

POLK COUNTY GRAZIER

September 12, 2022



*An eNewsletter by the Rich Mountain
Conservation District*

Liming to Adjust Soil pH

Soil pH is simply a measure of how acidic or basic your soil is. pH is measured on a scale ranging from 0 to 14. Soils with a pH less than 7.0 are considered to be acidic. Soils with a pH greater than 7.0 are considered to be basic (or alkaline). A pH of 7.0 is considered neutral. It is important to realize that the pH scale is logarithmic; this means that a full number change on the scale is actually a ten-fold change in soil pH. So, a pH of 5 is 10 times more acidic than a pH of 6, and 100 times more acidic than a pH of 7. A pH of 4 is 1000 times more acidic than a pH of 7.

The pH of your soil determines how well your forages will be able to absorb nutrients from the soil. As pH rises above 7.5, some nutrients will bind to soil particles and become difficult for your plants to absorb. When soils are too acidic, nutrients also bind to soil particles making them unavailable, but elements such as iron, magnesium, and aluminum can become so easy to absorb that they become toxic to your plants.

Forages grown on soils of the proper pH will absorb soil nutrients properly. This not only allows your forages to grow to their biggest yields, but will make them more attractive and nutritious to animals.

If you are spending time and money fertilizing your crops, proper soil pH will also allow your plants to absorb fertilizer more efficiently. In general, most forage crops grow best when soil pH is between 5.8 and 7.0. However, each forage crop has its own required range of soil pH within which growth is greatest. If you are planting a mixture of forage species in the same field, be sure to choose forages with similar soil pH requirements.

The most accurate way for you to test your soil pH is to send a soil sample of your soil to the local Cooperative Extension office. The results of your soil test will tell you the current pH of the soil and exactly how much lime and fertilizer is needed to make your soils optimal for the forages you are growing.

In most cases, the soils you will be working with will require the pH to be raised closer to neutral, if any change is needed at all. The most common and practical way to raise soil pH is by adding some form of lime. There are many different kinds of liming materials that you can use to increase soil pH. These materials include, pure lime (calcium carbonate), dolomitic lime, calcitic lime, oyster shells and wood ash. Some of the basic differences between these materials include their neutralizing value, particle size, and any additional elements.

The neutralizing value compares the liming material to pure calcium carbonate which has a set neutralizing value of 100%. When other materials have neutralizing values near 100% they are comparable to pure lime. Particle size of the lime is important because finer particles react quicker and more completely with the soil than do larger particles. The cost of the liming material will increase as particle size decreases. Some lime materials such as dolomitic lime contain other elements such as magnesium. If your soil test indicates that magnesium levels were low, dolomitic lime might be appropriate for your application. Consult with your local Cooperative Extension agent or agricultural supply store to determine which liming material is right for your application.

Your soil test is the best way to know exactly how much lime you will need to raise your soil pH. Lime application rates are usually given on a tons per acre basis. In some areas, like Polk County where soil pH can be between 4 and 5, it is not uncommon to see application recommendations calling for two or three tons of lime per acre. Since most types of liming material move slowly through the soil it is best to apply your lime well in advance of planting. This is especially important if your soils are very acidic and soil pH must be increased substantially. While lime can be applied at any time of the year, applying it at least three to six months before planting will allow enough time for the lime to react with your soil. It is usually best to apply all the lime at once to reduce the time and costs associated with multiple lime applications and having the required pH at the time of planting.

