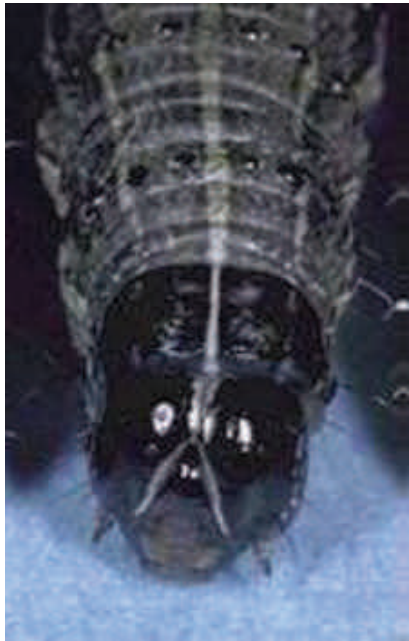


Lawrence County Livestock Newsletter

If you thought fall armyworms showed up early last year this year shouldn't disappoint you. Fall armyworms were showing up at treatment levels in some of the southern counties as early as the first part of June. As far as local pastures, I have had some reports of people already spraying for them so it is time to start keeping a vigilant eye out for these pests. The easiest way to identify if a worm is a fall armyworm is to look for the inverted "Y" on the head. Be sure to check several areas of your pasture and don't just drive around looking from the truck. Push back the grass all the way to the ground to look for these worms. Especially during the hot part of the day they will be located down in the grass canopy and out of the sun. Infestations can be overlooked when the caterpillars are small and eating very little.



Clues to fall armyworm infestations include: 1) fields appear "Frosted", 2) presence of birds in the field, or 3) the odor of freshly cut grass is present. Army worm outbreaks often occur in waves about 30 days apart but this can vary. Several flights can come in just a few days creating an overlapping age gap within the field. These are conditions where using an insecticide with a residual can be beneficial.

When armyworms are found make note of their size and number. By using these numbers and an understanding of the worm's lifecycle a producer will be able to make good management decisions. The lifecycle starts when a moth will migrate to a lush field and lay her eggs. These eggs will hatch 2-4 days later exposing a worm about 1/8" long. Armyworms have six instars or growth stages, each lasting 1.5-3 days.

If you find armyworms in your field but they are small this is not the time to spray just watch them closely. At this time, the worms are eating very little and there are a couple of different things that might happen to rid the worms. Birds could find them and take them out and also there are some parasites that will also control them. If this doesn't happen, and the worms reach 1/2" to 3/4" it is time to do something. A producer either can decide to spray or you can harvest the field for hay. If you decide to spray treatment levels are warranted when three or more armyworms per square foot are found in a field. Costs can vary from \$3.00 up to over \$12.00 per acre. When calculating cost always consider the cost per acre instead of the cost per gallon of product. Another thing to consider is if the product has any kind of residual activity. The following products are recommended for fall armyworms but have short duration residual activity.

Baythroid	beta-cyfluthrin	2.6-2.8 oz.	12 hour REI
Carbaryl or Sevin	2-3 pt		12 hour REI
Mustang Max	zeta-cypermethrin	2.8-4.0 oz.	No grazing restriction for forage or hay; 12 hour REI
Lambda-cyhalothrin	(Karate)	1.28-1.92 oz	24 hour REI
Other formulations	2.56-3.84 oz.	read label	

Formulations that contain longer residual activity and can reduce the number of applications necessary to produce a hay crop include:

Prevathon chlorantraniliprole 10-13 oz. 4 hour REI

Besiege chlorantraniliprole + lambda-cyhalothrin 24 hour REI

Before applying the product, be sure to read the entire label to make yourself aware of any and all precautions. All chemicals are different and labels can change from year to year. One thing in particular to look for when spraying pastures is to pay special attention to the harvest interval. The harvest interval tells a person how long one must wait after spraying before harvesting the forage either through grazing or cutting for hay.

I am currently looking for an area to conduct an armyworm demonstration. The area will need to be about 6 acres in size. We will have three treatments in this area including one treated with lambda-cy, one with Besiege, and the other being a control. Treatment levels will need to be at least 6 worms per square foot. If you or anyone that you know might be interested in participating in this please call our office at 870-886-3741.

TICK STUDY

Every year, hundreds of Arkansans fall victim to tick-borne illnesses. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is conducting a statewide study to find out two things:

1. What species of ticks live in Arkansas and where.
2. What diseases they carry and where these diseases are found in Arkansas.

