

POLK COUNTY GRAZIER

August 8, 2022



*An eNewsletter by the Rich Mountain
Conservation District*

Polk County Approved for LFP

The Polk County FSA Office has been notified that, on July 26, 2022, Polk County rated a D3 on the Drought Monitor and met the requirements to Administer the Livestock Feed Program (LFP). Polk County

FSA is taking applications for the 2022 LFP Program.

FSA will calculate LFP payments for an eligible livestock producer for grazing losses because of a qualifying drought equal to a payment factor of three times the LFP monthly payment rate. The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of either the monthly feed cost:

- For all covered livestock for the eligible livestock producer; or
- Calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer.

The Agriculture Improvement Act (2018 Farm Bill) established a maximum annual per person and legal entity payment limitation for LFP (without regard to any other program) of \$125,000.

FSA will use data provided by the applicant to determine eligibility for program benefits. Providing the data is voluntary; however, without all required data, program benefits will not be approved or provided.

Eligible Livestock must:

- Have been owned, purchased, during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought condition;
- Have been sold or otherwise disposed of due to a qualifying drought condition during the current production year;
- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible drought;
- Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation (such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild

free-roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show); and

- Not have been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying drought as part of the normal business operation of the livestock owner.

A grazing animal is defined as those species of livestock that, from a nutritional and physiological perspective, satisfy more than 50 percent of their net energy requirement through the consumption of growing forage grasses and legumes, regardless whether or not they are grazing or are present on grazing land or pastureland. Un-weaned livestock are not considered a grazing animal and are ineligible for LFP.

Documentation Needed:

1. Direct Deposit Information

2. Inventory of Livestock
3. Owned or Leased Land. If you have a written cash lease, we need a copy, if not a form will be provided for completion.
4. We will complete an Acreage Report using the above information.
5. Copies of sales receipts of Livestock sold prior to Sign up.




For additional information, contact the local FSA Office at (479) 394-1933 or stop by the office at 508 7th Street in Mena.

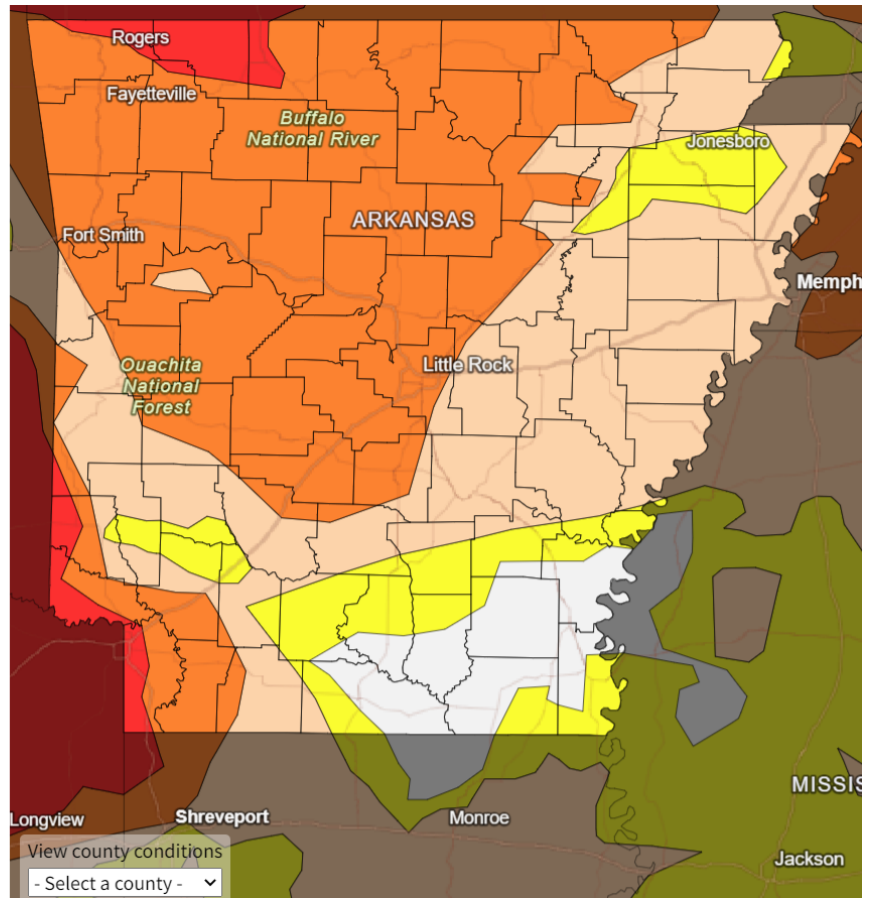
Source: Farmers.gov email bulletin 8/2/2022

Drought Monitor

The most recent version of the drought monitor shows western Polk County to be in a D2 (Severe Drought) or D3 area (Extreme Drought) and eastern Polk County to be in a D1 (Moderate Drought). A new version should be released on August 11th. You can go to the drought monitor site by clicking here: [Arkansas | Drought.gov](https://www.arkansas.gov/drought/)

The following state-specific drought impacts were compiled by the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#). While these impacts are not exhaustive, they can help provide a clearer picture of drought in Arkansas.

