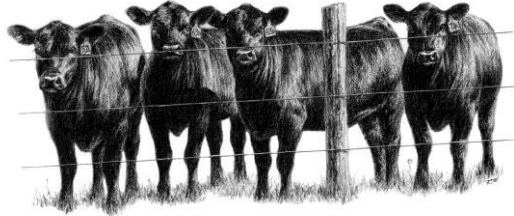


# The Back Forty News



## FULTON COUNTY U OF A COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

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



Since the last time we talked, a lot has happened so let's get started. The rain has been the biggest factor, causing significant impacts on our operations both locally and statewide. This is especially true for those along the Arkansas River.

Rain is always welcome but sometimes too much at once causes flooding, delayed farm applications, and damage to our fences and fields. We all know that it is hard to spread fertilizer in a wet soggy field without getting stuck and it is tough to work a garden up when the soil is too wet. It has rained every week it seems like, but luckily, there have been breaks in the wet weather, which has allowed us to get a few things done.

Something else that came up was spring armyworms. While the outbreak in our area was limited, there was still enough to cause some loss for producers. This focused primarily in the northern and western part of the county. Be prepared though, places in Mississippi and southern counties in Arkansas are already reporting fall armyworms. If it spreads any further north, we will need to be scouting our fields regularly. If you do run across any armyworms please let me know. It is important to relay that information to the extension office so measures can be taken to limit the outbreak in our county if one were to occur.

## **Statewide Tomato Variety Update**

In the last newsletter, I discussed a tomato variety demonstration that is being conducted statewide with three tomato varieties. They include Cherokee Purple, Celebrity, and Sun Gold. The purpose of the demonstration is to compare varietal differences in diseases resistance, fungal diseases, and yield. The plants were received on April 1<sup>st</sup> and were kept inside until the chances of frost had passed. The plants were set towards the end of April and got off to a very slow start due to the cooler nights and an abundance of rain. Since then however, the plants have been growing well and look very strong and healthy. To maintain the health of the plants, they are on weekly spray schedule and are monitored for insects, fungal diseases, and other pests. This insures that if a problem occurs, it can be handled quickly to limit the damage of any plant. So far only two Sun Gold tomatoes have been harvested for this demo but in the next couple of weeks there should be a continuous flow of tomatoes to pick.

## **Beef Cattle Health**

For cattle to reach their performance potential, they must be healthy. Therefore, a sound herd health program is a must in today's competitive beef production program. A proper health program will vary from herd to herd. A single program will not fit all herds throughout the state. For example, some herds may have very few health problems and, therefore, a minimal program will suffice while others may need a very extensive herd health plan. Also, particular diseases may be prevalent in one herd or area and be absent in another. The herd health program should be tailored to fit the individual herd.

The first rule to good herd health is sound disease prevention. Utilize your herd veterinarian to assist you in developing a comprehensive vaccination and therapeutic program. Your veterinarian can also support your beef operation by performing diagnostic procedures, including of samples to diagnostic laboratories and post mortem examinations.

A general concern of some producers is whether or not the costs of implementing a vaccine program are justified by disease prevention. The investment in disease prevention is less than the cost of disease treatment. Don't wait until a disease outbreak occurs before implementing a sound herd health program. Avoiding a potential health disaster in your cattle operation validates the cost. Keep in mind the old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". In other words, the costs of a disease outbreak will far exceed the price of disease prevention.

Remember that a vaccination program alone shouldn't be considered your complete herd health program. The vaccination program should be viewed as an important part of an effective health management plan that would also include proper nutrition, parasite control, and a simple biosecurity plan for your operation.

Minimizing or preventing disease entry and spread on farms should be included in every herd health plan. To accomplish this, several general management practices could be implemented with minimal cost. Simple considerations include knowing what is in the area of your farm perimeter (e.g. farms, visitors, neighboring

livestock and wildlife), individual animal identification, animal health protocols, recognizing and dealing with sick animals, isolation/quarantine, supply handling and neonatal management.

Since people and vehicles can potentially transfer infectious agents from one farm to another, control access to driveways, private roads and barns. If possible, have only one gated entrance to the animal areas on your farm to better control and monitor all visitors and vehicles arriving at your farm and keep gates locked to prevent unwanted human or animal entry. Limit the number of visitors and traffic to your operation.

When someone visits your operation that has been in contact with other livestock, provide them with disposable boots or footbaths to use before entering your operation. If you visit a livestock sale, the county fair or a neighbor's farm, remember to disinfect and clean your clothing and boots before wearing them around your animals. Environmental pests such as rodents, raccoons, birds and insects can act as vectors of disease. Control measures should be imposed to limit the spread of disease from these potential vectors.

Early identification of serious diseases can help minimize the risk of disease spread on your farm. If signs of disease are identified in an animal, seek veterinary services at its earliest detection. Waiting to treat the sick animal will only allow the spread of the infection to more animals on the operation. Signs of illness may include coughing, diarrhea, weight loss, runny eyes or nose, abortions, enlarged lymph nodes and lameness. If an animal happens to die, always remember to properly dispose of the carcass.

Some diseases can be tested for before you purchase an animal, and disease testing is one way to eliminate the transfer of a disease to your herd. Livestock buyers should ask sellers to test animals prior to the sale exchange. However, the buyer needs to be aware that not all tests are 100 percent accurate. Ask your veterinarian which diseases he/she would recommend testing for before purchasing an animal. Newly acquired animals should be held in an isolated area for at least 3 weeks to insure that you do not introduce unwanted disease into your herd. Isolation includes no fence line contact, shared water source or feed bunk space with your main herd. Regularly observe the isolated animals closely for signs of disease.