There will be six diseases that are being tested for including:

Rickettsia (spotted fever)
Ehrlichia (ehrlichiosis)
Borrelia (Lyme, STARI)
Anaplasma (anaplasmosis)
Francisella (tularemia)
Coxiella (Q fever)

Most of the samples turned in as of right now are from northwest Arkansas. The majority of the ticks that have been recovered so far have been lone star ticks followed by the American dog and black-legged ticks.

This study might help us to understand how these diseases spread and better ways to combat them. To do this study right we need lots of tick samples, this is where we are asking the public's help. We can't possibly catch enough ticks to do a thorough study but with your help we can. We are asking members of the community to join us in collecting samples.

I have in my office tick collection kits. Each kit contains an information card where one can record the county, location, and date of each sample taken. The kit's also contains five color coded vials filled with alcohol to store the samples in after caught.

We are asking people to take samples from all over the county and not turn in ticks from virtually the same place. We want the best representative sample that we can get. These samples can be taken from pets, cattle, and even deer. We are extending this program through the month of November so that we will be able to get some ticks off of some harvested deer. When collecting ticks keep these tips in mind:

- Capture the ticks ALIVE and intact
- Specimens must have their mouths intact
- Record the location! Use GPS coordinates or name of the park, address, etc.

Collectors will remain anonymous

If you don't have several places where you can catch ticks that is fine. If you catch a tick and would like to participate in this program, I am keeping a kit here. Just put the tick in a zip lock bag or wrap it up and bring it to my office. I will record the locations and send it in at a later date.



I know that it is 114 degrees outside right now and the middle of July. The one thing that everybody has on their mind right now is cutting and putting their hay up for the winter. I bet there are a lot of producers out there who have not given one thought right now as to what their cattle will be grazing this fall. This is the time when a producer really needs to make their final plans for their forage needs for this fall and winter.

Just like everything else in life the outcome experienced is based on the decisions that are made along the way and this is the time to make some of those decisions. We talked briefly about some of these things at the Lawrence/ Randolph Cattleman's meeting. To achieve optimal grazing days this fall and winter a producer has to consider several things. A few of the things to consider are:

1. How many animals will you be feeding through this winter? A producer must know this to determine how much forage they will need per day to sustain the amount of animals they will be grazing. You have to know where you are coming from before you can get to where you want to go. Will you be grazing growing calves, bulls, how many cows? Will the cows be lactating or gestating? Animals in different production stages require different levels of nutrition.
2. What is your current forage inventory? Do you know how to take inventory of your pastures? This can be done by counting your steps as you walk through your pastures and every tenth step look at the tip of your toe on either your right or left foot (be consistent) and mark what you see. Is it a warm season grass, cool season grass, weed, bare ground? Take a hundred sample spots and there is your average. You can take 50 and then multiply your answers by two to get your average also.
3. Next, after you find out what your pasture inventories are, what are you lacking? For farmers above I-40 it is recommended to have 1/3 of your pastures warm season and 2/3 cool season. If you are out of balance you might want to consider changing things up a little bit.
4. After you know what you will be feeding and what you currently have for forage you will need to identify which pastures you will label warm season pastures and which ones will contain your cool season grasses. Warm season options can include Bermuda grass, crabgrass, and native grasses while cool season options could be orchard grass, fescue, and clovers.
5. Are you going to stockpile? Which pastures are you going to dedicate to stockpiling? Think of stockpiling as going to the grocery store and stocking up the refrigerator for winter.
6. Are you going to plant any cool season annuals? If so, what are you going to plant? Are you going to drill it or broadcast the seed? If you are drilling have you made preparations to acquire a drill?
7. Have you taken soil samples from your farm? We recommend taking samples every three years to be able to monitor the changes that are occurring. Right now if lime is needed it will probably take most of the rest of the year for it to take its full effect on the soil. Have you priced traditional fertilizer vs. litter?

I hope you will take a few minutes in the near future to consider these things and start to plan your upcoming fall and winter grazing seasons. I know your animals will appreciate it. Benjamin Franklin once said that "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."



Lawrence County Fair

August 14th-19th

Open Livestock Show

Thursday, August 17th 6 PM

Lawrence County Livestock Show

Friday, August 18th 10 AM

Livestock Premium Auction

Saturday August 19th 10 AM

If you would like to see some excellent quality animals exhibited come out to this year's fair and see what the local youth have to offer. These kids work very hard with their animals and this is your way to support their efforts. I also want to invite you to come watch the premium auction on Saturday. The auction is used to supplement the kid's premiums received from the fair. Any contribution that you can make will help tremendously and all money raised goes entirely to the youth.

If you have any questions regarding something that I have mentioned in the newsletter or if you would be interested in taking part in the armyworm demonstration or tick study please call the Lawrence County Extension Office at 870-886-3741.

Until Next Time.



Bryce Baldrige

CEA Livestock/4-H

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