Livestock and hay producers should be scouting their pastures and hay meadows for fall armyworms. Armyworm infestations can wreak havoc on hay fields, pastures, and newly planted fall forages so scout these areas close and often. We have had some reports of Fall Armyworm activity in Van Buren County.

Fall armyworms do not overwinter in Arkansas instead the adult moths catch wind currents and gradually move into the state from the south and lay eggs. Fall armyworm damage can appear almost overnight. Infestations can be easily overlooked when the caterpillars are small and eating very little. Once caterpillars grow large and consume more grass, damage becomes apparent. Fall armyworm infestations can be expected from now through September.

Producers should carefully examine grass blades, stems and organic debris at plant base, and soil surface in a 1 sq. ft. area. It is best to take at least 10 random 1 sq. ft. samples across the pasture or hay meadow. Female fall armyworm moths prefer to lay eggs in areas of abundant growth, so be sure to include a few of these areas in your 10 samples. Also, make note of the size of the armyworms. Knowledge of their size will help producers make sound management decisions. A 1 sq. ft. sampling device made of stiff wire or PVC pipe will make the sampling process much easier. Remember, armyworm outbreaks often occur in waves about 30 days apart, indicating the need for routine scouting.

There are a few tips to remember about fall armyworms. First, do not treat when armyworms are tiny, however, get prepared. Several natural enemies such as parasites, predators and pathogens occur and can possibly eliminate or reduce populations in a short period of time. Many of you will remember a few years ago how the parasite, Cotesia marginiventris, showed up in large numbers and helped control fall armyworms in many fields. County agents and producers saw the small white cocoon cases (of the pupal stage) that were mistakenly thought by some to be armyworm eggs. We have seen on several occasions that population numbers will often decrease after a population of small larvae had previously been observed. Secondly, the fall armyworm has about 6 larval instars. The last few and particularly the fifth and sixth instars are when most of the damage to pastures occurs. Of the total foliage consumed, greater than 80–85% will occur at these stages. The best advice is to not get over-anxious and treat before necessary. Likewise, do not wait until they become too large. Harvesting an infested hay meadow is an option if the hay is mature. Most of the products recommended will work well on medium-sized larvae. Unlike cotton, corn or other crops the larvae have no place to avoid the insecticide and are easier to kill in pasture situations.

The treatment threshold for fall armyworms is 3 or more worms per square foot. “2014 Insecticide Recommendations for Arkansas MP-144” lists insecticides that can be used against fall armyworms in pastures ([http://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/mp144/e-forages.pdf](http://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/mp144/e-forages.pdf)).

Adult Armyworm.
Note the inverted “Y” on the armyworm’s head.

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of 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.
Beef Cow Liquidation Halts

Total beef cow slaughter so far in 2014 is down 13% compared to last year, and is on pace to be down 300,000 to 400,000 head for the year. During spring and summer 2013, beef cow slaughter rates increased more in line with the seasonal trend, but this year it is clear that more producers are holding onto cows given the record-high calf prices and better pasture conditions for much of the country.

Beef cow slaughter rates have been flatter than normal from March through June, and the overall slaughter levels have been well below recent years. Last year, beef cow slaughter dropped off relatively significantly during the last five months of the year. As a result, this year’s beef cow slaughter will likely close the gap with last year somewhat during the last five months.

Remember, CattleFax expects total beef cow slaughter for 2014 to be down 11 to 13% compared to last year. Add to this the trend of a lower percentage of heifers compared to steers going into the slaughter mix, and it suggests the beef cowherd is in fact on target to be larger on January 1, 2015. This year will mark the third year in a row for declining beef cow slaughter, which will be down 1 million cows compared to what it was in 2011 (Source CattleFax).

Influencers on Feeder Cattle Futures

Due to tighter calf supplies and supportive demand from feedyards for replacements, feeder cattle futures have been trending significantly higher this year. The August feeder cattle futures prices have increased about 15% since April 1. With an increase of this magnitude, there is a natural desire to identify future price trends. Remember feeder cattle futures are strongly correlated with deferred live cattle futures due to the supply relationship: consumer demand for beef, demand for fed cattle drives feeder demand, etc. Feeder cattle and fed cattle prices movements are often in lockstep because of this relationship. Based on more than 40 years of data, the 2014 price relationship has only been stronger 16% of the time.

Corn futures prices can also influence feeder cattle futures, but the relationship between these two variables is not nearly as impressive. It takes a structural breakdown in the feeder cattle and fed cattle relationship for corn prices to become a more consistent factor. For instance, look at August feeder cattle and December live cattle futures. Several periods saw the price relationship deteriorate: 87-88, 99-00, 07-08, 11-12. In these years, tighter corn supplies created a stronger than usual feeder cattle to corn relationship. Analysis shows for these years, a 10% increase in corn price corresponded with a $51/cwt increase in feeder cattle futures prices. Therefore, focus on the corn market if the current relationship between feeder and live cattle weakens (Source CattleFax).
Caribbean Casserole ~ From Healthy Recipes from uaex.edu, Snap-Ed Connection

Makes 10 Servings

INGREDIENTS
1 medium onion, chopped
1/2 green pepper, diced
1 tablespoon canola oil
1 can (14.5 ounces) stewed tomatoes
1 teaspoon oregano leaves
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1 1/2 cups instant brown rice, uncooked
1 can (16 ounces) black beans, undrained (or beans of your choice)

INSTRUCTIONS
1. In a large pan, heat oil over medium heat.
2. Add onion and green pepper in canola oil, in a large pan, and cook until tender.
3. Add tomatoes, beans (include liquid from both), oregano and garlic powder.
4. Bring to a boil. Stir in rice and cover.
5. Reduce heat to low and cook for 5 minutes.
6. Remove from heat and let stand for 5 minutes before serving.

