

THE SCOOP

AGRICULTURE | GARDENING | COMMUNITY



SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE BEND!

The Scoop is a quarterly newsletter that is mailed out to inform you about all things agriculture, gardening, and community. The information in this newsletter will be relevant to our producers and reliable through research of the University of Arkansas Extension Services. Please feel free to call the office at (870) 895-3301, or email me at abarnett@uada.edu if you have any questions. This edition focuses on tips and tricks for producing beef, forages, and gardens from June until August.

Fulton County 4-H Garden Project

It's about that time to start planting seeds for a summer gardens! Fulton County 4-H Members can compete in the county garden project. This project is to showcase 4-H members growth of crops and growth of knowledge as they learn how to grow their own food. 4-Hers grow a garden and are judged by our Master Gardeners on their knowledge of working their garden, general garden appearance (weed, disease, and insect control, and overall appearance), varieties of crops grown, and growth in plantings and knowledge from year to year. The gardens are judged around the middle to end of July. Call our office if you have a 4-Her interested in competing!

Fulton County Fair

The Fulton County Fair will be July 12-19. Check out the events happening during fair week on the Fulton County Fair Association Facebook page or on their website (fultoncountyfair.org).



CHECK FOR FACE AND HORN FLIES REGULARLY**MAKE SURE CATTLE HAVE CLEAN WATER AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES****June:**

- Make sure your cattle are protected against Blackleg. Summertime is when Blackleg issues are generally reported. With the inexpensive cost of the vaccine and the high value of cattle, Blackleg vaccination is very cheap insurance. Follow label directions.
- Check body condition scores of fall calving herds. Assessing body condition scores is essential in maximizing cow herd efficiency. It is much easier to increase conditions in cows before rather than after they calve.
- Plan heifer development for replacement heifers. Acquiring or raising high quality replacement heifers is an essential and major investment for the cow-calf producer. The replacement heifer becomes the genetic building block for the cow herd. General goals for developing heifers should be to: Reach puberty by 12 to 14 months of age. Have a high percentage conceiving early in the breeding season. Be structurally large enough at calving to minimize calving difficulty. Rebreed in a timely manner. Raise a good calf to weaning.
- As summer and hot weather approaches, cattle will require more fresh water. Many factors influence the amount of water required by cattle. Water consumption varies considerably, depending on temperature and stage of production.

July:

- Monitor pasture conditions for growing replacement and retained cattle. Pasture quality usually diminishes this time of year. Decisions of extended ownership should be based on current calf value and fall feeder cattle futures. Replacement female weight gain should be monitored through the fall to make sure heifers are on track to reach their target weight for fall breeding.
- The heat and humidity of a typical Arkansas summer combine to make a very uncomfortable environment for beef cattle. Moderate signs of heat stress may occur when the temperature is between 80° and 90°F with the humidity ranging from 50 to 90%.
- Heat stress may include rapid shallow breathing, profuse sweating and a decrease in milk production and feed intake. As heat stress increases, cows may show severe depression in milk yield and feed intake as body temperature elevates. In addition more significant signs of heat stress such as open mouth breathing with panting with her tongue hanging out may become evident.
- Water requirements increase as the environmental temperature rises. It also is very important that cows have water in a location that is close to shade, since they will not travel great distances for water in a hot environment.
- Water also should be clean, fresh, at approximately ground temperature. Clean, fresh water is one of the most overlooked but most important parts of an animal's daily intake.
- Shading from direct sunlight is also very important, as this allows cows to rest in a more comfortable environment. The possible sources of shade range from trees, to portable shade cloth structures, to permanent roofed structures. Each approach has its own set of advantages and disadvantages.
- Provide a free - choice mineral throughout the hot summer months.
- As the hot summer season drags on, check cows for body condition.
- Vaccinate fall born heifers for brucellosis.