By implementing a strong herd health program for your operation, disease risk can be minimized. For more information on disease risk management for your operation, visit your county Extension office.

## **Straw Bale Gardening**

Did you know that you could grow plants in a single bale of straw? Most people have heard of this type of gardening but have never really put it to the test. Nearly everyone in our county has the space for an in ground garden but for those who don't, this form of gardening offers an alternative way to grow vegetables and other plants.

So what is it? Well, straw bale gardening consists of a straw bale and plants that are going to be grown inside the bale. A variety of plants can be grown in this type of application which include tomatoes, peppers, squash, melons, and herbs. While other plants can be grown, these ones grow best. Bales are placed on the ground with no need to dig into the soil. They are then put through a conditioning process with the use of nitrogen over a 10 day period. This can be done either conventionally or organically. The nitrogen used breaks down the bale inside

and creates the organic matter used for growing the plants. The bales are similar to a raised bed garden allowing for easy care and harvest.

To demonstrate how they work I have set up a straw bale gardening demonstration here in Fulton County. 3 Better Boy Tomato plants and 3 California Wonder Bell Pepper plants were planted at the first of May. One of the three tomato plants received wind damage from a storm shortly after it was transplanted so it was removed from the demonstration. So far though, 8 peppers have been picked with a few tomatoes not far behind. If you are interested in straw bale gardening please give us a call or visit our website for more information.

## **Hunting Leases: What You Need to Know**

**By Sarah Cato**

**U of A System Division of Agriculture**

Leasing property for recreational use, such as hunting, can be a source of additional income, but these leases come with more factors than landowners may expect. When it comes to hunting leases, there are many elements that differ from typical farming leases. Issues such as restriction of certain hunting practices, the use of ATV's and number of hunters allowed on the property are all examples of considerations that need to be discussed before entering into an agreement. The National Agricultural Law Center will host a webinar July 17, noon EDT/11 a.m. CDT explaining hunting leases. Rusty Rumley, senior staff attorney for the Center will outline factors that both parties of a hunting lease must consider. "There are many aspects of hunting leases that are very unique," Rumley said. "In this webinar I will walk through each of these aspects and possible consequences to ensure that attendees won't run into any surprises when the time comes."

Those interested can register online at: <http://bit.ly/2IQ55bM>

For more information on upcoming webinars, visit [nationalaglawcenter.org](http://nationalaglawcenter.org).

## **Leaf Spot in Tomatoes**

The University of Arkansas Extension Service Plant Health Clinic has received numerous samples of tomato with severe leaf damage. Septoria Leaf Spot caused by *Septoria lycopersici* is one of the most damaging diseases of tomato foliage. Septoria is favored by warm temperatures and high humidity. Symptoms of Septoria generally appear on the lower leaves after the first fruit sets. Lesions are circular, about 2.6mm in diameter, with dark brown margins with tan to gray centers. A narrow yellow halo may often be observed around the lesion. Small black fruiting bodies of the fungus (pycnidia) may be observed in the centers of the lesions using a hand lens. Lesions may coalesce to form large blighted areas. Foliage turns yellow, then brown and dry. The plant has an almost burned appearance. There are no resistant cultivars available. Control measures include crop rotation with a non-host, control of weeds in tomato crops, removal of all crop debris, and avoidance of night watering and overhead irrigation. Protective fungicides at regular intervals during the growing season will be necessary for most growers. Quadris, Cabrio, Flint, Bravo, Mancozeb, and Gavel are labeled for Septoria leaf spot control. Homeowners may use Ortho Garden Disease Control, or Fertilome Liquid Fungicide, or Bonide Fung-onil Multipurpose Fungicide Concentrate, or Garden Tech Daconil Fungicide Concentrate, or Bonide Mancozeb Flowable w/Zinc, or Hi-Yield Maneb Garden Fungicide, or Green Light Tomato and Vegetable Spray. Organic Gardeners may try Bayer Advanced Natria Disease Control, or Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide Concentrate, or Kaligreen, or Bonide Remedy, or Bonide Copper Dust, or Hi-Yield Bordeaux, or AgraQuest Serenade.

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 the Fulton County Extension office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

## **4-H HEALTH PAPERS SIGNING & GROOMING DAY**

For those showing livestock in the Fulton County Fair, Doc Ingram will be at the Fulton County Fairgrounds on July 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to sign health papers for your livestock. If you would like assistance with grooming your animals, please call the Extension Office before July 20<sup>th</sup> at 870-895-3301.

## **FULTON COUNTY FAIR** **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Fulton County Fair will be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. Go to the fair website at [www.fultoncountyfair.org](http://www.fultoncountyfair.org) and follow the link on the home page for online entries. Check out the tabloids before making entries so entries will be entered in the correct division and class. Tabloids are under 2019 County Fair Page on the website. *All livestock entries including Horses, Poultry, and Rabbits must be made online by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Creative Arts entries can be made online or with a paper entry form by July 15<sup>th</sup>.*

### **Schedule of Events**

- Horse Show will be July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- Check in for all livestock will be July 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Swine judging will be July 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.
- Rabbit Showmanship & Judging will be July 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- Sheep and Goat Judging will be July 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.
- Poultry Showmanship & Judging will be July 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- Dairy & Beef Judging will be July 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Livestock Premium Sale will be July 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
2301 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

Cory Tyler  
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CEA-Agriculture/4-H  
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