

The Back Forty News



FULTON COUNTY U OF A COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE NEWSLETTER

January 2017



In this Issue.....

- Medicated Feed Regulations go into effect on January 1
- Winter Pesticide Licensing class to be held Feb. 7
- Sage Grass (Broomsedge) control demonstration project
- Tri County Beef and Forage Conference to be held on Feb. 21
- Grassland Evaluation and Beef Quiz Bowl for Youth

From the County Agent's desk...

Winter is upon us. Here are a few things to keep in mind and take care of during these slow months.

- Cattle energy needs are higher when it's wet and cold. Feed accordingly
 - Be sure to winterize any and all pumps, sprayers, etc. Anything that has the potential to freeze up and break will.
 - As long as the ground isn't frozen, winter is a great time to get out and get soil sampling done. Having results in January/February makes it a lot easier to plan versus waiting until April to take samples.
 - Frost seeding of clover is a great way to improve forage quality next spring. Broadcasting clover seed onto snow is an excellent way to sow clover. As the snow melts, the seed goes with it, allowing good seed-soil contact. Need to ensure that the pH and fertility is right before spending too much on seed.



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- I know it seems early, but the time to spray is right around the corner. Thistles are easily controlled with 1 quart of 2,4-D amine per acre if sprayed in late Feb./early March. With the cold temperatures, it just takes a little longer to see results, but the herbicide will work.
- Applications of glyphosate (Roundup , Cornerstone, etc.) in late Feb. and early March will work wonders on cleaning up bermudagrass fields. It'll take care of all that cheat, ryegrass, and winter annual weeds which are stealing spring rain, nutrients, and sunlight from the Bermuda. Not to mention, removing those weeds gets the bermudagrass out of dormancy earlier, providing early grazing or hay cutting. The herbicide won't affect the dormant bermudagrass.

Medicated Feed Regulation Changes

Dr. Heidi Ward, Extension Veterinarian

In 1996, Congress enacted the Animal Drug Availability Act (ADAA) for the approval and marketing of new animal drugs and medicated feeds. Before that time, drugs used in the animal industry were either over-the-counter or prescription-based. The ADAA created a new category of products called veterinary feed directive drugs (VFD drugs). These drugs were intended for use in or on animal feed (including water) and were obtained by the producer without a prescription. The VFD drug category was created to avoid state pharmacy laws for prescription drugs, which were not applicable to medicated feed. As of October 2015, new VFD regulations will go into effect for animal drugs already labeled as VFD drugs. The new regulations will require the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian if the VFD drug is deemed medically important. The following provides background information and important points to prepare livestock producers for the upcoming regulation changes.

In 2013, the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) published a guidance document, which called on animal drug companies to voluntarily stop labeling drugs that are medically important as drugs that can be used to promote animal growth. The purpose of this request was to decrease the incidence of antibiotic resistance in both human and animal medicine. The guidance document also requested that animal drug companies change the labeling of their products to require a written VFD order by a veterinarian. The CVM felt that putting these drugs under veterinary control would guarantee that they would be used only when necessary for assuring animal health. All of the animal drug companies contacted committed in writing to participate in the new drug marketing strategy. The VFD final rule was published in the summer of 2015. Animal drug companies have until January 2016 to relabel their VFD drugs.

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The most important provision of the VFD final rule is the requirement of veterinarians to issue all VFD orders within the context of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). A valid VCPR is the basis of veterinary supervision and provides a legal agreement between the veterinarian and livestock producer. Only veterinarians actively licensed and in good standing in Arkansas can write VFD orders for production facilities in Arkansas. In order for a veterinarian to issue a VFD order, he/she must do the following:

- The veterinarian takes responsibility for the health of the animals and the client agrees to follow the veterinarians' instructions.
- The veterinarian knows the animals enough to make a preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition for which they will be treated. This means the veterinarian has either examined the animals or has had timely visits to the operation where the animals are managed (at least one visit per year to be valid in Arkansas).
- The veterinarian is readily available for follow-up evaluation or has arranged continuing care and treatment with another veterinarian or emergency service.
- The veterinarian provides oversight of treatment, compliance and outcome.
- The veterinarian maintains records of treatment (3 years in Arkansas).

Along with a valid VCPR, veterinarians must become familiar with the labeled use of VFD drugs in the feed. The VFD drug can only be used to treat diseases indicated for a specified duration of time on the label. ~~To do otherwise is called "extralabel use", which is not allowable under the VFD final rule.~~ **The FDA has recently announced that they will allow extra-label use of Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) feed to accommodate minor animal species. However, minor animal species producers (sheep, goat, honeybees, etc.) will still need a VFD order from a veterinarian that has established a medically appropriate relationship with them prior to purchasing the feed starting January 1st, 2017.** A VFD order must contain all of the following:

- Veterinarian's name, address and telephone number
- Client's name, business or home address and telephone number
- Premises at which the animals specified in the VFD are located
- Date of VFD issuance with an expiration date
- Name of the VFD drug(s)