	<p>D0 - Abnormally Dry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire danger increases 	<p>92.9% of AR (D0–D4)</p>
	<p>D1 - Moderate Drought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forage crops are stunted • River levels decline • More wildfires occur than normal 	<p>82.3% of AR (D1–D4)</p>
	<p>D2 - Severe Drought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crops are negatively impacted; some crops are not planted; hay yield is low; farmers begin feeding cattle early • Burn bans begin • Reservoirs decline; rivers are very low; rivers are dredged 	<p>49.5% of AR (D2–D4)</p>
	<p>D3 - Extreme Drought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastures are depleted; hay is short; cattle are sold • There are more insects than normal; trees show drought stress; wildlife seek food and water • Water shortages are noted; water table is low; stock ponds are dry 	<p>3.3% of AR (D3–D4)</p>
	<p>D4 - Exceptional Drought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crops have little or no yield; cattle weights are low; milk production is low • Trees and wildlife are dying • Daily life is impacted for outdoor workers 	<p>0% of AR (D4)</p>



*"Take Care of the Land and the
Land will Take Care of You"*

Plant of the Week

Horsenettle



- Horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*) is a warm season perennial that is native to the southeastern United States but has now spread to most of the US and into Canada.
- Mature Horsenettle plants can reach a height of 2 feet and have many spines on the stems and leaves.
- The plants flower in the summer and produce a green then yellow fruit that resembles a small tomato that persists into the winter.
- Horsenettle is in the nightshade family – same as tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes.
- Horsenettle is adapted statewide in Arkansas and is considered a weed by most.
- All parts of the plant are toxic to livestock but toxicity varies based on the time of year and growing conditions.
- Livestock might eat Horsenettle but are unlikely to eat enough of it to be poisoned due to it being distasteful.
- It is aggressive, spreads by seed and roots and is considered an invasive weed in pastures and hayfields.
- U of A Extension recommends spraying Grazon P+D or GrazonNext before fruit set and may require multiple applications for complete control.

You can learn more about plants at the USDA – NRCS PLANTS Database ([USDA Plants Database](#)).

**The RMCD is pleased to announce
our newest staff member:**

LINDY PRICE



"Hi, my name is Lindy Price and I am the new Water Quality Technician & Education Coordinator here at RMCD. I am originally from Wickes and graduated with my associates degree in ag business at UA Cossatot in DeQueen. I am currently working towards completing my bachelors degree online. My goal for this job is to help our farmers and ranchers to the bet of my ability all while

learning new things every day. I am excited for this new journey at RMCD!"

Poultry growers with questions or concerns about their litter management plan should contact Lindy at (479)437-6054.

Upcoming Grazing Meetings and Seminars:

⇒ **TOMMOROW!** August 9, 2022 – Pasture Management during a Drought

Presenter: Dr. John Jennings, Extension Forage Specialist and Professor, University of Arkansas
(1pm - online seminar)

You are invited to attend the weekly grazing training sessions by Jeremy Huff, the USDA/NRCS state grazing specialist. He offers

these training sessions as a Zoom meeting and the instructions for logging in are included in attached flyer. If you have the Zoom app on your phone you can just scan the QR code on the flyer. If you want to watch the presentation on your computer there is a link included in the attachment. The sessions are normally every Tuesday at 1pm so **see the attached flyer**.

⇒ **August 16, 2022 – Armyworms and Bermudagrass Stem Maggot**

Presenter: Dr. Kelly Loftin, Extension Entomologist, University of Arkansas (1pm - online seminar)

Next week's weekly grazing training sessions by Jeremy Huff, the USDA/NRCS state grazing specialist. The sessions are normally every Tuesday at 1pm so **see the attached flyer**.

⇒ **August 18, 2022 – Innovations in Agriculture Field Day**

(10am-1pm) @ Dale
Bumpers Small Farms
Research Center near
Booneville, Arkansas (see
the attached flyer)

⇒ **August 25, 2022 – Productive Forest-
Protecting Water and Promoting Wildlife
Workshop**

(5:30-8:00pm) @ Polk
County Extension
Education Building in
Mena, Arkansas (see the
attached flyer)

The Rich Mtn Conservation District has equipment available for rent to landowners in Polk County:

SUNFLOWER NO TILL DRILL

\$10 ACRE, \$50 MINIMUM

TYE NO TILL DRILL

\$10 ACRE, \$50 MINIMUM

HOG TRAP

\$100 DEPOSIT (RESTRICTIONS APPLY)

RHINO POST DRIVER

\$150 PER WEEK (5 days) with a \$100 deposit

3 POINT CYCLONE SEEDER (NEW!)

\$75.00 per week (5 days) with a \$50 deposit

Building electric fence?

