

Row Crops

White County Newsletter

February 2023



2023 Production Meeting

It's that time of year for all the winter meetings, and this year's White County production meeting will be on **February 10 starting at 8:30 a.m. at the extension office**. This will be a good way to get a jump start on the upcoming growing season. We will have several of our U of A specialists come and give presentations on the latest information and updates for crop production (listed below) and a lunch will be provided. If there is any particular subject you would like to hear about please contact me so I can let the speaker know it is a topic you would like discussed.

County Update- Jerrod Haynes, White County Agri CEA

Rice- Jarrod Hardke, Rice Extension Agronomist

Soybeans- Chris Elkins, Soybean/Wheat Verification Coordinator

Corn- Jason Kelley, Corn Extension Agronomist

Plant Pathology- Terry Spurlock, Extension Plant Pathologist

Weed Science- Tom Barber, Extension Weed Scientist

Ag Economics- Hunter Biram, Extension Agriculture Economist

How will the midterms affect ag laws and policy?

What impact will the 2022 midterm elections have on agricultural law and policy? Hunt Shipman, principal and director at [Cornerstone Government Affairs](#), will discuss the implications during a webinar January 25. "Now that the elections are behind us, the stage is set for what will be a complicated year for agriculture, especially given the current composition of Congress and pending expiration of the 2018 Farm Bill," Shipman said. "The tight margins between the parties in both chambers of Congress adds an extra wrinkle in 2023 to the budgeting, appropriations, and Farm Bill processes."

There are many issues at play for agriculture, both in Congress and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies. Most provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill are set to expire in 2023, something Congress will be debating in the months ahead.

"The stakes are always high for agriculture, especially in a Farm Bill year, and 2023 is no exception. Hunt has excellent insight relative to the overall legislative and regulatory process," NALC Director Harrison Pitman said. "Hunt will tell us the state of play for the Farm Bill and other ag-related legislative and regulatory activity."

-Drew Viguet National Agricultural Law Center U of A System Division of Agriculture



Topics

- 2023 White County Production Meeting
- Midterms & Ag Policy
- Private Pesticide Applicator Training
- 2023 Soybean Outlook
- Rice ad hoc Payments
- Sprayer/PAT Clinic



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www.uaex.uada.edu/counties/white

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Anyone wishing to purchase or apply “restricted use” pesticides in the coming year must be licensed by the Arkansas State Plant Board. Before being eligible for a license, a certain amount of training is required. The Cooperative Extension Service in White County will be conducting a training class for the Private Pesticide applicator license. A fee of \$20 per person will be charged at the door for those participating in the private pesticide applicator training. Training will be located at the White County Extension Office at 2400 Old Searcy Landing Road in Searcy.

Classes are scheduled as follows:

February 20, 2023 6:00 p.m. White County Extension Office Searcy

March 16, 2023 6:00 p.m. White County Extension Office Searcy

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service 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 White County Extension office at 501-268-5394 (or other appropriate office) as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay

If you can't attend the February or March training you have the option of re-certifying or certifying online. To take the online training go to the following link <https://bit.ly/3j9s9aj> . If you have any questions call the White County Extension Office.



Feral Hogs

Need help controlling nuisance hogs?

Just a reminder that feral hogs can be trapped and disposed of anytime of the year in Arkansas. White County landowners and producers have access to a Game Changer Jr. hog trap for \$25/week. If you are having an issue, please reach out for help. Call 268-5394 to schedule the trap now or for more info on managing feral hogs.



After a difficult year, Mid-south soybean states keep hope alive for 2023

After any three consecutive years of soybean farming in the Mid-South, it's going to take more than one Biblical plague to make an impression on the pros. Speaking to more than 100 growers, consultants and other agriculture industry professionals in early January, Jeremy Ross, extension soybean agronomist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, was duly undaunted. "Two years ago, we had the flood, and last year we had the drought, so I'm trying to imagine which of the remaining plagues we're going to have for 2023," Ross said. "We've already had locusts and flies."

Hunter Biram, extension economist for the Division of Agriculture said that if there was a single phrase to sum up the forecast for the 2023 soybean market, it might be "keep an eye on Brazil." While drought has affected key soybean-growing regions in the South American country, Brazilian growers are still on track for a record year, he said. "As long as there is a little bit of rain Brazil will have that record yield everyone is talking about. A little bit of rain is going to go a long way for them." Brazil is the world's leading soybean exporter, with 53 percent of the market. The United States is second, with a 35 percent share.

Trent Roberts, extension soil fertility specialist for the Division of Agriculture, said that much of what soybean growers in Arkansas and its neighboring states battled in 2022 is known as "hidden hunger," a term Robert uses to describe potassium deficiency in the plant, limiting production potential — and, by extension, profitability. "When we get into the arena of fertilization practices and nutrient management, the elephant in the room is the historically high fertilizer price," Roberts said. "Over the past 18-24 months, we've seen the highest potash fertilizer prices in history — and potash is typically the highest input cost for soybean production." But because reducing the potash input is among the worst options available to growers, Roberts said he and his fellow extension experts are hoping to give growers the best chance they can get to play whatever hand they're dealt year to year. "With potash being our largest input cost, we're trying to give producers as much info as we can to effectively manage that input." That includes a potash rate calculator, designed to give growers a profit-maximizing K fertilization rate, and new tissue sampling techniques meant to be employed mid-season. "It

allows farmers to identify whether or not their fertilization program is adequate, or would benefit from additional fertilizer,” he said.

