

3rd Quarter 2019

County Agent Comment

Farm Census Equals Funding for Farm Programs

Union County farm producers be on the lookout for your farm census from the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The information you send in is vital to the funding that USDA can provide for the American Sector, through the Farm Bill. Funding for disaster relief, in flood or drought. Funding for FSA low interest farm loans, and NRCS funding for environmental cost share programs. Funding for market support (livestock, grain, milk). Many programs to assist American Agriculture are dependent on American Farmers reporting, and reporting accurately. Please do your best. Thank you!

I hope your hay cattle, and timber production are good this summer. The cost of grain could go beyond record levels, because of far reaching effects of flooded farm land. So we are blessed to have forage based beef production in Union County. Manage your resources well, and call if the University of Arkansas Systems Division of Agriculture Research or Extension can help.

Sincerely,

Robin D. Bridges
CEA-Staff Chair
Union County



Cattle preconditioning helps improve odds for return on investment

By : Mary Hightower, U of A System Division of Agriculture

BATESVILLE, Ark. – Arkansas cattle producers looking to improve their return on investment should consider preconditioning calves before taking them to market, extension specialists told attendees at the Livestock and Forestry Station field day on Tuesday.

The field day, “Improve Your Odds for ROI,” featured a look at Arkansas’ new preconditioning program, Go GREEN, and examined how preconditioning adds to producers’ bottom lines. A cattle genetics expert offered specifics on pregnancy detection and the benefits of a defined breeding season.

The field day ended with a hands-on demonstration of vaccination, deworming and other recommended practices for calves.

“It was a good day of learning and it was great to see our participants asking good, even tough questions, of our experts,” said Don Hubbell, resident director of the Livestock and Forestry Station, part of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Preconditioning

Preconditioning is a collection of best management practices meant to make calves healthier and heavier by the time they go to market. Preconditioning includes vaccination, ridding them of internal and external parasites, and being fully healed from dehorning and castration. This also includes ensuring that calves understand how to eat from a bunker and drink from water tanks.

Shane Gadberry, professor and extension ruminant nutrition specialist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said preconditioning also means handling calves so they aren’t afraid of people, and can be approached to receive medical care, if needed.

“The one thing that makes preconditioning easy is having a controlled breeding and calving season,” Gadberry said. “It’s a lot easier to implement a preconditioning program when most calves are born and weaned around the same time; either once or twice a year.”

“I believe preconditioning is the apex, the pinnacle of cow-calf management,” said Eric Bailey, state beef nutritionist for University of Missouri Extension.

“The majority of the value of a preconditioning program is not in the premium at sale,” he said. “The bottom line to an individual cow-calf producer is that you sell more pounds of beef.”

Bailey pointed to research showing that preconditioning can help lower the chances of a calf contracting bovine respiratory disease, which typically results in a 75 percent feedlot mortality rate. Those losses amount to \$2 billion a year.

A study of 11 years of preconditioning on a single farm found the average profit per head was \$68.95, with 63 percent of that profit due to additional pounds sold.

Union County Cattlemen - Third Quarter Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, July 25th
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Union County Fairgrounds
PROGRAM: “Say No to Snake Oil” and “The Value of NASS”

CATERED MEAL FROM MCDONALD’S GROCERY

Come enjoy friendship and fellowship and a little bit about cattle management.

Call 870-864-1916 to reserve your spot by Monday, July 22nd.

Please bring a favorite dessert!!!

GRANT COUNTY FEED AND FORAGE FIELD DAY

DATE: JULY 9, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: OAK HILL FARMS
7106 HWY. 46 N
SHERIDAN, AR 72150

