



Marion County Agriculture News

May 2017

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Volume 8, Issue 1

Staff:

- Renee Myers
County Extension
Agent Staff Chair
- Brian See
County Extension
Agent Agriculture
- Lauren Milum
Administrative
Specialist
- PO Box 386
313 West 7th St.
Yellville, AR 72687
- Phone:
870-449-6349
- Fax: 870-449-4049

Inside this issue:

- Greenbrier/Smilax Control **2**
- Common Questions and Answers **2**
- Gardening Calendar **2**
- Buffalo Gnats **3**
- What to do about Sagegrass? **3**

Weaning/Preconditioning Calves

This time of the year many people are making the decision to sell calves straight off of the cow or to retain ownership and wean them. The first question many may ask is “Do the returns from weaning exceed the cost associated with the practice?” Many factors determine whether the practice of weaning/preconditioning is profitable such as beef market price fluctuations, feed cost, vet cost and etc. Here are a few practices that can help the weaning process go more smoothly and be more likely to turn a profit:

1. Early castration of bull calves and implanting. Implanting calves can return \$10 for every \$1 invested.

2. Dehorning at a young age.

3. Vaccinate calves at least two to four weeks prior to weaning and then booster at weaning.

4. Fence line weaning. A good fence will be needed for this. Preferably a six wire barbwire fence and/or a hot wire to prevent calves from getting through the fence or nursing through the fence.

5. Cheap feed. Historically it’s always been cheaper to graze cattle rather than to feed them out of a bag. Weaning calves on a high quality annual grass can net average daily gains of 2lbs per head.

6. Tell your story. Be sure buyers know that your calves are weaned and preconditioned. A 2002 survey of Arkansas producers revealed that a profit of \$21 per calf was earned from preconditioning.

7. Calves should be weaned at least 45 days prior to sale.

8. Keep records. Know your cost of gain and your breakeven price.

Preconditioning Programs for Beef Calves
<https://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/FSA-3074.pdf>

Pesticide Applicator Training to be Held

Producers who wish to renew an expiring pesticide license or receive a first time private pesticide applicator license will have the opportunity to receive the required training on Tuesday, August 1st at 6:00 p.m. at Powell Feed and Milling in Flippin. If you are up for recertification you will receive a letter from the State Plant Board notifying you that your certification is due.

Pesticide Applicator Training is a two-hour course to certify Arkansas agricultural producers who wish to purchase and apply Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP’s). However, the information presented could also be useful for anyone interested. Topics to be covered include: pesticide labeling and safety, drift, equipment and calibration, integrated pest management and pesticide regulations. This training is NOT for certification of

commercial (for-hire) pesticide applicators.

There is a \$10 per person fee which must be paid at the door at the time of training. This fee is not related to the licensing fees charged by the State Plant Board. It is only for the training. The fee for the license is \$10 for one year or \$45 for five years. That amount you will pay in later to the State Plant Board, not the Marion Co. Extension Office.

Greenbrier/Smilax Control

In recent years, I have done several greenbrier control demonstrations. Last summer, a demonstration was conducted on a patch of greenbrier in a pasture. Four plots were laid out measuring 30'x10'. Three herbicides were tested, one on each plot, with the fourth plot being the control and no herbicide applied. The herbicides tested were Surmount, Remedy and Weedmaster. The rate at which each product was applied was 2% of the solution. A surfactant was added at the rate of 1% of the solution.

The herbicides were applied on May 4, 2016. Plots were ranked by percentage of greenbrier controlled. The results were as follows: Surmount at 45% control, Remedy at 90% control and Weedmaster at 75% control. The results yielded Remedy the best control with Weedmaster second and Surmount in third.

What we have learned from these demonstrations is that the timing of the application of the herbicide is very critical. Plants should be sprayed shortly after leaf out before the leaves develop the thick waxy layer that makes it difficult for the herbicide to stick to and penetrate the leaves. It is also important to include the 1% of surfactant to help the herbicide stick to and penetrate the leaf of the greenbrier.

Greenbrier is difficult to control regardless of the methods or herbicides used. Broadcast herbicide applications are not effective. For individual plant treatment mix 1 quart Remedy Ultra with 3 quarts vegetable oil, or light mineral oil. Apply this mix to the lower 12 inches of greenbrier stems. Agitate the mixture before spraying. Best results are achieved in the winter when more basal stems are exposed. Expect about 75% control one year after treatment. Follow-up applications are essential.