BEEF

August:

- Foot rot generally occurs in adult cattle. It causes sudden onset of severe lameness and sometimes a mild fever. Often times the coronet (the junction between the hoof and hairline) is swollen. It is common to see foot rot in the heat of the summer.
- Pink eye is a troublesome disease throughout the summer caused by bacteria in combination with external irritants such as face flies, UV light, dust and plant seeds. For prevention or treatment, follow advice of a veterinarian.
- Horn flies can become a problem late in the summer especially when fly tags can lose their effectiveness. Monitor fly population on cattle and treat if necessary. Remove fly tags after they lose their effectiveness to help prevent fly populations developing chemical resistance.
- Free choice mineral is just as important during the hot summer months as any other time of the year.
- Fall Calving Herds
 - It is important for the cows to maintain a good body condition (BCS 5 to 6) as they enter the fall calving season. Cows at BCS at a 4 or below breed back at a much longer interval and less frequently than those in 5-6 condition.
 - It is important to be prepared for the fall calving season. Check calving supplies. Supplies may include bucket, disinfectant, antiseptic soap, OB sleeves, OB lubricant, OB chains, OB handles, calf puller, etc.
 - Heifers should weigh 65% of their mature weight before their first breeding.
- Spring Calving Herds
 - Vaccinate heifers for brucellosis. Vaccinate calves prior to weaning.
 - Body condition score the cows to determine if it is necessary to wean calves early.



FORAGES

June:

- Fertilization of warm-season grasses:
 - Fertilize bermudagrass pastures according to soil test reports taken earlier in the year for projected management (grazing or haying). Split nitrogen applications by fertilizing after each harvest.
- Weed control:
 - Apply herbicides to summer annual broadleaf weeds. MP 522 and MP 44 are outstanding resources for weed identification and control.
- Warm season annual forages:
 - Sorghum-sudan or pearl millet are popular choices as summer annual forages. Harvest for hay or graze. In either case, leave 6 inches of stubble to reduce risk of nitrate poisoning. In sorghum-sudan, prussic acid content can be high enough to be toxic and it will also be present in leaves after the plant is stressed from drought and/or low temperatures (Reference FSA 2032).
- Hay management:
 - For cool season grasses, leave 2-3 inches stubble height to encourage regrowth. Cut at boot stage/early bloom for optimum forage nutritive value.
 - For bermudagrass cut when about 18 inches high, then cut approximately every 30 days.

July:

- Weed Control in Pasture:
 - Summer months are the time for brush control. Brushy species can be controlled any time they're actively growing from May-October. The exception is during periods of drought. When plants are stressed, they don't absorb herbicides as well through their leaf surfaces since they are working to conserve water.
 - Spray also for perennial broadleaf weeds. Now is the ideal time to control ragweed, bitterweed, and horsenettle, among others.
- Grazing Management:
 - Rotate pastures on a weekly basis to keep grass in a growing stage.
 - This will be worthwhile when the drought sets in during late summer. (Savings from improved grazing management = 2-3 weeks more grazing when drought hits)
 - Pick one or two bermudagrass pastures to be stockpiled for fall grazing.
 - Clip or graze the stubble to about three inches tall by the end of July
 - Apply 50-60 lbs. nitrogen in early August.
 - Summer annual forages
 - Graze pearl millet at about 20-24 inches of height
 - Don't graze further down than 6 inches to avoid nitrate problem
 - Graze sorghum-sudan at about 24 inches, aim for 8-10 inches stubble
- Hay Harvest and Forage Quality:
 - The single most important factor that affects the quality of hay is the timing at which it was cut. Not the species being grown. Not whether or not it was fertilized. Not some miracle product sprayed over the top. Weather doesn't always permit, but don't wait until it's a field of mature seed heads to get it cut.

