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 14, 2015**
6:30 p.m. - Paris - First National Bank Community Center

**Monday, January 25, 2016**
6:30 p.m. - Booneville - Jeral Hampton Meeting Place

**Tuesday, February 23, 2016**
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 **Tuesday, November 3**. 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 Friday, October 30.**

River Valley Beef Cattle Conference

Replacement heifer selection a market outlook are among the agenda topics for the 2016 River Valley Beef Cattle Conference set for February 11 at Ouachita Livestock Auction in Ola. The conference speakers will include: Dr. Heidi Ward, DVM Assistant Professor/Extension Veterinarian, Kent Reading, I-40 Livestock Auction, and Dr. John Riley of Oklahoma State University. 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.
AFGC Fall Forage Conference on November 5

The conference theme is “Making your farm work harder so you don’t have to”. Dr. Jim Russell, professor from Iowa State University, will talk about his grazing research at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture on soil health and water quality. Dr. Dennis Hancock, State Forage Specialist from the University of Georgia will talk about his work on which forages produce the best grass-fed beef and recent studies on alternatives to ammonium nitrate fertilizer. Other topics include how a local producer grazes nearly year-round, which pastures hold the most rain, new ways to control feral hogs, new insect pests of forages in Arkansas, and new work on liquid fertilizer effect on forage growth.

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, conference materials, and membership in the Arkansas Forage and Grassland Council and American Forage and Grassland Council. 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. For more information about the conference or to pre-register, call Linda McCargo at 501-671-2171.

The Woodland Heights Education building is located at 4215 Prince Street in Conway, AR.

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 around 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.

The Veterinary Feed Directive: What Does It All Mean?

In 1996, Congress enacted the Animal Drug Availability Act (ADAA) for the approval and marketing of new animal drugs and medicated feeds. Before that time, drugs used in the animal livestock industry were either over-the-counter or prescription-based. The ADAA created a new category of products called veterinary feed directive drugs (VFD drugs). These drugs (mostly antibiotics) were intended for use in or on animal feed and were obtained by the producer without the involvement of a veterinarian. The VFD drug category was created to avoid state pharmacy laws for prescription drugs, which were not applicable to medicated feed. Recently, the emergence of antibiotic resistant bacteria has forced the medical community to revise how antibiotics are used. As of October 2015, new VFD regulations by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will go into effect for animal drugs already labeled as VFD drugs. The new regulations will require the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian if the VFD drug is deemed medically important. The following provides background information to prepare livestock producers and veterinarians for upcoming regulation changes.

In 2013, the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) published a guidance document, which called on animal drug companies to voluntarily stop labeling drugs that are medically important as drugs that can be used to promote animal growth. The purpose of this request was to decrease the incidence of antibiotic resistance in both human and animal medicine. The guidance document also requested that animal drug companies change the labeling of their products to require a written VFD order by a veterinarian. The CVM felt that putting these drugs under veterinary control would guarantee that they would be used only when necessary and at the right dose and duration for assuring animal health. All of the animal drug companies contacted committed in writing to participate in the new drug marketing strategy. The VFD final rule was published in the summer of 2015. Animal drug companies have until the end of December 2016 to relabel their VFD drugs.
The most important provision of the VFD final rule is the requirement of veterinarians to issue all VFD orders within the context of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). A valid VCPR is the basis of veterinary supervision and provides a legal agreement between veterinarian and livestock producer. Only veterinarians actively licensed and in good standing in Arkansas can write VFD orders for production facilities in Arkansas. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), a valid VCPR involves the following:

- The veterinarian takes responsibility for the health of the animals and the client agrees to follow the veterinarian's instructions.
- The veterinarian knows the animals well enough to make a preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition for which they will be treated. This means the veterinarian has either examined the animals or has had timely visits to the operation where the animals are managed (at least one farm visit per year to be valid in Arkansas).
- The veterinarian is readily available for follow-up evaluation or has arranged continuing care and treatment with another veterinarian or emergency service.
- The veterinarian provides oversight of treatment, compliance and outcome.
- The veterinarian maintains records of treatment (3 years in Arkansas).

Along with a valid VCPR, veterinarians must become familiar with the labeled use of VFD drugs in the feed. The VFD drug can only be used to treat diseases indicated on the label for a specified duration of time. To do otherwise is called “extra-label use”, which is not allowable under the VFD final rule. A VFD order must contain all of the following:

- Veterinarian’s name, address and telephone number
- Client’s name, business or home address and telephone number
- Premises at which the animals specified in the VFD are located
- Date of VFD issuance with an expiration date (no more than 6 months)
- Name of the VFD drug(s)
- Species and production class of animals to be fed the VFD feed
- Approximate number of animals to be fed the VFD feed
- Indication for which the VFD is used
- Level of VFD drug in the feed and duration of use
- Withdrawal time, special instructions and cautionary statements necessary for use of the drug in conformance with the approval
- Number of reorders (refills) authorized, if permitted by the drug approval, conditional approval or index listing
- Addition of the statement “Use of feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug in a manner other than as directed on the labeling (extra-label use) is not permitted”
- An affirmation of intent for combination VFD drugs as described in 21 CFR 558.6(b)(6)
- Veterinarian’s electronic or written signature

For more information on the VFD final rule along with fact sheets and the list of drugs used in animal medicine, go to [http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm071807.htm](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm071807.htm)
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.