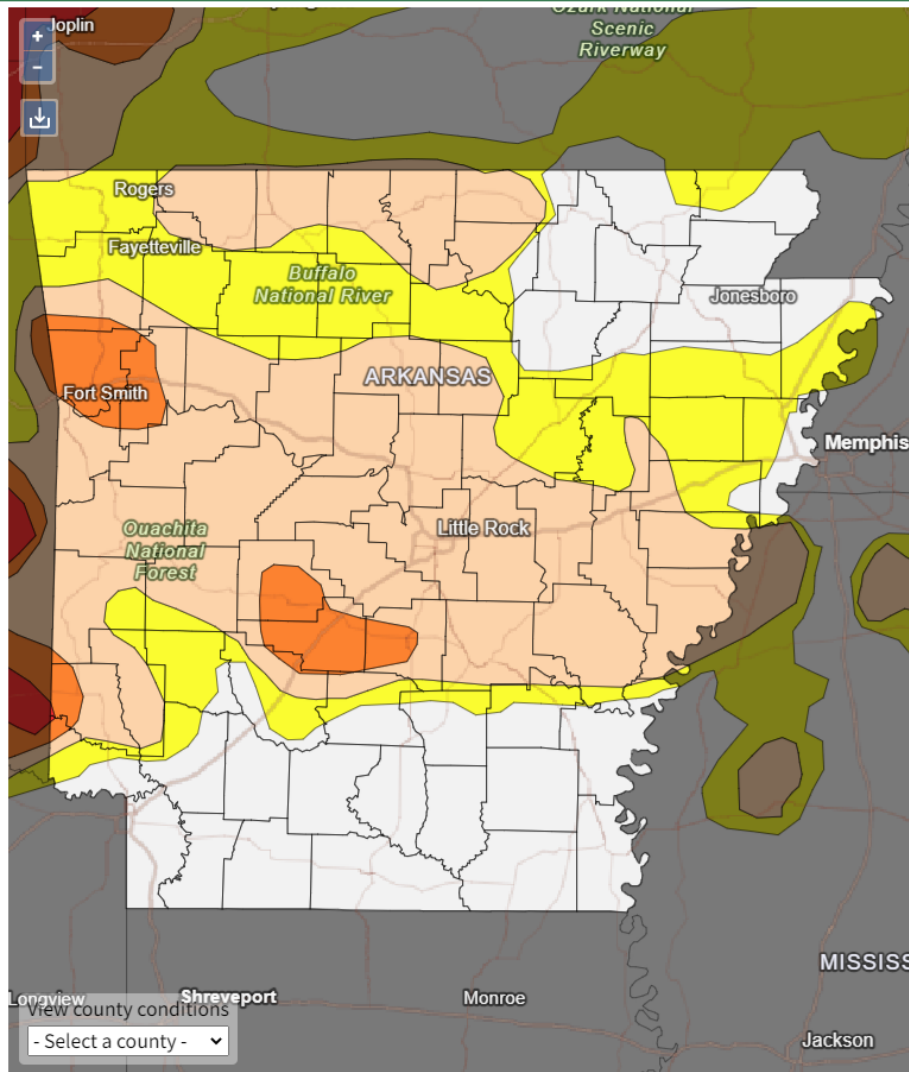
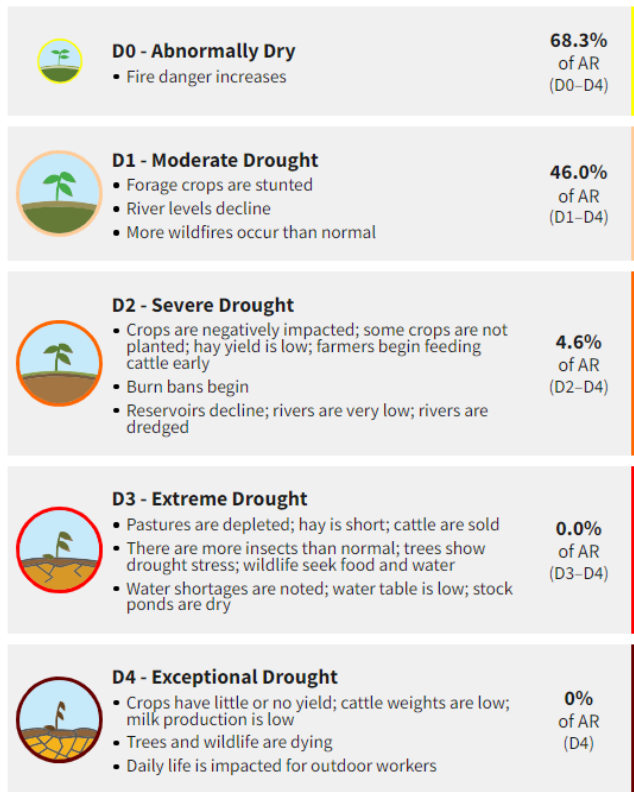
Article adapted from Whitetailstewards.com.

Drought Monitor

The most recent version (9/12/2022) of the drought monitor shows most of Polk and Montgomery Counties to be in a D1 (Moderate Drought). A new version should be released on September 15th. You can go to the drought monitor site by clicking here: [Arkansas | Drought.gov](https://www.arkansasdrought.gov)

The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is updated each Thursday to show the location and intensity of drought across the country. This map shows drought conditions across Arkansas using a five-category system, from Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions to Exceptional Drought (D4). The USDM is a joint effort of the National Drought Mitigation Center, USDA, and NOAA. [Learn more.](#)

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.



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA

Updates Weekly - 09/06/22

**DON'T FORGET!----->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.

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

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

*---Hugh Hammond Bennett, First Chief of the Natural Resources
Conservation Service*

Plant of the Week

Annual Ryegrass



- Annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) is a cool-season grass that originated in southern Europe.
- It is sometimes called Italian ryegrass.
- This is NOT a cereal rye such as Elbon that is often confused with ryegrass.
- There is also a perennial type of ryegrass but it is not suited to western Arkansas.
- Annual ryegrass is regularly used as a component of winter pastures.
- It is normally planted in the fall months and provides excellent livestock forage the next spring.
- Seeding rates are usually 20-30 lbs/acre when inter-seeded into existing warm season grasses.
- Annual ryegrass is a proficient re-seeder and may produce a “volunteer” stand the next fall.
- The plants grow until late May or early June.
- Annual ryegrass pasture should be grazed at 6-8 inches in height and not be grazed below 3 inches.
- It should be heavily grazed beginning in April to prevent suppression of Bermudagrass and other warm season grasses.