Mike Hamilton, extension irrigation educator for the Division of Agriculture, said that much of what makes up the “best management practices” in irrigation comes down to scheduling — but in a drought year, it’s hard to play by that book.“ In ’22, scheduling wasn’t much of an issue, because we could only get to it when we could feasibly get to it,” Hamilton said. “We were so tapped, trying to get caught up — we were behind. We didn’t turn irrigation equipment off unless we needed to do maintenance.” “We’re to the point now where our farmers are top-notch,” Hamilton said. “But we need to get that 1 percent improvement when we can. We want to introduce these water management practices and devices that can help them save a dollar, save a round of irrigation, prevent tubing ruptures, and so on.
-Ryan McGeeney U of A System Division of Agriculture

Fact sheet provides answers about ad hoc payments to rice farmers

Rice farmers with questions about funding contained in the omnibus bill signed last month by President Biden can find answers in a fact sheet released Friday by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. The Fiscal Year Omnibus Appropriations Bill includes \$250 million in funding for a one-time payment to rice producers to help them offset high costs faced by the industry. Drivers of those costs include weather, war and other factors, said Hunter Biram, extension economist for the Division of Agriculture. “We knew there would be a lot of questions and we wanted to have ready information for Arkansas rice farmers to make sound decisions for the 2023 growing season,” Biram said.

The fact sheet is available for download at:

<https://www.uaex.uada.edu/publications/pdf/FSA68.pdf>.

Biram authored FSA68 along with Jarrod Hardke, extension rice agronomist for the Division of Agriculture and Harrison Pittman, director of the National Agricultural Law Center.

“Rice producers in particular were impacted heavily by major increases in production costs in 2022, more so than other crops,” Hardke said. “Hopefully these payments ensure that rice farms are able to stay in operation moving forward and the economic outlook improves.”

Harrison Pittman, director of the National Agricultural Law Center said the ad hoc funding “was a huge legislative lift and a significant help to rice producers in Arkansas and beyond.”

Both Biram and Hardke urged rice growers to exercise caution where the payments are concerned.

“While this assistance will be key to growers remaining profitable, caution should also be exercised regarding expectations about how much each grower will receive and how that impacts their planning and operation for the 2023 season,” Hardke said.

Farmers should be sure to read the FAQs in the fact sheet and urged them to “not make any decisions until you get a check in the mail,” Biram said.

- Mary Hightower U of A System Division of Agriculture



Sprayer Clean Out and Technology Clinic

The White County Extension Service will be hosting a teaching session on the proper way to clean your sprayers and sprayer equipment, as well as other important topics related to spraying technologies and safety. This will be a great session for anyone who owns and regularly sprays pesticides in their operation. It would also be very beneficial for your farm employees to attend so they will also know the proper techniques of cleaning pesticides out of spray rigs and equipment and safety protocols.

Application Technology Specialist, Dr. Jason Davis, will go over some equipment catch points, triple rinsing, cleaning solutions, and other ways to help you make sure you have a clean rig for the next job.

The meeting will be free to all that would like to attend, and a lunch provided.

With all the material covered before lunch, there will be one more session for anyone or their employees that would like to get a certified PAT license for a \$20 fee after lunch.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. at:

The Bald Knob Airport

234 Airport Rd

Bald Knob, AR 72010

This will be a great opportunity to learn how to avoid mistakes that can happen from not properly cleaning equipment.

If there are any questions, please contact me.



AR Row Crops Blog

Want to Know What is Up in AR Row Crops?

Arkansas Row Crops now has a blog that you can check for weekly market updates and research-based crop recommendations and updates from our specialists.

[AR Row Crop Blog](#)

Farmland Wanted

Need Someone to Partner with on the Farm?

We have a request from a local man looking to start row crop farming. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Bobby Morrison at: (870) 552-5109.

Flow Meters

Meters Available

If you need to get your wells checked before the season gets too busy, just let me know. We have an 8" and 10" flow meter you can check out from our office.

2023 White County Demonstrations

It is that time of year again!! Time to get some research demonstrations planned on your farm. Do you have any issues or challenges you would like to have some help with? Have any burning questions or ideas that you would like to see answered on your own farm? If so, let me know!

Current:

Wheat Verification- Shannon & Luke Feather

Upcoming:

Soybean Verification- Patrick Hambrick

Rice Verification – John Hamilton

Enlist Soybean Variety- Patrick Hambrick

Extend Flex Soybean Variety- Brandon Cain

Deer Repellent- Brad & RJ Peacock

Corn Verification- Brad & RJ Peacock

Corn Hybrid Demo- Keith & Jacob Feather

Green Seeker Demonstration- Jacob Feather

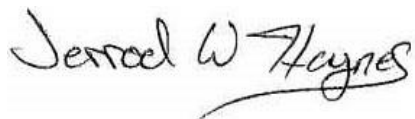
Cover Crop Moisture- Brad Peacock

Corn Ear Worm Traps- County Wide

Southwestern Corn Borer Traps- County Wide

Please, feel free to contact me for further information about the items in this newsletter or anything else I may be able to assist you with.

Sincerely,



Jerrod Haynes

County Extension Agent - Agriculture

(501) 230-9974

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U of A Helpful Publications:

[UPDATED Row Crop Plant-
Back Intervals for Common
Herbicides](#)

[Max Use Rates per
Application & Per Season
for Common Herbicides](#)

[Application Cut-Off
Timings for Common
Herbicides](#)



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