

# White County Crop Newsletter



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## ***Hello White County Row Crop Producers!***

*Fall is here and it feels so good! I know this past spring was a trying time for so many of our producers. White County was down about 20,000 acres of row crops this growing season due to the weather early on. Many of you had a real rough start and are glad to see this year wrapping up. All in all the yields from around the county are good considering the circumstances and we will be hoping for a great harvest of all of those late planted soybeans. Let's be thankful and move on to preparing for a great season next year!*



## **2019 Important Dates**

*December 10<sup>th</sup>: Pesticide Applicator Training*  
*February 11<sup>th</sup>: Pesticide Applicator Training*  
*March 19<sup>th</sup>: Pesticide Applicator Training*  
*TBA 2020: Grain Marketing Meeting*  
*Jan/Feb 2020: Production Meeting*

## **Voluntary Smoke Guidelines for Crop Residue**

# BEFORE YOU BURN...

#BeforeYouBurn, help continue responsible stewardship by making sure you:



Follow the Safe Burning Checklist, found on [aad.arkansas.gov](http://aad.arkansas.gov)



Call 1-800-830-8015 and report your crop burn to the Arkansas Agriculture Department Dispatch Center.

Share to help spread the message! #BeforeYouBurn

The AR Ag. Department's Dispatch Center coordinates prescribed fire activities, reports fire weather, and assists with voluntary smoke management. Farmers should notify the AAD Dispatch Center on the MORNING of the

prescribed fire by calling 1-800-830-8015. Complete a Safe Burning Checklist before you burn.

## County Wide Texting Program



If you would like to sign up for Row Crop Ag text alerts from the Extension Office go to <https://www.uaex.edu/counties/white/> and click the sign up for the row crop text link OR you can text the message *uaex whtcrop* to **313131**. I will be sending out CEW Trap counts and any other pertinent information to those on the list.

## 2019 Fall Abandoned Pesticide Collection Schedule

The Abandoned Pesticide Collection program has undergone some changes. It will be going back to 5 collections in the fall and 5 in the spring in order to conserve funding for the foreseeable future. All collections are from 8:00 am-1:00 pm. If you need addresses to the exact location please contact me.

October 28<sup>th</sup>: Bradley County, October 29<sup>th</sup>: Drew County, October 30<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln County,  
October 31<sup>st</sup>: Ashley County, November 1<sup>st</sup>: Chicot County

## White County Fair Field Crop Results

Thank you so much to you row crop producers that stopped what you were doing and entered crops into our county fair! I truly appreciate you guys sending wives, moms, and kids to the fair with great entries to fill up the “Field Crops” section of the educational building. You would be amazed to know how many folks walk by these crops during the week long fair! Thousands! Having crops there for folks to see is so important when it comes to educating the general public. We can’t bring them all to your farms but you can bring a small bit of the farm to them by entering your crops into the fair! A special shout out to **Rachel Watkins** for winning *Best of Show* with 5 beautiful ears of corn in the youth division. And **Patrick Hambrick** for winning *Best of Show* with some nice soybeans in the adult division!



## Well Water Testing Available



If you would like to have your well water tested, *free of charge*, you can bring it to the Extension Office, *Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30* anytime during the year. We can provide you pH & EC readings for your well water or any irrigation water. Most folks bring them in clean water bottles labeled with each water source. You can drop them off if you can’t wait around and we can give you the results by email.

## Cover Crop Success Tips

### *FSA 2156 Understanding Cover Crops*

1. Consider the following cash crop and rotate accordingly
  - A. *Soybeans and cotton* should be preceded by predominately *grass* cover crops or blends
  - B. Grass cash crops (*corn, grain sorghum and rice*) should be preceded by predominately *broadleaf or legume* cover crops or blends
2. Consider the specific goal or outcome you want to achieve with cover crops. (weed suppression, improved infiltration, reduced soil erosion, reduced crusting)
3. Plant cover crops on small acreage the first time to reduce risk.
4. Plant *early* to achieve maximum ground cover and potential benefits. (September-November)
5. Use no-till or reduced tillage systems to maximize soil benefits when using cover crops.
6. Scout for pests and diseases in cover crop *and* cash crop.
7. Terminate cover crop at least *2 to 4 weeks* before cash crop planting to reduce pest pressure.

