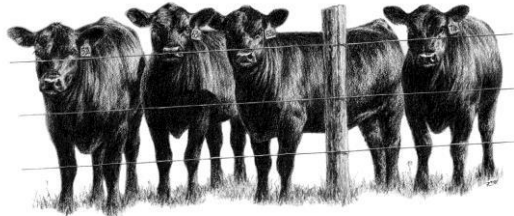


The Back Forty News



FULTON COUNTY U OF A COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE NEWSLETTER

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From the County Agent's desk...

The new year is finally here, and this is a great time for producers to step back and take a look at some of the things that positively or negatively impacted their operations in 2019. Reflecting right now allows us to think back and find out what worked and what didn't.

Did I plant my tomatoes too close together last year? Did I rotate our livestock from field to field in a timely manner? Should I have sprayed my pasture to improve my forage quality? Should I have stockpiled my fescue fields this fall to extend the grazing season? Whatever the question may be, it is never too late to make that change or at least plan to make it.

Like mentioned above, one thing all producers should consider right now is planning to establish a regular spraying schedule for their pastures. Some producers do this on a yearly basis but for those who don't maybe this year is the time to start. Whether it is for hay production or strictly for grazing, spraying ensures quality forages are available to your livestock by controlling undesirable weeds. It is only January but application time will be quickly approaching and now is the time to start preparing.

As your county agent, my job is to help you and give you the information you need to improve your operations. If you have any questions on what you might could do differently and need help making that change, please let me know. I would love to sit down and discuss options with you.

Private Applicator Training (PAT) for Restricted Use Pesticides

Local farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers who wish to renew an existing pesticide license or receive a first time private applicator license will have the opportunity to do so by receiving this required training. For those of you who are up for recertification, you should have received a letter from the State Plant Board indicating when your license expires. If you have received this letter, then according to our records and the State Plant Board records, your license is about to expire.

The training will be held **February 27th, 2020** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Fulton County Fairgrounds Hickinbotham-Miller Building. This training is NOT for certification of commercial (for-hire) pesticide applicators!

There is a \$20 fee (checks made to UACES or exact cash preferred) per person that MUST be paid at the door before the training. This fee does not relate to the licensing fee charged by the State Plant Board. It is only for the training. The fee for licensure is \$10 for a 1-year license or \$45 for a 5-year license. These fees will be paid by you after the training and sent to the State Plant Board for licensure, not the Fulton County Extension Office.

Arkansas Grazing Lands Conference

The 2020 Arkansas Grazing Lands Conference will be Friday, March 6th at 9:00 a.m. The conference will be held at Ozarka College in Melbourne. Nationally recognized soil health expert Ray Archuleta will be the featured speaker. Soil health is a fundamental component of productive forage and you're sure to learn something new from Archuleta's presentation. There will also be speakers from surrounding states and, as always, successful grazers from right here in Arkansas. Call Holly at (501) 944-7310 to register. Registration is \$35 and includes lunch.

Small Ruminant Workshop

Fulton, Sharp, and Izard county offices will be hosting a small ruminant's workshop at Ozarka College in Ash Flat on March 19th, 2020. The class will be taught by Chelsey Kimbrough who is our state Specialty Livestock Educational Specialist. This is a save the date reminder as the agenda for this event is still being finalized. You can follow our Facebook page to find the latest information or give us a call here at the extension office for updates.

Twin Lakes Beef & Forage Conference

The Twin Lakes Beef & Forage Conference will be Friday, March 27th at 5:30 p.m. at the Cotter High School Cafeteria. This year's conference will focus on bull health and management, but also cover some on-farm recordkeeping and forage weed control. This year's meeting is being sponsored by Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas and is being hosted by Cotter FFA. For more information, contact the Baxter or Marion County Extension Office at 870-425-2335 or 870-449-6349.

Control of Common Weeds in Pastures

Bitterweed (*Helenium autumnale*)

Spray bitterweed before it flowers. Bitterweed is readily controlled with 2,4-D amine at 1 to 2 pt/A applied in May or early June. Metsulfuron 60 DF, Grazon P+D, GrazonNext HL and Dicamba + 2,4-D also control bitterweed.

Blackberry and Dewberry (*Rubus spp*)

Use metsulfuron 60 DF at 1 oz/A plus 0.25% nonionic surfactant. Apply in May or June while blackberry and dewberry are actively growing. Remedy Ultra at 3 pt/A applied during or after bloom has been effective for blackberry and dewberry.

