3rdQuarter 2016

County Agent Comment

“HAY TIME AGAIN”

We are in full-on hay production mode. I hope your efforts are paying off. The wet early weather and now pop-up afternoon showers can make it challenging to harvest and store a quality product. I know you will persevere. Not many hay producers have ever stopped to consider the cost in time, effort and dollars it takes to produce a bale of hay. The University of Arkansas is currently conducting a survey of producers around the state to help assess the true cost of hay production. I have included that survey in this newsletter. Check it out!!

This letter is intended to provide you with information and ideas from research based work that should help you achieve your goals.

Also included are invitations to Forestry Landowner and Cattle Producer meetings being conducted in July. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend these meetings.

Thanks again for all you do to produce quality food and fiber right here in Union County.

Sincerely,

Robin D. Bridges
CEA/Staff Chair
Union County
Summer time is just around the corner and many livestock producers have hay season on their mind. It’s a time of year where producers may be on the tractor from dawn to dusk trying to make hay while the sun is shining. Giving their best effort to get the hay put up without getting it rained on. Some producers may find hay harvesting to be relaxing and maybe even enjoyable. Whether a person enjoys putting up hay or not is debatable, however most producers will agree hay harvesting is a tremendous time investment and financial cost. The hay harvesting process is not only time invested operating equipment. It also includes time invested in servicing, maintaining, and repairing equipment, as well as ordering and picking up parts and supplies. Over the past several months we have been surveying participants at various educational meetings around the state on the amount of time invested in hay harvesting and the amount of time invested for feeding hay and/or supplement. Here are some interesting findings.

The most common hay harvest time was about 12 days, two cuttings per year. Typically producers invest 5 days per harvest to cut, rake, and bale hay, then another day to haul the hay to the storage location. One producer invested 39 ½ hours to harvest 30 acres of hay; 13 ½ hours for equipment maintenance and repair, 21 hours to cut, rake, and bale the hay, and 6 hours hauling the hay.

The most common hay feeding season was about 136 days, from mid-November through April 1. Most producers invested one hour per day, 136 hours total, for feeding hay and/or supplement. That’s the equivalent of 3.4 works weeks of 40 hours.

With an average of two cuttings, many producers invest 80 hours for hay harvesting plus another 136 hours for winter feeding. Therefore 216 hours per year is invested for harvesting and feeding hay. This doesn’t include spraying for pest control, either weeds or insects, or fertilizing.

In comparison 300 Day Grazing practices were reported to be very time-effective by participating producers. Here are few phases from producers that utilize stockpiled forages with improved grazing management. “Feeding hay took nearly a half day every day. Moving a polywire fence for strip-grazing stockpiled fescue takes 30 minutes twice a week.” Madison County Producer. While strip grazing stockpiled forages the producer was investing approximately 4 hours per month to feed the cow herd, a time saving of 108 hours per month compared to feeding hay and/or supplement. “As long as I’m grazing stockpile I have time to move fences before I go to work. When it runs out and I start feeding hay, I feed in the morning and have to finish feeding when I get home.” Lawrence County Producer. “It takes me and my six year old son about 35 minutes twice a week to move an electric fence wire on the stockpiled bermudagrass and fescue fields to feed 250 cows. There is no way I can feed hay that fast. Plus it’s lots cheaper than hay”. Pope County Producer.

The most difficult part of achieving a 300 day grazing season is changing our mindset from a hay-based forage system to a pasture based forage system. Growing a pasture crop takes the same management as growing a hay crop! Think about the value of your time and where you spend it.

The 300 Day Grazing “It’s about time” program documents the time invested in various forage and livestock practices of traditional management compared to selected practices demonstrated in the 300 Days Grazing Program. This demonstration approach has not been attempted before, but would yield important information especially for new and part-time farmers. If a person is interested in tracking the amount of time invested in hay harvesting or participating in the 300 Day Grazing “It’s About Time” program, contact your local county extension office.
Arkansas 300 Days Grazing Program - “It’s about time” Demonstration Hay Survey

This is a voluntary survey to estimate the time spent for harvesting hay. Answers don’t have to be exact, but use your best estimates. Nobody will argue.

Part 1 – Select a field(s) for tracking time

1. Record the number of acres involved.

2. Record how many hours were spent cutting hay. Include time for hooking up equipment, fueling, traveling to field, and return/unhook.

3. Record how many hours were spent raking/tedding hay. Include time for hooking up equipment, fueling, traveling to field, and return/unhook.

4. Record how many hours were spent baling hay. Include time for hooking up equipment, fueling, traveling to field, and return/unhook.

5. Record how many hours were spent hauling hay. Include time for hooking up equipment, fueling, traveling to field, and return/unhook.

6. Record how many hours were spent on hay equipment service, maintenance, and repair. (mower, rake, tedder, baler, hay moving equipment)

7. Record how many hours were spent fertilizing. Include time for picking up and returning spreader and application time.

8. Record how many hours were spent spraying weeds or insects. Include time for sprayer calibration or repair, filling/mixing chemical, and application.