- Species and production class of animals to be fed the VFD feed
- Approximate number of animals to be fed the VFD feed
- Indication for which the VFD is used
- Level of VFD drug in the feed and duration of use
- Withdrawal time, special instructions and cautionary statements necessary for use of the drug in conformance with the approval
- Number of reorders (refills) authorized, if permitted by the drug approval, conditional approval or index listing
- Addition of the statement "Use of feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug in a manner other than as directed on the labeling (extra-label use), is not permitted"
- An affirmation of intent for combination VFD drugs as described in 21 CFR 558.6(b)(6)
- Veterinarians electronic or written signature

For more information, visit with your veterinarian, stop by the county extension office, or check out the resources at the FDA (see link below):

<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm071807.htm>

Private Applicator Training (PAT) for Restricted Use Pesticides

Local farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers who wish to renew an expiring pesticide license or receive a first time private pesticide applicator license will have the opportunity to receive the required training. Some of the folks that are up for recertification will have gotten a letter from the State Plant Board notifying them that their certification is up. If you are receiving this letter, then according to our records and the Arkansas State Plant Board, your license is about to expire.

The training will be held in Salem on **Tuesday, February 7th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in the Hickinbotham-Miller building. This training is **NOT** for certification of commercial (for-hire) pesticide applicators!

There is a \$10 per person fee which *must* be paid at the door at the time of training. This fee is not related to the licensing fees charged by the State Plant Board. It is only for the training. The fee for the license is \$10 for one (1) year or \$45 for five (5) years. That amount you will pay in later to the State Plant Board, not the Fulton Co. Extension Office. Checks or exact cash preferred.

Other opportunities in surrounding counties are as follows:

Baxter County – Thursday, January 19th at 6 p.m.; Location: Baxter Co. Fairgrounds; Phone: (870) 425-2335

Izard County – Thursday, January 26th at 6 p.m.; Location: Ozarka College; Phone: (870) 368-4323

Independence County – Thursday, February 23rd; Time and Location TBD; Phone: (870) 793-8840

Sage grass (Broomsedge) Control Demonstration Project

I'm looking for a landowner who has a lot of sage grass. That shouldn't be hard to find here in Fulton County, so I'm hoping to find a willing participant. Sage grass tends to overtake fields where pH and soil fertility is low, but that's not always the case. Sometimes, summers of heavy rainfall like we just had and low stocking rates on pastures can cause sage grass to flourish. It's not the worst forage in the world when it is small, green, and tender. However, it doesn't take long for it to grow out of that stage and become completely unpalatable to cattle. Meanwhile, it's also stealing summer rain and nutrients from more desirable grasses. So, for the most part, it's not something we want in our fields.

The purpose of the project is to look at various means of keeping it in check. Here's the plan. I want to look at a field that has a solid stand of sage grass in it right now. Then, lay out plots where we apply lime, phosphorus, and potassium at soil test recommendations and see how those applications impact the amount of sage grass the field has over time...maybe a 2-3 year period. Some plots, we'd just add lime. Some would just have P. Others might have different combinations of lime, P, and K. These plots would likely be 5-10 yards wide by 75-100 yards long.

I would also need the landowner to go in and bush hog it this winter, so we could measure the actual time and cost it takes to bush hog it versus these lime and fertilizer applications. Lots of folks just bush hog it, but is that really the most effective way to keep it in check? It doesn't appear to be working, if so. Not to mention there's added benefits of lime and fertilizer separate from just getting rid of the sage grass.

I would prefer that this take place somewhere along the highway, so other farmers could see the results over time. If you think you have an ideal spot, please give me a call at 870-895-3301.

Tri County Beef and Forage Conference

The annual Tri-County Beef and Forage Conference will be held on February 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Ozarka College in Ash Flat. Topics to be covered will be:

- ❖ Keynote: Market Outlook
- ❖ Changes to Medicated Feed Regulations
- ❖ Spring Forage Weed Control and Timing

The conference will begin with a meal that will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by the presentations of each of our speakers. To plan for meals, we ask that all attendees pre-register with their respective County Extension Office by Monday, Feb. 13th. The cost is \$10 that will be paid at the door. Call 870-895-3301 to pre-register.

Grassland Evaluation and Beef Quiz Bowl Contests for Youth

We are once again looking to recruit Fulton County youth to participate in the upcoming Grassland Evaluation and Beef Quiz Bowl Contests. If your kid, grandkids, or neighbor kids might be interested, get them in touch with us as soon as possible.

The Beef Quiz Bowl is a head to head, tournament format contest that is held each February in Fayetteville and is comprised of 4 team members, from grades 9th-12th. We often try to go up the night before and do something fun if possible. This is a great contest for youth that are familiar with beef cattle either from living on the family farm or show projects.

Grassland Evaluation is open to junior and senior 4-Hers, ages 9-19. Youth participate in hands-on, real world scenarios to answer questions about forage production, plant identification, wildlife habitat, and soils.

The deadline to sign up will be Friday, December 16th with near weekly practices beginning after the first of the year. We'll plan what days based on the schedules of those participating.



The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact (appropriate office name here) as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

Brad Runsick

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