

# THE SCOOP

AGRICULTURE | GARDENING | COMMUNITY




## WELCOME, WINTER! HERE'S THE SCOOP!

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](mailto:abarnett@uada.edu) if you have any questions. This edition focuses on tips and tricks for producing beef, forages, and gardens from January to April.



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**  
University of Arkansas System

**TRI-COUNTY**

## FORAGE PRODUCERS MEETING

**March 11, 2025 | 6:00 PM | Fulton County Fairgrounds**

Fulton, Izard, and Sharp County producers are invited to attend the Tri-County Forage Producers Meeting on Tuesday, March 11th at 6:00PM at the Fulton County Fairgrounds. Extension Forage Specialist, Dr. Jonathan Kubesch will be discussing native warm season grasses. He will cover stand planning, establishment, grazing/haying, and renovation of native warm season grass pastures.

**There will be a meal provided and the cost to enter is \$10. You must pre-register to the extension office by Tuesday, February 25th. Call 870-895-3301 to reserve your spot!**



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**  
University of Arkansas System



# Private Pesticide Applicator Training

February 18, 2025 | 6:00 PM | Fulton County Fairgrounds

\$20 fee at the door. Cash or check preferred.



Contact our office to register or for additional information.

Phone: (870) 895-3301

Email: [abarnett@uada.edu](mailto:abarnett@uada.edu)



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.

We will have a private pesticide applicator training on February 18th, 2025 at 6 PM in the Hickinbotham-Miller Building at the Fulton County Fairgrounds. If you want to be licensed or renew your license, please call our office at (870) 895-3301 to register for the course. The private pesticide applicator training is a two-hour course to license and/or recertify Arkansas agriculture producers who wish to purchase and apply Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP's). This training is NOT for recertification or commercial (for-hire) pesticide applicators. This course is \$20 per person which can be paid the night of the training. We will only accept cash and checks. The course fee is not related to the licensing fees charged by the State Plant Board. The additional fee for the license is \$10 for one (1) year or \$45 for five (5) years, which you will mail to the State Plant Board after the training.

# **BEEF**

## **Fall Calving Herds:**

- January is the middle of the fall breeding season. Check bulls to be sure they are maintaining body condition and are still sound (feet, legs, eyes, etc). If bulls seem to be disinterested, perhaps rotating bulls would be helpful.
- If the heifer breeding season began 30 days prior to the cow breeding season, the heifer breeding season should be coming to an end.
- Check body condition to determine if supplement feed needs to be adjusted.
- Provide free-choice mineral and fresh water.

## **Spring Calving Herds:**

- Calving season will begin soon. Being prepared for calving is very important: OB gloves, OB lubricant, esophageal feeder, bottle and nipple, chain straps/chains, calf puller, sterile syringes and needles, batteries for flashlight or spotlight, old rags or blankets, toolbox to keep calving equipment, colostrum replacement, electrolytes, etc. Make sure all items are in good working order, haven't expired, etc.

## **Bulls:**

- Now is a good time to evaluate and select sires for the spring breeding season for both mature cows and replacement heifers. Easy calving bulls are very important for breeding replacement heifers.
- During the breeding season monitor the activity of each bull. Be sure all bulls are walking properly and checking cows for estrus activity. Sometimes bulls can become lame or injured which could affect their ability to locate and breed cows.

## **Lactating Cows:**

- Be prepared to make feed adjustments for nursing cows. Lactating cows require a 10-11% crude protein and 58-60% TDN diet (MP391).
- Switch to a high magnesium mineral to help prevent grass tetany for lactating cows on spring pastures (Fact Sheet 3035).

## **Calves:**

- Castrate male calves at birth or at 3 months processing. Castration early in life is less stressful on the calf. Research with calves castrated at birth grow at similar rates of gain compared to their intact male pasture mates
- Don't forget to collect calving records. Valuable records for selection and management include body condition at calving, calving difficulty score, calf gender, calf birth weight, and don't forget to tag calves - records are less valuable when they cannot be linked to animals and herds.

## **Replacement Heifers:**

- Vaccinate replacement heifers 30 to 60 days before breeding season.
- For a fall calving herd, it may be time to vaccinate replacement heifers for Brucellosis. The proper age to vaccinate heifers for Brucellosis is 4 to 12 months.