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

Upcoming Grazing Meetings and Seminars:

✓ **TOMMOROW! September 13, 2022 –
Annual Ryegrass – Varieties and Planting
Demonstration**

Presenter: Jeremy Huff, USDA/NRCS state grazing specialist (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.**

✓ **September 20, 2022 – How Dry I Am!
Drought Recovery and Preparation for the
Next One**

Presenter: Dr. David Fernandez, Extension Livestock Specialist, UAPB (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](#).

✓ **September 22, 2022 – Rich Mtn Conservation District Grazing Management Workshop/Pasture Walk**

(6:00-8:30pm) @ Duane & Dot Webb Farm near Mena, Arkansas [\(see the attached flyer\)](#)

Topics Include:

- **Soil Health & Why It Matters In Pastures**
 - **Using Electric Fencing & Waterers**
- **Stockpiling and Strip Grazing Strategies**
- **Planting & Managing Winter Annuals**
 - **Feeding Less Hay**
 - **USDA Programs Available**

September 22, 2022 | 6 P.M.

Duane & Dot Webb Farm
770 Polk 74, Mena, Arkansas

Sponsored by Rich Mtn Conservation District

Call (479)437-6054 for more information

Grazing Management Workshop

Come learn more about grazing and pasture management in Western Arkansas! Topics include:

- Soil Health & Why It Matters In Pastures
- Using Electric Fencing & Waterers
- Stockpiling and Strip Grazing Strategies
- Planting & Managing Winter Annuals
- Feeding Less Hay
- USDA Programs Available

✓ **September 27, 2022 – Demonstration:
Calibration of a No-Till Drill for Planting**

Presenter: Ben Holleman & Stephen Haller,
Booneville Plant Materials Center (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.](#)

**You know what time it
is?????????? IT'S NUT
TIME!!!!!!!**



Rich Mountain Conservation District
 508 7th St. Mena, AR 71953
 Phone: 479-437-6054

Fax: 855-655-8286 Attn: RMCD

Email: richmountainconservation@gmail.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Business: _____

**Taking orders until
 October 15, 2022**

**Orders will arrive in time for
 Thanksgiving Baking!!**

Order Total: \$ _____



All proceeds go to
 scholarships for Polk
 County students!



2022 Annual Scholarship Nut Sale		
Pecan Halves	1 lb. Bag	9.25
Pecan Pieces	1lb. Bag	8.75
Pecan Halves	5 lb. bulk	43.00
Pecan Pieces	5lb. Bulk	41.25
Praline Pecans	1lb. Bag	8.75
White Chocolate Pecans	1lb. Bag	9.00
Chocolate Amaretto Pecan Halves	1lb. Bag	9.00
Dark Chocolate Pecan Halves	1lb. Bag	9.00
Milk Chocolate Pecans	1lb. Bag	9.00
Deluxe Mixed Nuts	1lb. Bag	7.75
Raw Peanuts	1lb. Bag	4.75
Double Dipped Chocolate Peanuts	1lb. Bag	6.75
Chocolate Almonds	1lb. Bag	7.50
Whole Cashews Roasted/Salted	1lb. Bag	8.25
English Walnut Halves & Pieces	1lb. Bag	7.00
Chocolate Raisins	1lb. Bag	6.25
Gourmet Pecan Log Rolls	7 oz. per roll	6.75
*Conservation Sampler	8 (1lb. Bag)	57.50
Dill Pickle Peanuts	10 oz. can	7.75
Jalapeno Peanuts	10 oz. can	7.75
Salt & Vinegar Peanuts	10 oz. can	7.75
Southern Heat Peanuts	10 oz. can	7.75

*Includes: Pecan Halves, Cashews, Honey Roasted Peanuts, Choc Halves, Chocolate Peanuts, Chocolate Almonds, Walnuts

****Notice: We are now accepting credit cards. There will be a surcharge of 3% applied to**

Order form is attached

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://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.

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The Tuesday Pasture Talk

Learn about Pasture
Topics with us



Anyone is
welcome to join



September 13, 2022
1:00pm CST

Annual Ryegrass:
Varieties and Planting
Demonstration

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

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Presenter: Dr. David Fernandez,
Extension Livestock Specialist & Interim
Dean, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff

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Demonstration:
Calibration of a No-Till
Drill for Planting

Presenter: Ben Holleman,
Technician & Stephen
Haller, Manager,
Booneville Plant Materials
Center

Expect to Learn:



The difference between diploid and tetraploid ryegrass. What selection criteria should you consider?



Producer friendly strategies for drought preparedness, forage recovery, and mitigation of future droughts.



Watch a no-till drill being calibrated for cool season annual grass establishment.

Join by these Methods:

Direct Link:

[Click
Here To
Join](#)

Phone:



Website:

Zoom
Meeting ID: 857 3080 1967
Passcode: 728733

Questions or
Comments:

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



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