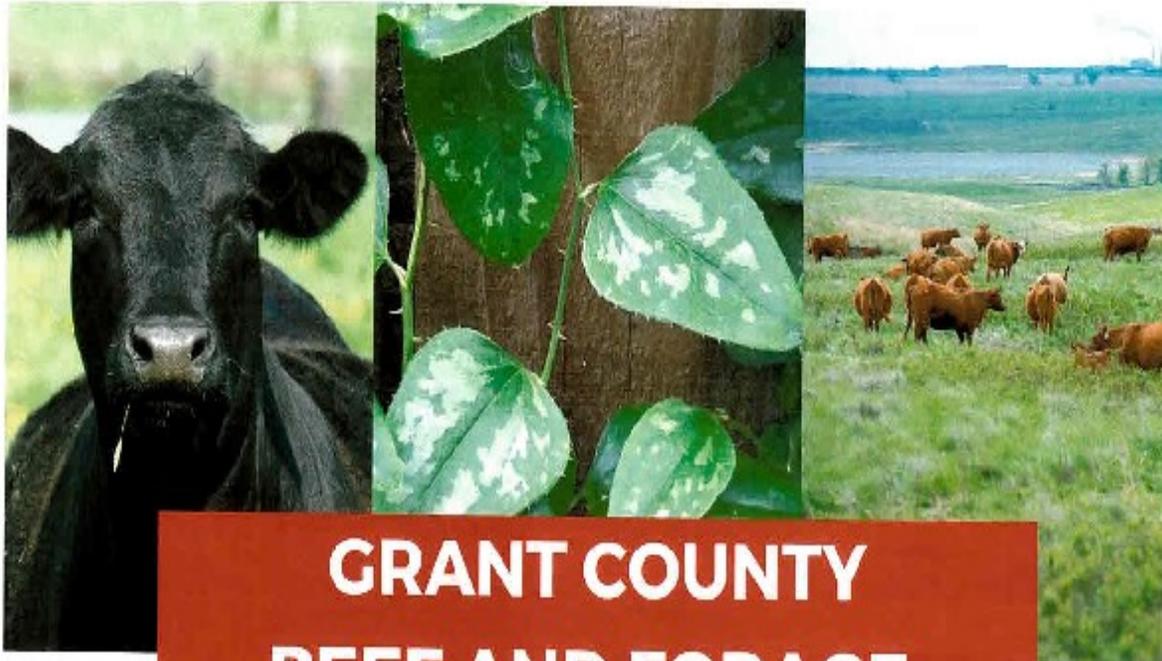
SPONSORED BY: CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE
&
NRCS - GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROGRAM: NRCS COST SHARE PROGRAMS
GREENBRIER WEED CONTROL DEMONSTRATION RESULTS
BLOOD TESTING CATTLE FOR PREGNANCY TESTING
(DEMONSTRATION)

PLEASE REGISTER FOR MEAL PLANNING PURPOSES

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PRE-REGISTER CONTACT:

**GRANT COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
870-942-2231**



GRANT COUNTY BEEF AND FORAGE FIELD DAY

JULY 9, 2019 - 6:00 PM

OAK HILL FARMS
7106 HWY 46 N
SHERIDAN, AR 72150

U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

SPONSORED BY



PROGRAM:

- *NRCS Cost Share Programs*
- *Greenbrier Weed Control Demonstration Results*
- *Blood Testing Cattle for Pregnancy Testing (Demonstration)*

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER FOR MEAL PLANNING PURPOSES

For more information or to pre-register contact:

**Grant County Extension Office
(870 942-2231)**

The University of Arkansas System is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate in this activity, please contact the Grant County Extension Office at the address above as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas relay.

NASS

OUR STRATEGY: WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO CONVEY?

We want to make sure you have the information you need to convey the importance of our work to individual producers, businesses, and stakeholders - and to do so in ways they care about.

Here are a few things we want you to know about NASS and share with others:

NASS is part of USDA.

We are:

- Service-oriented
- People-oriented
- Ag focused and dedicated
- An agency with a long history of service to the ag industry
- Experts with deep knowledge and access to data
- State government entities
- An official (credible) voice for the ag industry

NASS data are “Ingredients” for a host of products, services, decisions and outcomes.

- Farmers use NASS data to make informed business decisions.
- Legislators use the data to develop policy.
- Journalists use the data to tell stories.
- Students use the data for research.
- Insurance adjusters use the data for policies and claims.
- Commodity traders use the data to make market moves.
- USDA uses the data for program development payments and delivery.
- EPA uses the data to evaluate regulations and requirements
- NASDA members use the data to support state and local programs.
- Local governments use NASS data to support and promote agriculture as well as for community planning.
- Departments of agriculture and commodity organizations use NASS data to educate about, advocate for and protect agriculture.

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Managing Your Woodlands

Getting Started

Do you have woodlands and don't know where to start? Woodland management really begins with understanding what you have and most importantly, what you want. You'll find resources and information here to help you get started on managing your woodlands.

Sticky notes on a wall with written landownership goals

First step: Write down your landownership goals

1. Determine your goals and objectives for your woodland. What do you want from your woodlands?

- Do you have to create a healthy forest?
- What about wildlife?
- Do you want to make income from selling wood products?
- How interested are you in creating a forest legacy for your heirs?
- Do you simply want to enjoy the beauty of your woods?

You can determine your goals by simply writing them down on a piece of paper.

