DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Fulton County
Cooperative Extension Service
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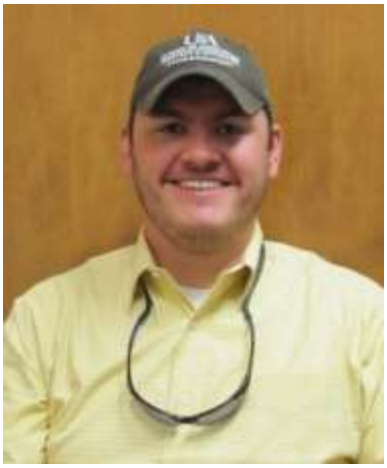
The Back Forty News

FULTON COUNTY U OF A COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE NEWSLETTER

July 2017

In this Issue.....

From the County Agent's desk...



Summer is upon us, and we've been mostly fortunate with plenty of rainfall from April through June...although we have hit a dry spell lately. But, that's pretty typical. Running out of rain at the end of June and early July seems to be about the right timing.

When it rains it pours, as the saying goes. It wasn't that long ago that many rivers were far out of their banks. Pocahontas was nearly totally underwater, and levees along the Black River won't be fully repaired until sometime next year. But, if history holds true, we're entering that time of the year when there's always a little 15% chance that we'll get a popup afternoon downpour. Here's to hoping that everyone gets their fair share every week to 10 days to keep things green and growing. As always, beware of nitrate poisoning in johnsongrass on that new regrowth after needed rain. That's something we can send off and test for, by the way. Give me a call, and let me know if and when I can be of any assistance to you and your operation.

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Impregnated Fertilizer Weed Control Field Day

Brad Runsick, Fulton County Extension Agent

Arkansas has recently been approved to use fertilizer that has been impregnated with herbicide for management of pasture weeds, specifically GrazonNext HL from Dow. As such, Sharp County agent, Joe Moore, and I have put out some demonstration plots to test the efficacy of those treatments, and we hope you'll join us on July 18th at 9 a.m. to discuss some of the results and for you to see those results for yourself. If you've driven to Ash Flat lately, then you may have noticed the plots on the north side of Hwy. 62 just prior to crossing the Fulton/Sharp County line. See table 1 below for the different treatments we made and associated costs.

Trt #	Treatment / Name	$/acre	Rate / acre
1	control	--	
2	GrazonNext (foliar only)	$7.97	1.5 pt
3	GrazonNext (foliar only)	$10.63	1 qt.
4	Fertilizer + 2,4-D amine	$3.25 + $34 = $	1 qt + 200 lb/ac 27-0-0
5	Fertilizer + GrazonNext	7.97 + $34 = $41.97	1.5 pt + 200 lb/ac 27-0-0
6	Fertilizer + Graslan	$7.13 + $34 = $41.13	1.5 pt + 200 lb/ac 27-0-0
7	Fertilizer + Brash	$6.38 + $34 = $40.38	1 qt + 200 lb/ac 27-0-0
8	Impregnated Fertilizer	$13 + $34 = $47	1 qt + 200lb/ac 27-0-0

We'll have a canopy tent set up, and field conditions permitting, those attending should be able to drive right into the field. It'll only last about an hour. We'll discuss the plots, what treatments we made, and current recommendations. Please give myself or Joe Moore in Sharp County a call to let us know if you plan to attend. Our number in Fulton County is 870-895-3301. The number for the Sharp County Extension Office is 870-994-7363. There is no cost to attend.

Demonstration plots along Hwy. 62, at the Sharp/Fulton County line.

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Dicamba Herbicide Ban – What it means to us in Livestock and Pasture Country

Brad Runsick, Fulton County Extension Agent

Soybeans with classic dicamba drift symptom of cupped leaves

Due to an overwhelming number of complaints of drift of dicamba herbicide in the row crop delta regions of Arkansas, the Arkansas State Plant Board has voted to ban the use of in-crop dicamba. Much like Roundup Ready crops have tolerance to Roundup, RR Xtend crops have tolerance to certain formulations of dicamba. Those farmers who did not plant crops with this technology, however, are reporting herbicide drift damage symptoms on their dicamba sensitive beans. As of the writing of this newsletter, the ban has been sent to Gov. Hutchinson for him to decide if the ASPB can go forward with the ban. Governor Hutchinson provided the statement below in response to the Board's recommendation:

"I appreciate the hard work of all of those involved in this process. Once the Plant Board has submitted the emergency rule to my office, I will review the proposed rule in more detail. I have consistently supported the Plant Board in its protection of Arkansas agriculture, and I expect this recommended rule will ultimately go to the legislature for additional review and action. "