FORAGES

August:

- Forage/Grazing Management Tips:
 - If you have excess forage to graze, rotate pastures on a weekly basis to keep grass in a growing stage. This will be worthwhile if drought sets in during late summer
 - Stockpile one or two bermudagrass pastures to be stockpiled for fall grazing.
 - Clip or graze off old bermuda forage to a 2 to 3-inch stubble
 - Apply 50-60 lbs/acre of nitrogen fertilizer between August 1 and 15
 - Defer grazing until October.
 - Pick a tall fescue field to stockpile for winter grazing.
 - Clip or graze off old fescue forage to a 3-inch stubble by the end of August.
 - Apply 50-60 lbs. /acre of nitrogen fertilizer in early September.
 - Defer grazing until late November or early December.



The University of Arkansas does offer hay testing. If you would like to test your hay, bring a gallon sized bag of hay to the Extension Office. There is a cost, so please bring cash or check.

To collect a sample, you can borrow our hay testing probe and drill. You will need to go into the side of approximately 6-10 round bales to collect the sample. For information and demonstration on how to collect a hay sample, check out our Facebook page or call our office.



COMMON WEED ID - ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW THE LABEL!



WOOLLY CROTON

This summer annual is readily controlled with herbicides. At the rate of 1 qt/A the following herbicides provide excellent control: Cimarron Max, Grazon P+D, GrazonNext HL, Weedmaster and 2,4-D. Spray in May or early June when weeds are less than 12 inches tall.



PERILLA MINT

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



POISON HEMLOCK

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.



POORJOE

The presence of a poorjoe is an indicator of low soil fertility. It is readily controlled with Grazon P+D or GrazonNext HL at 1 qt/A and Cimarron Max at Rate II. Spray in May or early June when weeds are less than 12 inches tall.



SERICEA LESPEDEZA

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 oz/A plus 0.25% nonionic surfactant is an excellent treatment for sericea control.

SUMMER HOME FLOWERS - PLANTING GUIDE

June:

- Daisies
- Sunflowers
- Mexican Sunflower
- Zinnias
- Cosmos
- Marigolds
- Black-Eyed Susans
- Coneflowers
- Lantana
- Pentas
- Clematis

July:

- Daisies
- Sunflowers
- Zinnias
- Cosmos
- Marigolds
- Black-Eyed Susans
- Coneflowers
- Lantana
- Pentas
- Gomphrena
- Moss Rose

August:

- Chrysanthemums
- Marigolds



SUMMER HOME GARDEN VEGETABLES - PLANTING GUIDE

June:

- Summer Squash
- Winter Squash
- Peppers
- Cucumbers
- Beans (Snap, Lima)
- Edamame
- Watermelon
- Cantaloupe
- Basil
- Tomatoes
- Southern Peas
- Collards
- Pumpkin
- Sweet Potatoes
- Dill

July:

- Basil
- Irish Potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Southern Peas
- Sweet Corn
- Cucumbers
- Pumpkins
- Squash (Winter)
- Squash (Summer)
- From Seed for Fall Transplant:
 - Pak Choi
 - Bok Choy
 - Cabbage
 - Collards

August:

- Southern Peas
- Lettuce
- Kale
- Mustard
- Carrots
- Endive
- Beets
- Chives
- Cauliflower (T)
- Broccoli (T)
- Collards (T)
- Cucumbers
- Beans (Snap, Lima)

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

June:

- Separate crowded irises in late June. Replant them, share with friends, family, and neighbors, or dry, store, and replant in the fall.

July:

- Plant pumpkins for Jack-O-Lanterns in the fall.
- Plan your fall garden.
- Pinch back flowers on your herbs to prevent them from going to seed.

August:

- Roses: Continue deadheading and treating for pests. In early August, fertilize roses one last time for the year. Be sure to keep the soil around your roses evenly moist.
- Annuals looking leggy and tired? Give your annuals a refresh by feeding them fertilizer and removing faded flowers and cutting back leggy stems. If they are too far gone to be rehabilitated, replace them with fall annuals.
- Deadheading: Flowers that benefit from a regular deadheading include echinacea, blanket flower, coreopsis, rudbeckia, summer spirea, buddleia, roses, and crape myrtles.



THAT'S THE SCOOP!

Feel free to call or drop by the office for any questions or additional information!

Sincerely,

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