You can also use the pre-set goals included in the American Forest Foundation on-line tool, My Land Plan ,to help you as well. Another useful on-line tool is Forest-A-Syst, hosted by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Both of these interactive on-line tools will help you determine your goals, map your land, and get started on a management plan.

2. Begin developing a plan.

Why do you need a plan? A written management plan outlines actions and activities designed to help you meet your goals. It serves as a road map for your property regardless of your objectives.

Test

Map your property using online applications. (Image courtesy of Google Earth).

A good way to begin developing a management plan for your woodlands is to map your land.

If you live close to your forest land, you can view aerial photographs of your property to your local Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS) office. Most offices have older aerial photographs and can create a copy for your use.

You can also use your county's Soil Survey and look for your land in the aerial photographs included in the book. Although this is a start toward mapping your property, many of these printed Soil Surveys are not up-to-date.

How to get started with mapping



The American Forest Foundation has a great on-line tool entitled My Land Plan that can get you started. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission also has a mapping system. Each of these use Google Earth as the base map. You can select different views, draw property lines, measure distances, and most importantly, understand how your woodlands are oriented within your local area. You can see nearby waterways, clearings, and even forest types.

3. Determine what forest resources exist on your land.

The simplest way to determine your forest type, condition, and existing products and resources is to hire a registered consulting forester to conduct an assessment of your land.

Get Professional Help from a consulting forester!

A consulting forester is a professional forester who advises and watches out for the best interest of a forestland owner. Consulting foresters are in business, so they charge fees based on the type of service offered. Foresters sell some services at hourly or daily rates, while other services are sold at rates based upon acreage.

Professional forester: consulting forester fees and duties

Fees for conducting forest products sales are usually charged as a percentage of the gross revenue from the sale. No matter how the fees are calculated, the most important thing to remember is that the consulting forester works for the landowner. When you hire a consulting forester, that forester is your representative in negotiations with timber buyers and service contractors. That forester is the one you hire to watch out for your best interest.

To learn more about consulting foresters and the services they provide, read our fact sheet. Learn more about consulting foresters

If you do not want to hire a consulting forester, the Arkansas Forestry Commission will also write forest management plans for you based upon your objectives. The Arkansas Forestry Commission offers landowners a variety of technical assistance in forest management. Technical assistance is free of charge upon request. Contact the nearest AFC office or check out their on-line guide for assistance.

Services Provided by the Arkansas Forestry Commission

image of a small prescribed fire in a hardwood stand

The AFC offers services such as prescribed fire, management plans, and cost share programs

- Land examinations based on landowner objective of the property
- Written forest management plans.
- Sample sales contract and a list of potential markets for landowners that want to sell timber.
- Work with landowners to identify and control forest insects and diseases.
- Information about the availability of cost-share programs that will provide 50 percent or more of the cost to do tree planting, site preparation, and timber stand improvement.



- Information and site recommendations for protection, restoration, and improvement (BMP's) of Arkansas' water and wetland resources.

- Searchable data base of forestry consultants and forestry vendors

Wildlife Habitat Management

If you are interested in improving wildlife habitat on your property, most state wildlife agencies have biologists that will work with you to develop a management plan with these goals in mind. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission employs private lands biologists who can provide a written wildlife management plan along with current aerial photos identifying where wildlife practices are recommended. There are many state and federal agencies along with several private organizations that offer financial assistance to landowners to improve their lands for high-priority wildlife species.

To learn more about managing wildlife habitat, visit our wildlife habitat management page.

Several State, Regional, and National agencies and organizations have programs, information, and personnel who can provide assistance in your woodland management are listed below.

State Agencies and Organizations Providing Technical Assistance

- Arkansas Forest Resources Center
- Arkansas Forestry Association
- Arkansas Forestry Commission
- Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
- Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service
- Southern Region Extension Forestry

Federal Agencies and National Organizations.

American Forest Foundation

American Tree Farm System

Forest Landowners Tax Council

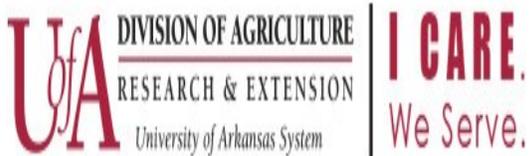
Board of Registration for Foresters

U. S. Forest Service

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Join your landowner association. Join the Arkansas Forestry Association





Robin D. Bridges
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair
Union County
UofA Cooperative Extension Service
307 American Road
Suite 101
El Dorado, AR 71730
Ph: 870-864-1916
Fax: 870-864-1919

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.