Dicamba in its various salt formulations is an herbicide that we use here in pasture and hay country often to control a wide spectrum of weeds. Familiar trade names are Brash, Weedmaster, Banvel, and Cimarron Max. However, this ban **DOES NOT APPLY to pastureland.** However, it should be noted that even with this exemption for pastureland, Arkansas still has a regulation in place that dicamba containing herbicides should not be applied within 1 mile of sensitive areas and non-target crops. One might argue that a neighbor's field with clover is a sensitive area. Another one might be a small berry farm within 1 mile of possible application site. Knowing your neighbors and what they do and don't have in their fields and farms is just good practice with any herbicide applications, not just dicamba. For more information, check out the AR State Plant Board's website at: http://www.aad.arkansas.gov/arkansas-dicamba-information-updates

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Black Vultures

The presence and problems associated with black vultures in the area has been a growing topic of concern in northern Arkansas in the past 15 years or so. While we at the Extension Service have no regulatory or enforcement authority with regards to issues such as this, we want to provide you with the most accurate, up-to-date information regarding such problems. Education is our wheelhouse. The following is from our own, Dr. Becky McPeake.

Selected from UACES Pest Management Newsletter, May 31, 2017
Dr. Becky McPeake, Extension Wildlife Specialist

Black vulture populations have been growing in the southeastern United States since the 1960s. Many vulture species occur worldwide as scavengers of carrion. Unlike their less aggressive cousin the turkey vulture, black vultures will gang up and prey on living calves, pigs, lambs, and goats. They sometimes attack vulnerable cows while giving birth.

Legally black vultures are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is illegal to harm, harass, or take black vultures without a permit. Livestock producers with black vulture problems should call USDA APHIS Wildlife Services at 870-673-1121 to schedule a site visit. A technician will provide recommendations and issue a permit application for harassment or removal if necessary. Permit applications are sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval and can requiring weeks to months for processing, so Wildlife Services should be contacted without delay. The cost of the permit varies depending on number of birds permitted for removal.

Around smaller livestock operations, problems with vultures may be alleviated with constant vigilance and persistent harassment. Loud noises produced by automated cannons or other devices are often used for disturbing roosts when conditions are favorable. In urban and some rural locations, nearby residents would need to tolerate loud noises produced by such devices. Protecting larger livestock operations is more difficult where cattle range over large expanses. Additionally, pyrotechnics may disturb livestock especially during calving season. A method recommended by the National Wildlife Research Center for reducing black vultures at roosts is using effigies of vultures hung visibly upside-down by the legs with wings spayed and appearing dead, which frightens away other black vultures. In some states, Wildlife Services issue permits for shooting and displaying nuisance birds to prevent livestock depredation. However, Wildlife Services - Arkansas is skeptical about its effectiveness, as birds and other wildlife often become habituated to repeated use of frightening devices such as this. When proof of black vulture depredation is obtainable, producers can apply for reimbursement through the Livestock Indemnity Program under the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). There must be strong evidence of vulture depredation including authentication by a date-stamped photo or video. Also required is documentation of livestock ownership through purchase or other means. A local FSA committee determines whether there is enough evidence to warrant reimbursement, which is up to 75% of the average fair market value of livestock lost.

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Fulton County Fair Poultry Chain Changes

This is more of a 4-H thing, but we could always use the help of farmers in the community too. Each year, 4-H kids can sign up to receive a batch of chicks for free if they agree to return a pen of 4 of to the fair. In the past, that pen of birds is auctioned off on Saturday at the fair, and the proceeds go back into the program for the following year. That way, the kids don't have to pay for the birds. However, that process has gotten long and drawn out with so many pens of birds needing to be sold that we want to try something different. So, if you have a family member or neighbor who might have 4-H chicks that you'd like to buy, then this is for you!

Instead of selling them at the auction on Saturday, buyers will have the opportunity to purchase individual pens immediately after judging on Thursday and Friday. So, if you are interested in buying a particular kid's birds, you'll be able to select that pen (if someone doesn't beat you to it) you want and pay any time after judging. The birds can be picked up Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **The only exception to this will be the Grand & Reserve Champion pens, which will still sell at the premium auction on Saturday. Those exhibitors are encouraged and expected to be at the auction.**

We've also decided to just set pre-determined amounts for the birds. Blue ribbon pens (4 birds) will cost $35 per pen. Red ribbon pens (4 birds) will cost $25 per pen. White ribbon pens (4 birds) will cost $20 per pen. This is fairly closely in line with the way these pens sold when they were auctioned in past years, and it gives us some better assurance of how much money we'll wind up with for next year's order. Checks can be written to the Fulton County Fair, and someone will be on site to take your money and write you down for which pen you choose to buy. Thanks in advance for supporting our youth and the Fulton County 4-H program!

Is Testing Hay Worth Your Time and Money?