Chaparral at 3.3 oz/A or Surmount at 2 qt/A are other options. Apply after fruit drop. Do not mow during the year of application. Regardless of treatment choice, plan on making a follow-up treatment the next year to control escapes.

Brush, Mixed

Apply a mixture of 0.25% Remedy Ultra plus 1% Grazon P+D as a leaf spray to individual plants. Add 0.25% v/v nonionic surfactant. Spray between May and October while brush is actively growing. Picloram-free combinations include Grazon-Next HL + Remedy Ultra or Chaparral + PastureGard HL.

Buttercup (*Ranunculus spp*)

Spray buttercup in late February or early March before it flowers. This weed is easily controlled with 2,4-D amine at 1 to 2 pt/A. Metsulfuron 60 DF, Grazon P+D, GrazonNext HL and dicamba + 2,4-D also control buttercup. In dormant bermudagrass, either glyphosate or paraquat will control buttercup at normal use rates.

Cedar, Eastern Red (*Juniperus virginiana*)

Apply undiluted Tordon 22K to the soil prior to periods of expected rainfall. Apply directly to the soil within the drip line and on the upslope side of the tree. Application to trees taller than 12 feet is not recommended. Apply 3 to 4 mls (ccs) per 3 feet of plant height in either spring (April-May) or fall (September-October). Soil spot treatments with Velpar are also effective on cedar less than 6 feet tall. Use a Spraying Systems Meterjet applicator or a livestock worming gun to apply a precise amount of the herbicide. DuPont offers a spot gun that will attach directly to the Velpar jug. Leaf sprays of Surmount or Tordon 22K will control cedar.

Crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*)

Glyphosate may be applied between cuttings to control crabgrass in established bermudagrass hayfields. Apply 4 to 8 fl oz/A of 3 lb/ae/gal glyphosate as soon as the hay is removed after cutting. Be warned that glyphosate should not be used in this manner unless bermudagrass stunting, yield reduction and possible stand reduction can be tolerated. Applications made after regrowth is well under way will result in increased damage to the bermudagrass. We have tested this practice many times, and the amount of bermudagrass injury is unpredictable. Injury ranged from almost none up to 50% stunting. 'Tifton 44' Bermuda grass seems to be more susceptible to glyphosate damage. These rates are not effective on big sandbur and foxtail. Broadleaf signalgrass and barnyardgrass will be partially controlled. No waiting period is required between application and grazing or harvesting for feed.

Dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*)

Spray dogfennel when it is 6 to 12 inches tall. At this height, Grazon P+D or Weedmaster at 1 qt/A will give 90 to 100% control. Research has shown that Remedy Ultra (triclopyr) and PastureGard HL (triclopyr + fluroxypyr) are also highly effective for controlling dogfennel. PastureGard HL at 3 pt/A is the preferred treatment for dogfennel that is more than 3 feet tall.

Hemp Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*)

Surmount at 3 to 6 pt/A is the best treatment we have found for hemp dogbane. Apply when the weeds are 18 to 24 inches tall. Add 0.25% nonionic surfactant. In areas where picloram cannot be used, apply 2 qt/A Weedmaster + 1 oz/A metsulfuron 60 DF plus 0.25% nonionic surfactant. Another cheaper option is metsulfuron 60 DF at 1 ounce of product per acre plus 0.25% nonionic surfactant. Follow up next spring to control escapes.

Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)

Spray the leaves with a 1% solution of Remedy Ultra. Add 0.25% nonionic surfactant. Apply after full leaf-out when conditions are favorable for plant growth. Make a follow-up application the next spring.

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp*)

Metsulfuron 60 DF at 1 oz/A provides excellent honeysuckle control. For individual plant treatment, add 1 ounce of product per 100 gallons of water and spray to wet. A 2% solution of 3 lb/ac/gal glyphosate or 4 lb/gal triclopyr, applied in the fall, also controls honeysuckle. Follow-up treatments will be needed.

Horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*)

Grazon P+D (3 to 4 pt/A) or GrazonNext HL (2 pt/A) are good choices for horsenettle control. Time herbicide applications to occur between bloom and fruit set. Complete horsenettle control will not be achieved with a single herbicide application. Spray for three consecutive years to reach the 90 to 100% control range.

Horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*)

Spray horseweed when it is less than 12 inches tall. A properly timed application of Grazon P+D or Weedmaster at 1 qt/A will give 90 to 100% control. Metsulfuron 60 DF at 0.5 oz/A will also provide 90 to 100% control.

Foxtail, Knotroot (*Setaria geniculata*)

Foxtail is a late-germinating summer grass that becomes obvious in July. One option is to apply 8 to 10 fl oz per acre of 4 lb/gal glyphosate as soon as the hay is off the field. Panoramic at 4 to 6 fl oz/A does a fair job of foxtail control if it is in the seedling stage. Add 0.25% nonionic surfactant. Control of large plants will be poor. Application timing will typically be from late May to early June. Panoramic (imazapic) will stunt bermudagrass. Damage varies, but the loss of one hay cutting is typical. Expect 30 to 45 days of bermudagrass suppression after application. Do not apply to drought-stressed bermudagrass. Do not apply during spring transition. Do not apply to newly sprigged or seeded bermudagrass or to Jiggs or World Feeder varieties.

Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)

Use 1.33 oz/A of Outrider with 0.25% nonionic surfactant in 10 to 40 gallons of water per acre as a broadcast application. Apply to actively growing johnsongrass that is at least 18 to 24 inches tall and up to the heading stage. Weeds to be treated should not be mowed or grazed for two weeks before or after application. Bermudagrass may be harvested after the two week period without any effect on Outrider performance. Weed response to Outrider is very slow. It may require up to one month for weeds to become brown. Tank mixing Outrider with herbicides formulated as amines (including 2,4-D) may decrease the effectiveness of Outrider on johnsongrass. For spot treatment, mix 1.33 oz/A of Outrider in 100 gallons of water with 0.25% nonionic surfactant. Apply this as a spray to wet application. Panoramic at 4 fl oz/A plus 0.25% nonionic surfactant will provide about 80% johnsongrass control. Panoramic will stunt bermudagrass. Damage varies, but the loss of one hay cutting is typical. Pastora is effective for johnsongrass control. See the label for instructions.

Oaks (*Quercus spp*)

It is possible to achieve partial control of some oak species using 2,4-D alone at 2 qt/A. Improved control can be achieved by using a mixture of 1% Grazon P+D plus 0.25% Remedy Ultra as an individual plant leaf spray. Add 0.25% nonionic surfactant. Basal bark treatments are very effective on oaks with stem diameters of 4 inches or less. Mix 1 quart Remedy Ultra with 3 quarts commercial basal oil and apply to the lower 18 inches of the stems with a Conejet 5500 X-2 nozzle.

Perilla mint (*Perilla frutescens*)

Grazon P+D at 1 qt/A or Weedmaster at 1 qt/A will control perilla mint. Apply in late May or early June when weeds are actively growing. Spray before the weeds are 12 inches tall. Add 0.25% nonionic surfactant to the spray mix. Bush hog large plants that have already formed flowers.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

Persimmon is one of the more difficult brush species to control. The most effective treatment is undiluted Tordon 22K applied to the soil as a spot concentrate prior to periods of expected rainfall. Apply directly to the soil within the drip line and on the upslope side of the tree. Application to trees taller than 12 feet is not recommended. Apply 2 to 4 mls (ccs) per

inch of stem diameter in spring (April-May). Use a Spraying Systems Meterjet applicator or a livestock worming gun to apply a precise amount of the herbicide. A leaf spray using a 1% Surmount solution is less effective.

Pigweed (*Amaranthus spp*)

Pigweeds are prolific seed producers. Single plants are capable of producing thousands of seeds. Given adequate rainfall, pigweed seeds germinate throughout the summer. All emerged pigweed may be killed by a herbicide treatment only to be replaced by another flush of seedlings. Repeat applications will be needed for full-season control. Spray when the pigweeds are less than 12 inches tall. Metsulfuron 60 DF, Grazon P+D, GrazonNext HL and dicamba + 2,4-D, and 2,4-D amine all provide good control of seedling pigweed.

Plantain, Buckhorn (*Plantago lanceolata*)

A proven treatment for buckhorn plantain is Grazon P+D at 1.5 qt/A. This product provided 90 to 100% control of buckhorn plantain. Add 0.25% nonionic surfactant to the spray mix. Apply in late May or early June when weeds are actively growing. Metsulfuron 60 DF at 0.5 oz/A is also an effective herbicide for this weed.

Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Spray poison hemlock when it is less than 18 inches tall and before it flowers. Grazon P+D and GrazonNext HL at 1 qt/A are very effective for poison hemlock control when applied in May or early June.