We have a spinning jenny & electric fence tester available for landowners use

Please contact Deanna at (479)437-6054 for more information or to make a reservation. Note: the available days for the no till drills are filling up fast for this fall so call and make arrangements as soon as possible! Most winter annuals such as Ryegrass, Wheat, or Cereal Rye should be planted between September 1 and November 1 but September 15-October 15 is usually optimum.

Know someone who would enjoy receiving this newsletter? Please feel free to forward it to them and have them contact our office to be on the mailing list in the future!

Rich Mountain Conservation District

Email: richmountainconservation@gmail.com

Web: www.rmcd.org

Phone: (479)437-6054

Mail: 508 7th Street, Mena, AR 71953

Take a picture with your cell phone to visit the RMCD website —>



DID YOU KNOW?

Archived copies of the "POLK COUNTY GRAZIER" are now available on the Rich Mtn. Conservation District website at:

[Publications - Rich Mountain Conservation District \(rmcd.org\)](http://www.rmcd.org)

Sent on behalf of the Rich Mtn Conservation District.
Thanks for your interest in grazing management and
conservation,

Steve Swall

District Conservationist

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mena Service Center (Polk & Montgomery Counties)

(479)437-6054

*Please reply to unsubscribe if you do not wish to receive this
newsletter.*

The Tuesday Pasture Talk

Learn about Pasture Topics with us



Anyone is Welcome to Join



August 2, 2022
1:00pm CST

Drought Monitor: Factors and Considerations Associated with the Weekly Map

Presenter: Dr. Deborah Bathke, US Drought Monitor Author

August 9, 2022
1:00pm CST

Pasture Management during a Drought

Presenter: Dr. John Jennings, Extension Forage Specialist and Professor, University of Arkansas

August 16, 2022
1:00pm CST

Armyworms and Bermudagrass Stem Maggot

Presenter: Dr. Kelly Loftin, Extension Entomologist, University of Arkansas

August 23, 2022
1:00pm CST

Effect of herbicide sod-suppression on yield of late-summer planted forages for fall grazing

Presenter: Kenny Simon, Program Associate, University of Arkansas

August 30, 2022
1:00pm CST

Shade: Perspective from the Soil, Plants, and Animals

Presenter: Jeremy Huff, State Grazing Lands Specialist, Arkansas NRCS

Expect to Learn:



What can you do to help the authors of the US Drought Monitor?



What can producers do now to help manage pastures in a drought.



What to do when pastures are affected by armyworms and/or bermudagrass stem maggot.



How do you get earlier growth from fall planted forages?



What type of shade is the best for livestock?

Join by these Methods:

Direct Link:

[Click Here to Join](#)

Phone:



Website:

Zoom Meeting ID: 836 1963 7075
Passcode: 650511

Questions or Comments:

jeremy.huff@usda.gov
or (501) 413-0527

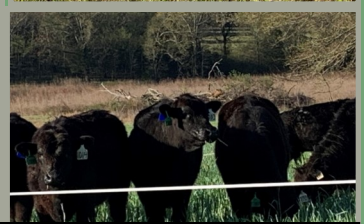
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**Agricultural Research Service
Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center
Booneville, Arkansas**



**Innovations in Ag Field Day
August 18, 2022
Open to visitors!
10:00am-1:00pm
6883 South State Highway 23
Booneville, Arkansas 72927**

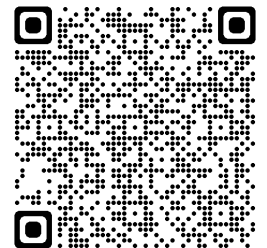


Agenda

9:00 AM- Coffee and Tour of Farm Equipment
10:00 AM- Welcome and overview of Research Center- Dr. Phillip Owens
Presentations from Scientists:
Dr. Zamir Libohova- Optimizing Farm Operations Using Technology
Dr. Christine Nieman- Utilizing Alternative Forages for More Productive Beef Systems
Dr. Joan Burke- Producing More Efficient and Healthy Sheep
Steve Haller- Overview of USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center
12:00 PM- Complimentary lunch
Breakout session after lunch – Soils and Crops, Beef Production and Sheep Production
3:00 PM - Adjourn
For more information contact us at 479-675-3834 or jennifer.keatts@usda.gov

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Productive Forest-Protecting Water & Promoting Wildlife

August 25, 2022

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Extension Education Building

211 De Queen St., Mena

Dinner Provided

Workshop Themes:

Forestry Management-Why, What, When to Thin
Forest Management Practices to
Promote Water Quality
Improving Wildlife in Your Forest

Please register by calling the Polk County Extension
Office at 479-394-6018 by August 17th.

Sponsored by:

Productive Forest Protecting Waters

U of A DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service