Brad Runsick, Fulton County Extension Agent

In addition to soil testing, hay testing season is also upon us. Year after year, folks put up and feed hay with no idea what the real nutritional value is. No one would buy a sack of feed without knowing what's in it. If there were no labeling regulations, it could be filled with cardboard chips for all we know. Hay, however, ranges drastically in quality, but the cost to produce is the about the same. Also, the cost to purchase doesn't reflect the variation in

quality, oftentimes. Hay has no such label attached to the bale after it's produced or bought, but it can. That's where hay testing comes into play.

Most of our hay is not lacking in protein, yet every fall and winter, we load up on protein feed or supplements that are sometimes unnecessary. Your average, dry, mature beef cow will maintain body condition just fine on 8% crude protein and 55% TDN. Now, if she's lactating or if you're seeking to add body condition, you'll have to up those numbers some. Don't feed cows to just keep them full and happy. Feed them to meet their requirements. It's easier on the pocketbook.

Too much money is spent on grass that could've been grazed, and then too much is spent on feed to make up for the lack of nutrition in the hay that would've been better as green forage in the first place. I'm not suggesting doing away with hay altogether. That's not practical. Just some food for thought.

Hay tests run $18 plus postage. It typically comes out to about $23-$24 dollars. I'll come to your farm, pull the samples myself by taking bale core samples, and then work with you on balancing the ration if feed supplementation is needed. I'd challenge you to find a better investment of your money going into this coming fall/ winter. Give me a call at 870-895-3301 and we'll set up a day to come sample yours.

Fall Armyworms are Early this Year

Dr. Kelly Loftin, Extension Entomologist

We are in the first week of June and have already had reports of fall armyworms in forage and hay meadows in southwest Arkansas. These reports indicated worms above treatment threshold (3 worms per square foot) and of mixed sizes. Mixed sizes of worms indicate overlapping generations which means that adult female moths can be laying eggs anytime to re-infest a field. Products with longer residual activity should be strongly considered when overlapping generations occur.

Producers should begin scouting their pastures and hay meadows to help prevent significant yield loss. Infestations are often overlooked when the caterpillars are small and eating very little. Once caterpillars grow large and consume more grass, damage becomes significant.

Clues to fall armyworm infestations include: 1) field appears "frosted" 2) presence of birds in the field or 3) the field smells like freshly cut hay. Armyworm outbreaks often occur in waves about 30 days apart. However, when mixed worm sizes are found, overlapping generations are present and new infestations occur more frequently than 30 days.

Scouting for fall armyworm presence is critical to avoid forage losses. Grass blades, stems and organic debris at plant base, and soil should be examined carefully. It is best to take at least 10 one-foot-square random samples across the pasture or hay meadow. Make note of the armyworm size and number as this will help make good management decisions.

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There are a few tips to remember about fall armyworm control. Do not treat when armyworms are tiny, however, get prepared. Natural enemies such as parasites, predators, and pathogens occur and can possibly eliminate or reduce populations in a short period of time. Occasionally we see armyworm abundance decline after a population of small larvae had been observed. Remember, the fall armyworm has about six larval instars. The last few (5th and 6th) instar are the stages that do the most damage to pastures and hay fields. Of the total grass consumed, greater than 80-85% will be eaten by these stages. The best advice is to not get over-anxious and treat before necessary. Likewise, do not wait until the worms become too large (1 ½ inches long). Large (1 ½ inches long) are about ready to pupate and have likely caused most of the damage that they will do. Harvesting an infested hay field is a good option if the hay is mature. In addition, large worms are harder to kill than smaller ones. Additional information on armyworms can be found in "Managing Armyworms in Pastures and Hayfields" and is available at: http://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/FSA-7083.pdf.

Per-acre insecticide cost will vary from as low as about $3.00 up to over $10.00. When calculating cost, always consider the cost per acre and not the cost per gallon of product. Also consider residual activity of the product especially if you are seeing overlapping generations (all sizes of fall armyworm caterpillars) and heavy armyworm pressure. Pyrethroid insecticides such as Karate® (lambda-cyhalothrin), Mustang Max® (zeta-cypermethrin) and Baythroid XL (beta-cyfluthrin) have shorter-duration residual activity. In contrast, products such as Prevathon® (chlorantraniliprole), Besiege® (chlorantraniliprole and lambda-cyhalothrin) and Intrepid® (methoxyfenozide)) have longer-duration residual activity and can reduce the number of applications necessary to produce a hay crop. A section 2 (ee) label for Prevathon® recommends 10-13 ounces of product per acre for control of fall armyworms, which is considerably less than the product label rate. Research has shown that this lower rate is effective. For additional information of insecticides labeled for use against fall armyworms in pastures and hayfields, check out the Forages section of the "2017 Insecticide Recommendations for Arkansas" available at: http://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/mp144/c-forages.pdf

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