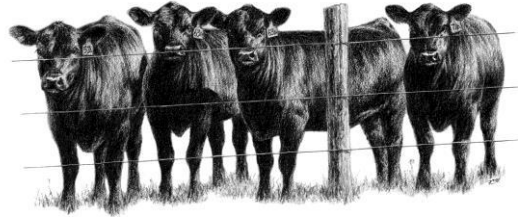


# The Back Forty News



## FULTON COUNTY U OF A COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

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### From the County Agent's desk...

Hello Fulton County Producers. My name is Cory Tyler and effective March 1st I filled Brad Runsick's old position as Fulton County Agriculture Extension Agent. Brad served Fulton County for 7+ years and helped in meeting the needs of our county in various ways. I know I have big shoes to fill but with his help as my mentor, Brad will guide me in the

right direction to continue those efforts.

A little about myself: I grew up on a family farm here in Fulton County helping my dad, mom, and older brother run a cow-calf operation, cut and bale hay, and do whatever else was necessary to help our farm. Since then, our family has added five new members and each one of us has a part in our family farm. Growing up I knew that I had a passion for agriculture and wanted to pursue it further. At that time I became active in 4-H and joined FFA in High School. These organizations provided me opportunities to grow as person and they have gotten me where I am today. I am a 2008 graduate of Salem High School and from there continued my education at ASU-Beebe where I earned my Associates Degree in May 2011. I transferred to ASU-Jonesboro in August 2011 and graduated from there with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in December 2013. The week after graduating, I moved back to my hometown where I began work at the Bank of Salem. I worked in the Loan Department for 2 years and served as the Manager of Human Resources for 3 years.

In 2014, I married my wife Haley and we have a 19-month-old son named Reid. Currently, Haley works as a Labor and Delivery Charge Nurse at BRMC in Mountain Home. In January, she started working towards her Masters and plans to be a Family Nurse Practitioner in the future. We are members of the Salem Church of Christ and help with youth activities and events. I am actively involved in the community serving as a Salem Chamber of Commerce Board member, the Secretary of the Salem Cemetery Board, and a Firefighter and First Responder for the City of Salem.

This newsletter will continue to focus on livestock and forage but will also include general gardening and horticulture needs as well. For me to better serve the county, I will be looking for places to conduct demonstration projects. If you have a location and are willing, especially one close to a frequently traveled road, let me know. I look forward to serving as your new county agent and hope to do so for years to come. Please do not hesitate to call or come by. I would like nothing more than to get out from behind this desk and look at some of the operations that we have in our county.

### **Spring Brucellosis (Bangs) Vaccinations**

The spring brucellosis vaccinations are coming up soon. Livestock and Poultry technician, Franky Sharp, and I will tentatively be out on Monday, April 29th. If you have heifers to be vaccinated, please let us know by Friday, April 12th. **Return the enclosed cut-out card to our office at P.O. Box 308, Salem, AR 72576 or call us at 870-895-3301. Include detailed directions to where the heifers will be.**

Vaccinations are free of charge. Heifers must be at least 4 months old but not older than 12 months old to be eligible for vaccination. We will use the same procedure as in the past and notify you by letter before you are scheduled for vaccinations. You will need handling facilities to confine and work the calves. Also, you or a representative for you must be present at the time of vaccination or the technician will not vaccinate the heifers. If no one is there, we'll have to move along to the next stop. Remember, the time that we schedule for your stop could be give or take an hour or so. It depends on how fast or held up we are at prior stops.

	Return by: _____
To: County Extension Agent – Staff Chair	
In reply to your inquiry, I have _____ heifer calves, 4 to 12 months of age, which I would like to have vaccinated for Brucellosis (Bang's Disease).	
Name	_____
Address	_____ _____
Phone	_____
Community	_____
Location of Farm	_____
CES-443 Brucellosis Vaccination Reply Card	(8-01)

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**Bermuda Greenup says, “Spring is Here”**  
John Jennings, Professor and Extension Forage Specialist

Today is the first day of spring and pastures are ready for a break from the cold wet winter. According to bermudagrass pastures, spring is arriving right on time. A close look at bermudagrass in several areas in central Arkansas showed new green tips peeking through. Bermudagrass will normally start producing green tips in March, although any significant growth will not occur until May. What this signals however is that management plans for improving early bermudagrass growth need to be in place now. When green tips start appearing, it is too late to apply any burndown herbicide such as glyphosate for weed control. Doing so after start of green up will set back the pasture and hay growth cycle by two to three weeks later this spring. If spring weed control measures are needed now, other herbicides should be considered that will not cause injury to the new bermudagrass growth. Shade from old remaining forage residue, weeds, or winter annual forages will also delay early season bermudagrass growth. Cleaning up bermudagrass pastures to reduce shade impact will speed up the first grazing or hay cutting. Plans for fertilization need to be in place such as getting soil samples. Bermudagrass should not be fertilized in spring before night temperatures are 60° F or higher for about one week. That generally occurs sometime in early May across most of Arkansas. Fertilizing too early only promotes weeds and reduces fertilizer use efficiency by the bermudagrass. Overseeding clover into fescue pastures should be finished very soon. Spring fertilization of fescue and wheat/ryegrass pastures should be done as soon as possible if not already done. Planning for summer pasture should be in progress now to ensure a smooth grazing transition from spring to summer. Which fields should be harvested for high quality hay, which should be grazed, and which ones will provide the best summer grazing are all questions to consider as we begin this spring season. Contact your county extension office for recommendations on weed control, soil testing, and forage management.