9. Record the bale size ______4x5 ______4x6 ______5x5 ______5x6 ______other

10. Record the number of bales

Part 2 – Cumulative hay harvest

11. Record how many cuttings of hay did you harvest this year?

12. Record how many acres of hay land did you harvest this year? Estimate total acres cut. If you cut a field twice, add it twice.

13. Record how many total bales did you harvest this year? Add bales for all harvests.

Thank you for completing this survey

John Jennings – Professor and Extension Forage Specialist
Kenny Simon – Program Associate - Forages

Once completed, bring your survey to the Union County Extension office or mail to: 307 American Road, Suite 101, El Dorado, AR 71730
PRODUCER MEETINGS IN JULY

Forestry Landowners

Thursday, July 14th at 6:00 p.m. at the Union County Fairgrounds.

Dr. Vic Ford, Director of the Southwest Research and Extension Station at Hope, AR will be the featured speaker.

He will be addressing “Herbicide Use in both Pine and Hardwood Timber Stands”. We will also be discussing the re-opening of the Georgia-Pacific Mill, and the opportunities that may present for timber producers in Union County.

If you plan to attend, please call the Extension Office at 870-864-1916 by Tuesday, July 12th so that we can provide refreshments.

Union County Cattle Producers

Thursday, July 21st at 6:00 p.m. at the Union County Fairgrounds.

A representative from the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association will speak on the current State and National issues facing beef producers.

Mark your calendars and call the Extension Office at 870-864-1916 if you plan to attend by Tuesday, July 19th so that we can provide a meal. Ladies don’t forget the desserts!!!
UNION COUNTY FAIR 2016
PRODUCER HAY DIVISION

1. Union County Producer may submit (3) entries for competition.
2. Samples must be submitted for analysis to the Union County Extension Office by cob Friday, August 12, 2016.
3. Samples will be submitted for Lab analysis to UofA Division of Agriculture lab at SWREC in Hope.
4. Fresh grab sample and core sample for each entry.
5. Winners will be selected based on lab analysis.
6. Winners must be willing to exhibit bale or large sample at Union County Fair during week of Sept. 19-24.
7. Awards will be presented during County Fair.

DIVISIONS

1. Bermuda (pure sample)
2. Bahia (pure sample)
3. Mixed Warm Season
4. Legume hay (Clover, Wetch, Alfalfa)
5. Cool Season (Ryegrass, Cereal, Legume)

*Premiums and Awards will be based upon sponsorship. Placings in each class will receive Ribbon and Fair premium

1st - $10.00  2nd - $8.00  3rd - $6.00  4th - $5.00  5th - $5.00

Any Union County Hay Producer interested entering this event is encouraged to call County Agent Robin Bridges at 870-864-1916 to collect samples on the farm.
Livestock & Grain Market News

Federal-State Market News, 2301 S. University Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72204, (501) 671-2200

June 27, 2016

This report will not be issued next week. Next report will be July 11, 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARKET</th>
<th>THIS WEEK</th>
<th>LAST YEAR</th>
<th>STOCK CATTLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>HEBER SPRINGS</td>
<td>362</td>
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<tr>
<td>PACE SPRINGS</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>535</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEARCY (T)</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>437</td>
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<tr>
<td>POCOHONTAS (T)</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>434</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rattlesnake (M)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHARLIE (W)</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>GREEN FOREST (W)</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>736</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOPE (Th)</td>
<td>1006</td>
<td>NR</td>
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<td>GLENWOOD (Th)</td>
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<td>FAYETTE (Th)</td>
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<td>SILOAM SPRINGS (F)</td>
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<td>ASH FLAT (F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLA (F)</td>
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CASH MARKETS

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<tr>
<th>SELLER</th>
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<th>PRICE</th>
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REPLACEMENT COWS

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<tr>
<th>THIS WEEK</th>
<th>LAST YEAR</th>
<th>YEAR AGO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83.00-90.00</td>
<td>84.00-94.00</td>
<td>140.00-150.00</td>
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Slaughter Cows

<table>
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<tr>
<th>THIS WEEK</th>
<th>LAST YEAR</th>
<th>YEAR AGO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96.00-106.00</td>
<td>115.00-125.00</td>
<td>105.00-155.00</td>
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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](http://www.uaex.edu) and go to the Environment and Nature tab, or [www.afrc.uamont.edu](http://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 2016 Stumpage Prices ($/ton, statewide average)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pine Sawtimber</td>
<td>$24.00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Sawtimber</td>
<td>$54.00</td>
<td>+17 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed Hardwood Sawtimber</td>
<td>$39.00</td>
<td>+18 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine Chip-n-Saw</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine Pulpwood</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>-13 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwood Pulpwood</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td>-7 %</td>
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### Time Series by Quarter Since 2013

**Trends:** Pine sawtimber remained steady in stumpage value, but still much lower than historical averages. Pine pulpwood decreased slightly. We could begin to see a better demand for pine pulp in the near future, but there remains a wall of pine pulp that needs to be harvested. Hardwood sawtimber experienced notable increases over the previous quarter, possibly a seasonal effect and good demand for tie and sawlogs. Overall, lumber markets across the southern region saw some improvement from the previous quarter. New home construction continued its slow rise nationwide.

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.

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All meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension Office as soon as possible prior to the activity.