## General Herd:

- April is the time of year to deworm cows and calves. The need to control internal parasites will exist as long as cattle are grazing pastures. Young cattle will typically have more internal parasites than older cattle. The effects of internal parasites on cattle will vary with the severity of infection as well as age and stress level of the animal. Therefore, the methods of controlling internal parasites should be developed to fit individual production situations
- Provide free-choice mineral and fresh water.
- Assessing body condition scores is essential in maximizing cow herd efficiency.
- The processes of fetal development, delivering a calf, milk production and repair of the reproductive tract are all stresses that require large quantities of energy.
- Calving difficulty (dystocia) is a very important economic problem in the U.S. beef cattle industry.
- Several factors play a role in calving difficulty including heavy birth weights, abnormal fetal position, limited pelvic area and the female's age.

## **PASTURE MANAGEMENT:**

- Soil Fertility Management
  - Winter is a good time to correct imbalances in pH.
  - Soil fertility and pH should be monitored regularly.
    - Correcting pH will take several months so it is wise to check lime requirements before next year's growing season.
  - University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers free soil testing to all Arkansas residents.
    - For each sample, collect 12-15 subsamples per pasture using a zig-zag course.
    - Bring your soil to the county Extension office to be sent to our soil testing lab.

## **HAY MANAGEMENT:**

- Protect hay when feeding to reduce waste. Feed hay in rings to reduce hay waste. Unrolling hay increases hay waste unless it is done on a limit-feeding basis.
- Feeding hay in various locations around a field is a cost effective way of maintaining, or possible increasing, soil P, K, and organic matter.
  - Each bale of hay contains amounts of fertilizer nutrients and can enrich feeding areas.

## **FORAGE MANAGEMENT:**

- February
  - Clover and lespedeza can be overseeded during February into short-grazed fescue pastures. Inoculate seed. Consider string or stripe seeding in difficult areas.
  - To promote earlier green up and grazing of fescue and winter annuals, fertilize specific pastures in February for grazing in March. Other pastures can be fertilized in March for spring. Don't apply N fertilizer where clover is overseeded or where good clover stands exist.
  - Start rotationally grazing at green up. Don't let cows chase green grass over the entire farm since that will delay significant growth and sustained grazing even longer.

## TRUE ARMYWORMS:

The true armyworm can be a serious pest of pastures, hayfields and seed production fields reducing both forage availability, hay yields and seed production. Damage can appear almost overnight and infestations can be easily overlooked when the caterpillars are small and eating very little. Armyworms are a greater problem during spring, after which time, natural controls usually keep the population below threshold level. Armyworms often feed at night and remain hidden in ground litter by day. Host plant preference – Armyworms feed on a variety of forage crops but fescue, oats, rye, etc. are the major forage concerns. This is because these forages are actively growing in the spring when armyworms are active.

Scouting - Arkansas producers are encouraged to diligently scout their pastures and hayfields for armyworms. Examine at least 10 one sq. ft. samples at random across the field. Female armyworm moths prefer to lay eggs in areas of abundant growth, be sure to include a few of these areas in your 10 samples.

The True Armyworm has a brown, net-like pattern on its head



Control – Chemical control is usually needed when 3 or more worms per square foot are found. Read label instructions and follow harvesting and grazing restrictions. Below is list of insecticides used to control armyworms.

Insecticide	Form/ Acre	Lb al/ Acre	Acres/ Gal	Comments
Mustang Max (R) (9.6% zeta-cypermethrin)	2.8-4.0 oz	0.0175- 0.025	32-45	No grazing restriction for grass forage or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay).
Baythroid XL (R) (12.7% beta-cyfluthrin)	2.6-2.8 oz	0.020- 0.022	45.7-49.2	No grazing restriction for grass forage or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay).
Tombstone (R) (24.7% cyfluthrin)	1.6-1.9 oz	0.025- 0.030	67.4-80	No grazing restriction for grass forage or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay).
Lambda-cy AG & others (R) (13% lambda- cyhalothrin, 1lb/gal)	2.5-3.8 oz	0.02-0.03	33-50	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application.
Warrior II & generics (R) ~22.8% lambda- cyhalothrin, 2 lb/gal)	1.28-1.92 oz	0.02-0.03	66-100	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application.
Sevin XLR Plus (44.1% carbaryl)	2-3 pt	0.5-1.0	2.7-4.0	Allow 2-3 days for control to become effective. Do not apply within 14 days of harvest or grazing.
Intrepid (22.6% methoxyfenozide)	4-8 oz	0.06-0.12	16-32	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application.
Blackhawk (36% spinosad) Tracer (44.2% spinosad)	1.1-2.2 oz. 1-2 oz	.033-.066	7-14/lb. 64-128	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 3 days of application.
Prevathon (5% chlorantraniliprole)	10-13 oz...*	0.034- 0.044	10-13	No restriction for grazing or hay (0 day PHI for grass forage and hay). * 2(ee) rate
Besiege (R) (9.26% chlorantraniliprole & 4.63% lambda-cyhalothrin)	6-9 oz.	0.059- 0.088	14-21	No grazing restriction. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application

