the base. The stems of perilla mint are square in cross section, erect, hairy, somewhat branched and green or purple. Many small, white to purplish-white flowers with a ring of hairs in the throat are clustered in the terminals of these plants. Reproduction is by seed. Perilla mint has a shallow taproot and fibrous roots.

**Weed Status and Injury**

Perilla mint causes more cattle deaths in Tennessee than any other toxic plant. Perilla is very poisonous to cattle and other ruminants, as well as horses. All plant parts are toxic, especially the flowering structures. Dried plants in hay can be toxic, but the greatest risk is associated with consumption of fresh plant material, especially if flowers and fruit are present. Perilla mint contains ketones that cause acute respiratory distress syndrome in cattle (ARDS), also called panting disease. Treatment is often ineffective. Although these plants can occur anywhere in a pasture or feed lot, they typically favor semi-shaded environments, and are most frequently located around farm structures, edges of woods and along fence rows. Cases of poisoning from these weeds are a concern during the late summer and early fall when other grasses and forages might be in short supply and the perilla mint is flowering. Cattle will normally not feed on these toxic weeds unless there is a shortage of other feed. Therefore, it is crucial to have a ready supply of quality feed available for farm animals during this time of the year.

**Interesting Facts**

The Latin word frutescens means shrubby or bushy and refers to this plant’s growth habit. Perilla mint is considered an ornamental plant and it is cultivated for its often variegated purple and green foliage. It is an escaped ornamental and that is how it has become a weed pest in Tennessee. These plants give off a distinctive, aromatic, minty odor when the stems and leaves are crushed. It is a cultivated crop in East Asia. The seed is used for cooking oil and fuel. It has a square stem that is characteristic of the plants in the mint family. Another interesting fact, though not recommended by the University of Tennessee, is that Native Americans of the Rappahannock tribe used perilla mint (as a drug) as an ingredient of a blood medicine.

**Management Considerations**

Control of perilla mint in pastures, barn lots and forage fields is very important. The best time to scout for and control perilla mint is late April to early June. It is very difficult to control in late summer and early fall when it also becomes the most dangerous to livestock. If control measures are not taken early, it becomes even more crucial in late summer to maintain an adequate supply of quality feed for cattle and other farm animals so they will not feed on these toxic weeds. Grazing in infested pastures should be limited during late summer when perilla mint is flowering. Avoid harvesting forages in areas infested with these weeds. Mowing perilla mint plants before seed is produced will help prevent further reproduction and spread.

**References**

“The Clock is Ticking” at AFGC Fall Forage Conference & Tour on October 28

There never seems to be enough time during winter on the farm. Time gets spent feeding hay, fixing feeding equipment, and then doing it all over again. The Arkansas Forage and Grassland Council Fall Forage Conference and Forage Tour is a program you don’t want to miss. Producers will get a chance to see and hear about fall and winter pasture options that save time and money. The program will be Friday, October 28 at the Crossroads Cowboy Church in El Paso, AR. The morning program will feature talks on fall and winter pasture, better ways to supplement hay, and new results on how much time the average producer spends on harvesting and feeding hay. In the afternoon program, attendees will take a bus tour of local farms to see fall and winter forage options in practice. They will see how hay quality and winter pasture compare for quality and yield. Experts will also show how to use winter pasture as a homegrown supplement for low quality hay to maintain livestock through winter. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the welcome is at 9:00 a.m. Registration can be paid at the door by cash, credit or debit card, or check. The registration fee is $45 per person, $60 per couple, and $10 for students and includes lunch, bus transportation, and conference materials. Commercial exhibits and booths will be set up for attendees to see the latest forage management products. Pre-registration is encouraged to help with conference planning, but is not required for attendance. Anyone wanting to improve their forage system should attend this conference and tour. For more information about the conference or to pre-register, call Linda McCargo at 501-671-2171. The Crossroads Cowboy Church is located at 3071 Arkansas 5, El Paso, AR 72045. To reach the church take Hwy 64 from Conway or Beebe to El Paso and turn north on Hwy 5 approximately ¾ mile.