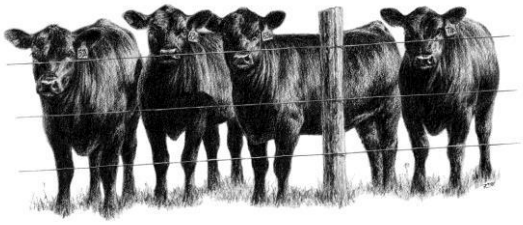
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Fulton County
Cooperative Extension Service

Arkansas is
Our Campus

118 West Locust St., Suite 107/P.O. Box 308 • Salem, AR 72576 • 870-895-3301 • www.uaex.uada.edu/counties/fulton

The Back Forty News



FULTON COUNTY U OF A COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE NEWSLETTER

In this Issue.....

From the County Agent's desk…

The days are getting shorter and before long, the heat and humidity will slowly give way to those cool fall mornings. Yes, it is still August, but now is the time to start preparing for your winter feeding programs and getting fields ready for stockpiling forages. If you have hunting on your mind, now is the time to start preparing those food plots for planting as well.

From a herd health standpoint, our area has had a great deal of problems with face flies this year. My best advice is continuing the use of fly control ear tags, back rubs, and sprays to lessen the problems of those pests. Also, continue to monitor and treat your herds so that pink eye does not become an issue. This disease can cause some major issues and it generally occurs throughout the summer months. Not only is it caused by bacteria but is also caused by irritants such as face flies, UV light, dust and plant seeds. If pink eye becomes a problem on your operation, separate the infected and contact a veterinarian for a treatment plan.

When it comes to fall calving, make sure your cows are maintaining a body condition score of at least a 5 or 6. Also, check calving supplies and make sure to have a bucket, disinfectant (Nolvasan), antiseptic soap (Nolvasan scrub), OB sleeves, OB lubricant, OB chains, OB handles, calf puller etc. on hand in case it is needed. Heifers should weigh 65% of their mature weight before their first breeding. As always, if you have any questions about forages, food plots and herd health, give me a call anytime at 870-895-3301.

Online Private Applicator Training (PAT) for Restricted Use Pesticides

Local farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers who wish to renew an existing restricted use pesticide license or those who want to receive a first-time restricted use pesticide license, can now do so by completing the **required** PAT training **online**. For those 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 the State Plant Board records, your license is about to expire.

The fee for the online course is $20 and will be collected through our online secure pay services. Producers taking the course must use a credit/debit card only. Keep in mind, the $20 fee does not relate to the licensing fee that is 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. If you have any questions about this course, please contact our office at 870-895-3301.

To complete the online course, follow these steps listed below:
1. Go to: courses.uada.edu
2. Click on the Login Button to Create an Account
3. Click on "Course Categories"
4. Click on "Pesticide Application Training"
5. Click On "Private Pesticide Applicator Online Certification"
6. Pay
7. Complete the training
8. Send in Paperwork and license fees to AR Dept. Of Agriculture

The Back Forty News – Going Paperless

For the last fifteen plus years, “The Back Forty Newsletter” has been sent by USPS every quarter. But, with the advancement in technology and more people having other ways of reaching us, I have decided to forego mailing my newsletters from this point forward. This will officially be the last paper newsletter you will receive from our office and from here on out, newsletters will only be available by email or coming by and picking one up at our office. While this may be inconvenient to some, we ask that you swing by our office anytime you are in Salem and pick up a hard copy to take with you. You can also easily access it on our website or our Facebook page at the following links:
https://www.uaex.uada.edu/counties/fulton/newsletter.aspx or https://www.facebook.com/UADA.Fulton
If you would like to receive our newsletter by email, please contact our office at 870-895-3301 or email me at ctyler@uada.edu.

Wildlife Food Plot Demonstration Results

As mentioned earlier, it is during this time of the year that avid hunters start preparing food plots for the 2021 hunting season. Generally, most will do some light disking, spread some seed, and hope for some rain, but is that enough to ensure a good quality food plot? To answer this question, a demonstration was established in August of 2020 and focused on seed bed preparation and soil fertility. Four different preparation techniques were used, including a control and ach of those establishment methods were replicated twice. One replication focused on properly fertilizing to soil test recommendations and the other was not fertilized at all. The complete breakdown of each plot can be seen below:

Fertilized Plots	Un-Fertilized Plots
1.1 Glyphosate at 1 Quart/Acre and Mowed	**2.1** Glyphosate at 1 Quart/Acre and Mowed
1.2 Glyphosate at 1 Quart/Acre, Mowed, and Disked	**2.2** Glyphosate at 1 Quart/Acre, Mowed, and Disked
1.3 Mowed and Disked	**2.3** Mowed and Disked
1.4 Mowed	**2.4** Mowed
1.5 Control	**2.5** Control

The seed mixture that was applied included Rye, Wheat, Turnip, Crimson Clover, Peas, Berseem Clover, Balansa Fixation Clover, Oats, Rape, Triticale, Radish. At establishment, seed was applied to all plots at a rate of 80 lbs./acre as this was the recommended application rate according to manufacturer seed label.

When it comes to soil amendments, the soil test determined that at establishment, the area needed:

- 65 lbs./acre Ammonium Nitrate (34-0-0)
- 130 lbs./acre DAP (18-46-0)
- 70 lbs./acre of Potash (0-0-60)
- No Lime Needed
    - These recommended rates were applied to every plot in replication 1-1 through 1-5.