(R) = Restricted use pesticide

## **GRASS TETANY - FSA 3084:**

Grass tetany is a disease that commonly occurs in Arkansas in the months of February, March and April. The disease is caused by an abnormally low level of magnesium in the cow's body. This decrease in magnesium can be indirectly caused by heavy fertilization of pastures. When forages are fertilized heavily with potassium (potash), this can decrease the dietary absorption of magnesium in a cow's gastrointestinal system. Furthermore, young and rapidly growing forage usually has an increased content of potassium. These two pathways that lead to this disease (fertilization and rapidly growing forage) commonly occur in late winter and early spring. This disease typically occurs in older lactating cows but can also occur in cows with poor body condition scores or cows that are over conditioned. Other factors that may play a role in the disease are moist, cool spring weather and stress. The stressors that most affect cows in the spring are weather, hauling, penning and heavy lactation. Symptoms associated with this disease range from slight changes in behavior to death. Early in the disease, affected cattle may have a decreased appetite, decreased milk production, a tendency to stay away from the herd, increased alertness or a stiff/unsteady gait. As the disease progresses, cattle may become recumbent and/or exhibit muscle tremors (spasms), an increased heart rate and an increased breathing rate. If untreated at this stage, the cow will likely die.

### **Prevention:**

Prevention of grass tetany can be achieved by providing a salt-mineral supplement containing at least 1 percent magnesium. Several mineral feeders should be used if stocking rates are high. Mineral feeders should be conveniently located in the pasture so cattle have adequate access to them. It is also important to review fertilization practices to prevent magnesium deficiencies in cattle. Fertilization should be based on recent soil samples taken from the farm.

### **Treatment:**

The most important part of treating this disease is to correct the magnesium imbalance. If clinical signs are mild, magnesium can be corrected by treating with approximately 15 ml (15 cc) of a 2 percent magnesium sulfate solution given subcutaneously in several injection sites. If the clinical signs are more severe, immediate action must be taken with the guidance of a veterinarian. To quickly restore magnesium in severe cases, 5 mL of an electrolyte solution containing calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium and dextrose (CMPK) is given intravenously. This solution must be administered slowly as these electrolytes have an immediate effect on the cardiovascular system and can cause cardiac collapse if given too quickly. After treating with the intravenous solution, one can then administer one tube of CMPK gel orally or give another 5 mL bottle of solution intraperitoneally to decrease the incidence of relapse.



## WINTER AND EARLY SPRING HOME FLOWERS

### February:

- Sweet Peas
- Pansies (early January)

### March:

- English Primrose
- Calendula
- Ranunculus
- Dianthus
- Snapdragons
- Roses
- Start annuals seeds indoors

### April:

- Calibrachoa
- Verbena
- Petunias
- Begonias
- Clematis
- Canna
- Dahlia
- Gladiolus
- Tuberose
- Hyacinth Vine
- Cypress Vine



## WINTER AND EARLY SPRING HOME GARDEN VEGETABLES

### January:

- Strawberries
- Spinach
- English peas
- Salad Greens (protected)

### February:

- Strawberries
- Carrots
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Collards
- Brussels Sprouts
- Swiss Chard
- Beets
- Radishes
- Lettuce
- Mustard
- Kale
- Turnips
- Irish Potatoes
- Onions
- Spinach
- Peas
- Fruit Trees
- Blueberry Bushes

### March: (T) stands for transplants

- Broccoli (T)
- Cabbage (T)
- Swiss Chard (T)
- Cauliflower (T)
- Carrots
- Sweet Corn
- Beets
- Radishes
- Lettuce
- Mustard
- Turnips
- Asparagus
- Irish Potatoes
- Onions
- Spinach
- English Peas

### April:

- Asparagus
- Sweet Corn
- Summer Squash
- Okra
- Peppers
- Cucumbers
- Sweet Potatoes
- Eggplants
- Tomatoes
- Beans (snap, lima)
- Swiss Chard
- Lettuce
- Radish
- Beets
- Watermelon
- Cantaloupe

# THE SCOOP

AGRICULTURE | GARDENING | COMMUNITY



## **THAT'S THE SCOOP!**

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Barnett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anna Barnett  
Agriculture Extension Agent, Fulton County  
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 308, 118 W. Locust, Ste 107  
Salem, AR 72576  
870-895-3301  
870-895-3372 (fax)

The logo for the University of Arkansas, featuring the letters "U of A" in a large, red, serif font. The "of" is smaller and positioned between the "U" and "A".

**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

*University of Arkansas System*

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.