## Soybean & Corn Nematode Soil Samples

Thanks to the *Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Board*, the *Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board*, and the *Arkansas Nematode Diagnostic Lab* corn, cotton, and soybean nematode samples may be sent in for **FREE**. Corn nematode sampling done in the spring is a better indicator of corn nematodes that affect the current crop but samples collected now will give insight into potential problems. If the *current crop is cotton and the next crop is soybeans or corn* then the field would also be eligible for free samples because it is a rotational crop. *Cover crop* nematode soil samples may also apply for the soybean promotion board grant. Samples collected now and at the time of cover crop termination can tell you the impact of cover crops on nematode population density and the potential impact on the 2020 crop. Samples should be collected to project a nematode problem. The sample should represent the field rather than a “hot spot” in the field. If you use a small  $\frac{3}{4}$  in soil probe and sample into the root zone at 8-10 inches then 15 cores is about 1 pint. Place moist soil samples in labeled plastic bag and bring to the Extension office. There is no limit on the number of samples you may submit. *Do not allow the samples to be place in extreme temperatures or sit in direct sunlight as it will kill the live nematodes*. If you need help with the proper sampling method and techniques let us know at the Extension Office and we can help!



## White County IPM

I wanted to send a “thank you” to the producers allowing me to place pest traps on their farms this past season! Thanks to Feather Farms, Cain Farms, Peacock Farms, and Hogan Farms! This invaluable information is needed every year to monitor the presence and number of economical crop pests in our area.

## Industrial Hemp

Sarah Cato

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – Unanswered questions for industrial hemp production in the United States has the industry watching the United States Department of Agriculture closely as they await regulations, according to the National Agricultural Law Center. The NALC, a unit of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, hosted a webinar Sept. 19 to address some of the concerns that have growers scratching their heads, such as the legality of CBD, THC testing and crop insurance.

**CBD oil:** Although cannabidiol, better known as CBD, seems to be the money maker for hemp producers, there is still a large gray area surrounding the product. “According to the Federal Drug Administration, or FDA, it is illegal to add CBD oil to food or to a dietary supplement,” said Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney for the NALC. “And although the 2018 Farm Bill legalized industrial hemp, Section 297D states that nothing in the Farm Bill overrides the FDA.” The FDA has approved CBD for treatment of severe childhood epilepsy, however states are taking their own approach, Rumley said. Some states are allowing CBD to be used in food or dietary supplements while others are following FDA guidance and not allowing it. “The FDA says that it is bound by the law, but they aren’t doing much to enforce it, except in extreme cases,” Rumley said. “Initial statements from the FDA said this could take years to resolve unless Congress gets involved.” On Sept. 17, Senate majority

leader Mitch McConnell pushed to expedite action from the FDA.

**THC testing:** For hemp to be considered legal in the U.S., it cannot have more than 0.3 percent tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive component of hemp. “The biggest issue we’re facing is the THC testing,” Rumley said. “One of the most critical issues is how do you measure it and what do you measure?” There isn’t a standard testing procedure, and current THC testing regulations vary from state to state. “In California hemp must be tested no more than 30 days before harvest,” Rumley said. “Kentucky has a 15-day harvest window.” Different states also have different requirements for samples that are tested and exceed 0.3 percent THC. “Some states mandate samples be destroyed if it reaches above 0.3 percent, while others allow for re-testing,” Rumley said. “Growers and processors need to check with their states to see what the protocol is in their jurisdiction.” Although the goal is to have a simple, inexpensive and reliable test for THC levels, Rumley said there are still a lot of questions surrounding the protocol. Are the current tests accurate enough for a court of law? In cases of interstate transport, whose test results would be used?