**4-H Rabies Clinic**



The Fulton County 4-H Rabies clinic will be held on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 a.m. at the Salem High School parking lot. Half of the proceeds go to benefit the Fulton County 4-H Foundation. Please consider using this opportunity to get your dogs and cats vaccinated for this year and support your county 4-H program at the same time! There is no need to call ahead to pre-register. Just show up that day with cash or check ready! **Remember to put your animals on a leash or bring in carrier.** The clinic is being held in conjunction with Shaw Veterinary Clinic.

**2019 Tomato Variety Trial Demonstration**

A statewide tomato variety demonstration will be kicking off starting around the middle of April and will run through a good part of the summer. Participating agents across Arkansas will be receiving three different types of tomato plants to grow for this study. These varieties include Celebrity, Cherokee Purple, and Sun Gold. The main purpose of this demo is to compare differences in disease resistance, vigor, and yield. Fulton County will be part of this study and I will provide updates on this project through our Facebook page and in the next newsletter.

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## **Batesville Livestock Field Day**

Value-added calf marketing, cattle genetics and a hands-on livestock workshop top the agenda for the April 16, 2019, Improve Your Odds for ROI field day at the Livestock and Forestry Research Station. The station is part of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Arkansas System Division Of Agriculture. Cost is \$25 per person and includes materials and lunch. Participants are encouraged to register before the event and let the station know if they plan to take part in the hands-on workshop. To register or obtain more information, contact Jenny Branscum, 870-793-7432.

The full agenda for the event:

- 8 a.m. – Registration
- 9 a.m. – Value-added calf marketing - Shane Gadberry, professor – ruminant nutrition, U of A System Division of Agriculture.
- 9:45 a.m. – Adding value to YOUR calves and YOUR beef industry - Eric Bailey, PhD PAS, University of Missouri Extension.
- 10:30 a.m. – Break.
- 10:40 a.m. – Winter annuals - still the best gain in town - Paul Beck, beef cattle extension specialist, Oklahoma State University.
- 11:30 a.m. – Update on the Agricultural Experiment Station - Dr. Nathan McKinney, assistant director, Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station.
- Noon – Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. – Gambling on your breeding program - Charles Looney, professor-cattle improvement, U of A System Division of Agriculture.
- 1:15 p.m. – Hands-on cattle health workshop – Jeremy Powell, DVM, U of A System Division of Agriculture, and Landon Watkins, Zoetis Animal Health.

The conference is sponsored in part by Zoetris.

## **Controlling Broomsedge on Pastures**

Sarah Cato - U of A System Division of Agriculture

### Fast facts:

Broomsedge is an invasive weed that targets ill-managed pastures  
Prevention is key: Control is difficult once broomsedge is established

Those pesky brown broomsedge stems — the things that crop up in abandoned and ill-managed pastures — can cause years of strife for any farmer. But there are many preventative measures that growers can take. “Broomsedge is a native warm-season perennial grass that occupies the niches left by diminished forage species,” said Dirk Philipp, assistant professor of forages for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences. “Most often broomsedge appears in mountainous areas and formerly forested fields, but pastures that have undergone the stress of drought or overgrazing also make for an ideal environment,” he said. Allelopathic chemicals in broomsedge prevent other plants from germinating around them, making this an extremely competitive plant.

### Prevention

Because broomsedge can be difficult to control once established, prevention is key. Preventative options include: Keep pH and Phosphorus levels in check. This means farmers should monitor soil fertility every year or two. The pH levels take some time to correct, so plan accordingly. Maintain appropriate pasture management. Keeping pastures clear of common weeds goes a long way to avoid major weed intrusion. Proper grazing methods should enable the farmer to increase or decrease grazing pressure in certain areas, and to help avoid overgrazing. Long-term management plans should be in place as well. Pasture species composition is dynamic, and forages likely have to be over-seeded after a few years in certain areas. Landscape position is a driver for available water, and thus plant composition.

### Control

Once broomsedge appears in pastures, it will be there for a while. Control options include: Correcting any nutrient deficiencies in respective pastures. This will increase the vigor of the base forage. Grazing pastures properly. Cattle will eat broomsedge for a short period of time in spring. Patience. It may take several years before broomsedge will disappear. There are no good herbicide options, other than glyphosate, which will also kill or damage the surrounding forage.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Fulton County Extension Office  
P.O. Box 308  
118 West Locust Street – Ste 107  
Salem, AR 72576

**Arkansas is  
Our Campus**

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