Common Questions and Answers

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Q: Should I have my water tested after recent flooding?</p> <p>A: It would be a good idea to have your well water tested if your well head was completely submerged or if extensive flooding occurred in your area.</p> <p>Q: What is the gray mold growing on my grapes?</p> | <p>A: That could possibly be a powdery mildew or black rot. With a sample of the fruit and leaves we can send it to the Diagnostics lab for a test.</p> <p>Q: When is Johnsongrass toxic?</p> <p>A: Johnsongrass is a member of the sorghum category of plants and can</p> | <p>accumulate prussic acid if the plant is stressed. This stress is most likely to occur after a killing frost or after a rain following a drought.</p> <p>Q: What is your email?</p> <p>A: bsee@uaex.edu</p> |
|--|--|---|

Garden Planting Guide

June

- Basil
- Gourds
- Popcorn
- Southern Peas
- Pumpkins
- Sweet Corn
- Pole Beans

July

- Basil
- Pak Choi
- Bok Choi
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Irish Potatoes
- Collards
- Tomatoes— Fall
- Southern Peas
- Cucumbers
- Pumpkins

August

- Basil
- Lettuce
- Kale
- Mustard
- Parsnips
- Carrots
- Beets
- Cauliflower
- Reference Factsheet FSA6062.

“Test well water after extensive flooding.”



Buffalo Gnats

Black flies are very small flies that have a distinctive hump behind their head. The common name for these flies is Buffalo gnats.

Adult male and female blackflies feed on nectar. However, females of most species also need blood to produce eggs. The females immediately search for a meal of blood and can travel more than ten miles to obtain one. The bites of the buffalo gnat can be very painful, itchy and some people and animals may have an allergic reaction to the anticoagulant injected by the fly at the bite. The adult females feed on the blood of many animals including: horses,

cattle, sheep, goats, poultry and humans. The bites are usually concentrated around the head on the ears, nose and face. However, they will bite any exposed area. In addition to the blood loss, the flies can cause severe irritation to the animals causing them to continually seek areas to avoid being bitten.

Large concentrations of the gnats can cause death in animals and poultry due to blood loss, irritation, shock and suffocation. Poultry that have been bitten by buffalo gnats usually have small scabbed cuts on the face and combs or there may be blood stained

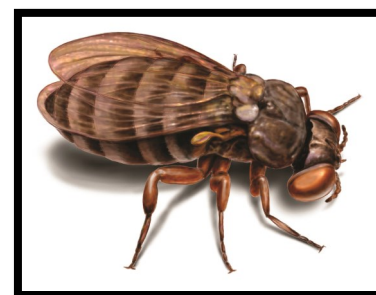
feathers on the head, neck and wings.

The face and comb of the bird may also be swollen due to large numbers of bites.

Animals such as horses and cattle usually have swollen ears and small scabbed over cuts on the ears. Often these cuts will ooze blood for some time.

Buffalo gnats feed in the daytime so the best method of protection is avoidance. Livestock and poultry should be sheltered during the daytime in darker areas to lessen the chance of being bitten.

“gnats can cause death in animals and poultry ”



What to do about Sagegrass?

That has been a common question lately. The tall orange-brown stems stand out in the new green growth we are seeing in our fields. The nutritional value of sagegrass, also known as broomsedge, at this point, is essentially zero. Even if the nutritional value was great, it wouldn't matter because livestock will generally not consume mature broomsedge. Since this plant is just in the way and takes the place of more desirable grasses, controlling it is necessary. The question is how?

Broomsedge is a symptom of a larger problem. That problem is typically poor fertility. Usually, broomsedge thrives in areas where phosphorus is low or where the soil is so acidic that phosphorus is tied up and can't be used by the plant.

You may have heard that broomsedge means the soil needs liming. That may be true since lime is added to lower the acidity of the soil and makes phosphorus and other nutrients more available. However, since the problem could also be related to the soil being deficient in phosphorus to begin with, a soil test should be done before lime or fertilizer is added. Unfortunately, adding lime or phosphorus doesn't mean all the broomsedge will be gone next year. Fertilizer and lime doesn't kill broomsedge, but instead creates an environment that is more favorable to desirable grasses such as tall fescue and orchardgrass.

Herbicides are not a great option in controlling broomsedge since there are not any labeled products that will kill the broomsedge without killing the desired grass. A selective application (spot spraying, weed wiping) of glyphosate that targets the broomsedge, but is not applied to the desirable forages, may be an option. However, as you spray without treating the cause of the problem you are treating the symptom and not the actual problem.

“Broomsedge is a symptom of a larger problem”



In Closing...

It is my pleasure to serve the people of Marion County. "The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to 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. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact us as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian See". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Brian See

County Extension Agent – Agriculture

Email: bsee@uaex.edu