**Crop insurance:** Starting in 2020, hemp will be insurable under the *Whole Farm Revenue Protection Plan*. Producers can choose to cover between 50 and 85 percent of farm revenue.

There are some distinctions for industrial hemp, however:

- If the crop is damaged, insurance will not cover replanting expenses
- Must be operating under an approved plan
- Must have a production contract with a processor

- THC levels above 0.3 percent are an uninsurable loss

During the webinar, Rumley also discussed the status of other issues for industrial hemp production such as the labeled pesticides, contracts with processors, and expense and quality of sourcing seed

## Grow for the Green



Congratulations to Brandon Cain for hitting 100 bushels of soybeans in the Grow for the Green Soybean Yield Challenge this season! He planted variety *NK45J3X*. We are so happy for the Cain Farm and all of their hard work this year. The final results are not in for the entire contest but it has been confirmed that Brandon is now in the “Arkansas 100 Bushel Club”!

## Farm Stress

Rebecca Simon

Stress is made apparent in a variety of ways as a person responds physically, mentally or emotionally to existing pressures or concerns. Each person is affected differently and becoming familiar with common ways stress affects a person is helpful. Some of the pressures that occur in the agricultural industry are unique and beyond a person’s control these include weather difficulties that affect crop and livestock market prices that vary without warning. Focusing on what YOU can do to control how YOU respond to stressful conditions is important.

Rural stress can have a challenging effect on individuals and families due to the pressures that interact with each other. Those who work in agriculture are tightly linked to the agricultural system pressures that lead toward stresses on the farm and/or the family financial situation. Economic stresses occurring in the farm and family financial setting can raise challenges and stress levels for individuals, leading to heightened levels of personal stress that have physical, emotional and mental

impacts. Individuals experiencing increased personal stresses, such as anxiety, depression or physical fatigue, may find themselves having greater difficulties in their family or business relationships. Stresses or conflict experienced in relationships with others may generate further stresses or unhealthy outcomes, such as relationship difficulties, parenting difficulties, frustration or stress for children, or less involvement in the community.

A healthy response to stresses occurring due to challenges in agriculture is to pay attention to all aspects of this system and find coping strategies and resources that are useful. Having a process that you can use in managing the pressures that impact your family, your farming operation and your life in general is helpful. The Managing Rural Stress Model is designed to provide you with a process for thinking about the different stressors you may experience and strategies for managing them more effectively.

Each step of the Managing Rural Stress Model allows you to break down the process

of dealing with stress concerns into a reflective process that you can use to identify and use effective resources and strategies. The five steps are: (1) assess needs and impacts, (2) identify and access

resources, (3) pursue good-quality decisions, (4) connect with sources of support and (5) use effective coping strategies

### Nutrient Removal for Row Crops

Nutrient removal by the harvested portion of field crops is the primary pathway by which soil and fertilizer nutrients leave the field. The goal of effective nutrient management is to minimize nutrient losses to the environment while providing adequate nutrient availability to maximize crop nutrient uptake and ultimately yield. Nutrient uptake is the total amount of nutrients taken up by the crop throughout the growing season and contained in the grain, leaves, stalks and roots. Nutrient removal refers only to the nutrients contained in the portion of the crop that is harvested and removed from the field. Understanding the differences is essential for nutrient management planning and profitable crop production in regard to soil fertilization. Valid estimates of nutrient removal rates should be based on sound research that is specific to regional production practices and uses realistic yield goals. Nutrient removal can vary widely from year to year and field to field but can be useful in determining nutrient budgets and balances.