Pricklypear (*Opuntia spp*)

Employing individual plant treatment, spray pricklypear with a 1% Surmount solution plus 0.5% nonionic surfactant. Use of Hi-Lite Blue Dye will help avoid spraying the same plant twice and show the extent of the coverage on treated plants. Apply during active growth. Do not spray under desirable trees. Do not spray wet pads. Be patient, Surmount works very slowly. It may take one to three years for complete control.

Ragweed, Common and Lanceleaf (*Ambrosia spp*)

The key to effective ragweed control is spraying when the weeds are small (2 to 4 inches tall). Small ragweeds are readily controlled with 2,4-D amine at 1 qt/A. Grazon P+D, GrazonNext HL and Dicamba + 2,4-D also control ragweeds at 1 qt/A. Metsulfuron is not effective on ragweed.

Red Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)

Grazon P+D at 1 qt/A provides excellent control of red sorrel. Metsulfuron at 0.5 oz/A is also very good. Treat anytime the red sorrel is actively growing. Remedy Ultra is not effective on red sorrel.

Sawbrier or Greenbrier (*Smilax spp*)

Greenbrier control is difficult regardless of the methods or herbicides used. Broadcast herbicide applications are not effective. For individual plant treatment, mix 1 quart Remedy Ultra with 3 quarts of commercial basal oil. Apply this mix to the lower 12 inches of the greenbrier stems with a Conejet 5500 X-2 nozzle. Agitate the mixture before spraying. Best results are achieved in the winter when more basal stems are exposed. Expect about 75% control one year after treatment. Follow-up applications are essential.

Sedges (*Cyperus spp*)

Use 1.33 oz/A of Outrider or Permit with 0.25% nonionic surfactant in 10 to 40 gallons of water per acre as a broadcast application. Permit may be used on all grasses. Use Outrider on bermudagrass only. Apply to actively growing sedges with enough leaf area to intercept the spray. Weeds to be treated should not be mowed or grazed for two weeks before or after application. Hay may be harvested after the two-week period without any effect on efficacy. Weed response to Outrider and Permit is slow. Tank mixing Outrider with herbicides formulated as amines (including 2,4-D) may decrease the effectiveness of Outrider on sedges. Permit may be tank mixed with Grazon P+D or Weedmaster.

Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*)

Apply 1.5 pt/A PastureGard HL in the late spring to early summer before bloom. The plants should be 12 to 15 inches tall with fully developed leaves. Increase the rate to 2 pints per acre for dense stands or later stages of growth. Use a minimum spray volume of 10 gallons per acre. Higher application volumes are preferred. For spot application, mix 6 pints PastureGard HL per 100 gallons of water or 1 fluid ounce PastureGard HL per gallon of water. Apply the spray

uniformly and thoroughly wet the *Sericea lespedeza* foliage. Metsulfuron 60 DF at 1.0 oz/A plus 0.25% nonionic surfactant is an excellent treatment for sericea control.

Thistles (*Carduus*, *Cirsium* spp)

The key to effective thistle control is spraying while the thistles are in the rosette stage of growth (before the flower stalk appears). Biennial thistles in Arkansas are readily controlled with a properly timed application of 2,4-D amine at 1.5 qt/A. Spring applications should be made from late February to early March. Fall applications from late October through November will enhance a thistle control program. Grazon P+D, GrazonNext HL and dicamba + 2,4-D also provide excellent control of thistles at 1 qt/A.

Wild Garlic (*Allium vineale*)

In tall fescue, 2, 4-D ester at 2 qt/A will provide fair wild garlic control. Apply from December to March. Repeat the application the following year. In bermudagrass, metsulfuron 60 DF at 0.5 oz/A is the preferred treatment. Add 0.25% nonionic surfactant to the spray mix.

Woolly Croton (*Croton capitatus*)

Along with bitterweed and buttercup, woolly croton is one of the easiest pasture weeds to control with herbicides. Apply 2,4-D amine at 1 to 2 pt/A in May or early June when woolly croton is less than 12 inches tall. Metsulfuron 60DF, Grazon P+D, GrazonNext HL and dicamba + 2,4-D also control woolly croton.

In the Garden - February

February is a big month in the gardening world, with many pruning chores taking top priority. Late February is the time to start pruning fruit trees, blueberry bushes and grape vines. Proper pruning ensures top performance. Both the quality and the size of the harvested fruit will be better if you know how to prune.