Overall Summary of Demonstration

1. The demonstration was established on August 25th, 2020 ahead of expected rainfall from Hurricane Laura and the final results were gathered on December 3rd, 2020.
2. The use of an exclusion cage in each plot helped determine the success of this demonstration by closing off a small 1.5 square foot area that wildlife could not utilize. These cages allowed for better data collection and to observe if adequate quality forages were growing within that area.
3. Every plot from both replications did have seed germination.
4. Plot 1-1 did not receive a final rating due to exclusion cage damage. The cage was knocked over and the forage base in that area was eaten prior to harvest. (For what it's worth, a photo from mid-October determined that plot 1-1 compared very closely to plot 1-2 when it came to desirable forage growth)

5. Plots that were fertilized to soil test recommendations provided a higher yield of desirable forages compared to plots that did not receive any fertilizer at all.
6. Existing forages such as Broomsedge, Tall Fescue, and White Clover made up a majority of the forage base within the exclusion cages in plots 4 and 5 of both replications.
7. Plots 4 and 5 of both replications did contain desirables that were sown in August, but the overall total of those desirable wildlife forages was less the 30-40% compared to 80-90% in plots 1, 2, and 3.
8. Plots that were treated with glyphosate helped ease competition from existing forages.
9. Plots that were "mowed only" had seed germination, but regrowth from existing forages smothered out a good portion of the desirable wildlife forages that were sown.
10. Plots that were disked provided good seed to soil contact, resulting in good germination compared to plots that were just mowed or mowed and sprayed with glyphosate.
11. Overall, the best results from this demonstration occurred from plots fertilized to soil test recommendations and had a burndown herbicide applied on existing forages to minimize plant competition.

Fall Armyworms in Arkansas

Cory Tyler – Agriculture Agent

Fall Armyworm or "FAW" reports continue to come in from all across the state, including right here in Fulton County. As of now, the best action producers should take is to continually scout hay fields and pastures. Likewise, look for an unusual abundance of birds in your fields as this too could be a sign that armyworms are present. When scouting, make sure to examine at least 10, one sq. ft. samples at random across each of your fields. Female armyworm moths prefer to lay eggs in areas of abundant growth, so be sure to include a few of these areas in your 10 sample selection. If 3 or more worms per square foot are found, chemical control will be needed to mitigate further damage.

The thing with armyworms is that they often feed at night and remain hidden in ground litter by day. So, when scouting, try to do it as early in the morning or as late in the afternoon as possible. Make sure to not just scan the top of the forage canopy from the driver's seat of your truck. The only time you will be able to see "FAW" from that perspective is when they have eaten a majority of your forage base. In order to know for certain, utilize your hands and open up that forage canopy so you can scan it from top to bottom. Often times, failed scouting procedures result in significant forage loss in pastures and/or hay fields.

When armyworms hatch, they generally start as very small caterpillars and do not consumer much forage at that time. For this reason, they are easily overlooked. As they continue to grow however, they slowly consume more forage and damage will slowly become more visible. Armyworms generally end their cycle as a larger caterpillar reaching a length of 1 to 1 ½ inches before they pupate. At this size, are harder to eliminate.

If chemical control is needed, common insecticides used include, Mustang Max, Sevin XLR Plus, Warrior or Karate, Intrepid, Tracer 4E, and Entrust. Generic lambda-cyhalothrin will likely be the cheapest option at less the $5/acre. As always, with any type of chemical application, there will likely be some restrictions to haying and grazing, so be sure to read the label and follow it accordingly. Insecticides are restricted use and will require a license for purchase. If you suspect you might have armyworms, please give us a call and I will be glad to come take a look.

Johnsongrass and Prussic Acid

Dr. John Jennings – Forage Specialist

While still a ways out, scattered frosts will be occurring across the state in October and will increase toxicity risk when grazing pastures containing Johnsongrass. When Johnsongrass becomes stressed, it can produce prussic acid (hydrocyanic acid) which is very toxic to livestock. Prussic acid toxicity can kill cattle quickly, often before a producer has a chance to observe that the animal is under stress.

The forages that are prone to prussic acid are johnsongrass, Sorhgum/Sudan, Greengraze, Grain Sorghum, and Forage Sorghum. Freeze damage from fall frosts can cause these forages to become toxic. These forages should not be grazed following a hard frost until the plants become completely dried out and paper brown colored. Do not graze at night when frost is likely.

To reduce risk even farther, don't turn hungry cattle directly out on johnsongrass pasture. Make sure they have grazed other forages first or fill them up on hay. Prussic acid dissipates as the plants dry out. Properly dried johnsongrass hay does not contain prussic acid and is safe to feed. Silage may contain toxic quantities of prussic acid, but it usually escapes in gaseous form while being moved and fed. If frosted forage is ensiled, allow fermentation to take place for at least six weeks before feeding.

If you have any concerns about prussic acid in your forages, give our office a call at 870-895-3301.

COVID-19

Delta variant symptoms can seem like allergies or a cold. Get checked if you have fever, headache and a stuffy or runny nose. #COVID #Arkansas

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

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

Cory Tyler
Fulton County Extension
CEA-Agriculture/4-H
870-895-3301
ctyler@uada.edu

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System