NOTES: Serving Size: 1 cup
Nutrition Facts per Serving:
Calories 100
Total fat 2g
Saturated fat 0g
Protein 4g
Sodium 280mg

FREEZING CITRUS FRUITS

Preparation – Select firm, tree-ripened fruit heavy for its size and free from soft spots. Wash and peel. Divide fruit into sections, removing all membranes and seeds. Slice oranges if desired. For grapefruit with many seeds, cut fruit in half and remove seeds; cut or scoop out sections.

Syrup Pack – Pack fruit into containers. Cover with cold 40 percent syrup made with excess fruit juice or water. Leave headspace. Seal and freeze.

Juice – Select fruit as directed for sections. Squeeze juice from fruit, using squeezer that does not press oil from rind.

Sweeten with 2 tablespoons sugar for each quart of juice or pack without sugar. Pour juice into containers immediately. To avoid development of off-flavors, pack juice in glass jars. Leave headspace. Seal and freeze.

http://nchfp.uga.edu/how/freeze/citrus.html
The barnyard exhibit is a fun educational exhibit for youngsters age 4 to 8. We are happy to give the 4-H clubs an opportunity for "community service" hours during the fair. The days and hours we could use some help are:

- Sept. 10th (Wednesday) - from 5 pm til 7 pm
- Sept 11th (Thursday) - from 5 pm til 7 pm,
- Sept 12th (Friday) - from 6 pm til 8 pm,
- Sept 13th (Saturday) - from 5 pm til 7 pm and 7 pm til 8:30 pm

This is a great opportunity for 4-H youth to provide community service volunteer hours. Gain credit by volunteering for Farmer For A Day Exhibit at the Van Buren County Fair.

Call Cindy Wilson to schedule a volunteer day and time at 745-2953

This Event is Sponsored by Van Buren County Farm Bureau

North Central Arkansas District Fair Livestock Entries

Entries including rabbits and poultry must be made online at www.ncadistrictfair.org. All entries must be made online and paid for by September 10, 2014. There will be no late entries.

76th Annual Van Buren County Fair and Livestock Show

4-H Membership is a Requirement

4-H Membership is a Requirement for any youth starting at age five and going through 8th grade of school to be able to exhibit as a junior exhibitor in the Van Buren County and North Central Arkansas district fairs. You have to be enrolled no later than August 29, 2014 in the Van Buren County 4-H program by using the Arkansas 4-H online system. The state will reset the enrollment program to begin 2015 enrolling on September 1. On this date you will no longer be able to enroll in 4-H for 2014. You need to check your status on the online enrollment program and it should indicate you as active if you are currently enrolled. If you have friends or family that need to be enrolled to show, we ask that you pass this info onto them due to if they aren’t enrolled in 4-H this year they will have not received this newsletter. For more information on enrolling, you can call or come by the Van Buren County Extension office. All active 4-H members will HAVE TO RE-ENROLL starting in September 2014 for the 2015 4-H program year.
The Van Buren County Extension office conducted two summer day camps for county 4-H’ers. The first camp conducted was focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Nine members explored the idea and use of robotics using the Lego Mind Storm robots. The camp was conducted in July for one day at the county annex building. 4-H Leader Virginia Cruse taught the camp and taught the 4-H members to use the robotics and how they instilled life skills such as team work and decision making. The Lego Mind Storm kits were purchased through funds sponsored by BHP.

The second day camp conducted for Van Buren County 4-H members was a Citizenship/Leadership camp focused on county government. The camp was conducted the first week of August at the County Annex so members could interact and tour the County Elected Officials offices. The County Officials gave presentations on their positions to the members, the members learned to work through public issues, flag etiquette was taught, they covered how to register to vote or file to run for offices, and on the election procedure. The kids also got to participate in leadership games and have lunch with all Annex employees to interact with all the county employees of the annex.

We wanted to extend this special opportunity to 4-H members, volunteers, friends and family of 4-H to attend the upcoming Arkansas Razorback football game against Northern Illinois at Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium on Saturday, September 20th, 2014 at TIME TBD. This game is our “4-H Appreciation Day!” With this special offer upper deck seats are only $30.00 (over 30% discount!). Call 745.7117 and we will email you the link and promo code.

(An ordering fee will be applied to all orders)
The deadline to order tickets is September 5th.
SEE YOU AT THE STADIUM!
GO HOGS!
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.