Pruning is not limited to fruit crops. All roses need annual pruning as well, and it is recommended that you prune butterfly bush (*buddleia*), summer spirea, and ornamental grasses back hard each year. Butterfly bush and summer blooming spirea plants bloom on new growth. Cutting them back hard keeps the plants more compact but covered with blooms. Ornamental grasses die close to the soil line each winter, so removing the old foliage makes way for new growth the following growing season. If other summer blooming shrubs need pruning, this too should be done before new growth really kicks in. This list of shrubs includes crape myrtles, althea (rose-of-Sharon), Clethra (summer sweet), Callicarpa (French mulberry or beauty berry) and the Panicle hydrangeas such as Limelight or Pinky Winky. Don't prune the big leaf hydrangeas unless all their new growth begins from the soil line. There are numerous types of hydrangeas, so you need to know which you have to decide when to prune. While most guidelines call for February pruning towards the end of the month, use common sense too. We have had some late springs with winter weather before, and we didn't get around to pruning until March. Late pruning is not going to kill a plant.

By mid-February, you can begin to plant the cool season vegetables. English and snap peas are the most cold hardy, followed by greens, then the Cole crops: cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower. Transplants should begin appearing in garden centers later this month. Greens, spinach and carrots can be planted from seeds, and onion sets and transplants, along with seed potatoes, will appear at the end of the month. Cool gardening season is from February through mid-April. If you did a good job of covering any fall or late-planted vegetables, you should be harvesting now. If you did not cover, you will probably need to replant.

In the Garden – March

Now is the time to plant cool season vegetables, from onions and potatoes to greens, cabbages and broccoli, and all the others thrown in. It is too early to plant the warm season lovers, like tomatoes and peppers, but there is still plenty to plant. It won't be too long before we are harvesting the first crop of asparagus. When asparagus is in season, it requires a bit of attention. Harvesting every other day or so is needed to prevent the spears from becoming too large. You also want to stop harvesting when the spears are smaller than a pencil in diameter. For those who don't have an established asparagus bed, now would be a good time to plant one. One-year-old crowns are available at most nurseries and garden centers. Work up your soil and add some organic matter. Dig a trench and spread out the crowns, lightly covering them with soil. As they grow, continue to fill in with more soil until the trench is filled back up. We don't begin harvesting until the crowns are 3 years old.

We are getting pretty late in the season for herbicides to be very effective on winter weeds, but you still have time to put out a pre-emergent for summer weeds. Once winter weeds begin to bloom and set seeds, damage is done. Try to mow to keep weeds from setting seeds, but hold off on using any fertilizer until your lawn grass has totally greened up—usually late April to early May. Putting out any fertilizer now is going to feed winter weeds, which don't need any encouragement.

There is still plenty of time to prune summer blooming plants including roses, butterfly bush, and summer spirea. All fruit trees, grape vines and blueberry bushes also need pruning every year. Ornamentals won't bloom as well if you don't prune, and fruiting plants will not give you the quality fruit you want if you don't prune. Do try to get the pruning done by mid-March if you can. If needed, you can prune crape myrtles, althea and abelia now too, but don't touch the spring blooming shrubs. Those should be pruned after they bloom, not before. There may be some winter damage in landscapes on ornamentals. If you have spring blooming ornamentals such as loropetalum, azalea or gardenia with damaged leaves, take a "wait-and-see" approach. Hopefully the damage will be only cosmetic and the plants will still have flowers, but you may have to prune more.

For many gardeners, winter annuals are beginning to make a slow comeback. Fertilize pansies and violas to encourage more blooms. If your plants look really bad and you need some quick color, consider putting in some short-season color plants like English primroses, calendula, and ranunculus. You may also be able to find some pansies, dianthus and snapdragons for extra color. They have at least two more months to bloom.

Spring bulbs should be going strong. Spring bulbs are an easy way to add color in a garden, but they do need to have six weeks of green growth after bloom to set flowers for next year. Crocus, daffodils and hyacinths will come back annually with minimal care, but tulips are a bit of a challenge. To ensure stunning color each spring, it is often best to plant new bulbs each fall.

We can all hope that the cold weather is behind us, but this is the month when we do still need to pay attention to weather forecasts. As plants are breaking dormancy, this is the time when they can be the most sensitive to a late freeze. Have protection on hand if it is predicted to be cold.



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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Tyler'.

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