| Crop<br>(unit of<br>measure)          | Nutrient Removal<br>(lb per unit of yield) |                                   |                       | Yield<br>(yield/acre) | Removal for Given Yield (lb/acre) |                                   |                       |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                       | <i>N</i>                                   | <i>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub></i> | <i>K<sub>2</sub>O</i> |                       | <i>N</i>                          | <i>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub></i> | <i>K<sub>2</sub>O</i> |
| <i>Corn</i><br>( <i>bu</i> )          | 0.67                                       | 0.35                              | 0.25                  | 150                   | 101                               | 53                                | 38                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 200                   | 134                               | 70                                | 50                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 250                   | 138                               | 88                                | 63                    |
| <i>Cotton Lint</i><br>( <i>bale</i> ) | 32   | 14                                | 19                    | 1                     | 32                                | 14                                | 19                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 2                     | 34                                | 28                                | 38                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 3                     | 96                                | 42                                | 57                    |
| <i>Grain Sorghum</i><br>( <i>bu</i> ) | 0.66                                       | 0.39                              | 0.27                  | 50                    | 33                                | 19                                | 14                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 100                   | 66                                | 39                                | 27                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 150                   | 99                                | 59                                | 41                    |
| <i>Rice</i><br>( <i>bu</i> )          | 0.57                                       | 0.30                              | 0.16                  | 150                   | 86                                | 45                                | 24                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 200                   | 114                               | 60                                | 32                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 250                   | 143                               | 75                                | 40                    |
| <i>Soybean</i><br>( <i>bu</i> )       | 3.3  | 0.73                              | 1.2                   | 30                    | 99                                | 22                                | 36                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 60                    | 198                               | 44                                | 72                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 90                    | 297                               | 66                                | 108                   |
| <i>Wheat</i> ( <i>bu</i> )            | 1.2  | 0.48                              | 0.29                  | 30                    | 36                                | 14                                | 9                     |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 60                    | 72                                | 29                                | 17                    |
|                                       |  |                                   |                       | 90                    | 108                               | 43                                | 26                    |

There are smartphone apps available that can easily calculate nutrient removal based on yield per acre. *Crop Nutrient Removal Calculator* by IPNI, *Nutrient Removal Calculator* by A & L Labs, *Fertilizer Removal by Crop* by Ag PhD, and *Nutrient Removal* by The Mosaic Company. Please remember that these are only estimates and can only provide values for nutrient removal that are as good as the source of the data being used. The best and most accurate way to determine nutrient removal is to collect representative grain samples and have them analyzed. Many labs can provide this service including the Diagnostic Lab in Fayetteville. If you are

unable to determine the exact nutrient content of harvested grain using lab analysis you can use the chart above. All of this information and more can be found in the FSA2176 “Estimating Nutrient Removal for Row Crops Grown in Arkansas”.

Example: Estimating the K<sub>2</sub>O removal in corn grain using nutrient removal estimates

|   |
|---|
| $\frac{0.25 \text{ lbs K}_2\text{O}}{\text{bushel corn grain}} \times \frac{220 \text{ bushels corn grain}}{\text{acre}} = 55 \text{ lbs K}_2\text{O/acre}$ |
|---|

### **2019 White County Demonstrations**

Here is a list of current on-farm demonstrations conducted in White County. We really appreciate these producers working with us to provide opportunities to further research and learning!

- Corn Hybrid Variety Trial – Cooperator – Keith Feather (Harvested 9/5)
- Rice Verification Field -- Cooperator – Ethan Pruitt (Harvested 9/27)
- Corn Verification Field – Cooperator – Brandon Cain (Harvested 9/30)
- Rice Multiplier Field, Cooperator – Ethan Pruitt (Harvested 9/27)
- Corn Multiplier Field, Cooperator – Brandon Cain (Harvested 10/8)
- Corn Seeding Rate Study, Cooperator – Brandon Cain (Harvested 9/30)
- Soybean Surge Valve, Cooperator – Brandon Cain (Harvested 9/9)
- Soybean Verification Field – Cooperator – R.J. Peacock & Brad Peacock (Harvested 10/13)
- Cover Crops – Cooperator – Jacob Feather (Planted 10/3)
- Rice For Kids – Peacock Farms
- Corn For Kids – Reaper Farms
- Grow Your Own Protein- 2 Edamame Gardens Searcy High School & Victory Garden

*Please, feel free to contact me for further information about the items in this newsletter or anything else I may be able to assist you with.*

 facebook

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*Sincerely,*

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County Extension Agent - Agriculture*

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