

POLK COUNTY GRAZIER

November 16, 2021



*An eNewsletter by the Rich Mountain
Conservation District*

Black Vultures Threaten Polk County Livestock

Black vultures have become a serious threat to livestock in Arkansas by killing young animals, especially newborns.

While vultures in general eat dead animals, the black vultures have become somewhat predatory in nature and have even been known to sit on the back of a cow giving birth waiting on the calf to be born. They will then attack and peck the eyes out of the calf and basically eat it alive. Black vultures are also a threat to wildlife such as fawns and can even damage roof shingles, window caulking, windshield wipers and seat covers.



Black vulture on the left and turkey vulture on the right.

There are two types of vultures in Arkansas, the black vulture and the turkey vulture, but only the black vulture is known to attack livestock. The black vulture is slightly smaller and has a grayish colored head while the turkey vulture has a red head. Black vultures are known to live

up to 25 years. A USDA/APHIS-Wildlife Services publication on vultures is attached for more information.



Black vulture distribution map.

You might think that graziers could just shoot the vultures causing damage to their livestock but all vultures are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act that also protects Bald Eagles. Violations can result in jail time or fines up to \$15,000. Anyone having problems with

black vultures can contact the USDA Wildlife Services (501-835-2318) and/or request an individual depredation permit through the US Fish & Wildlife Service ([Vultures | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)).

Another option is to contact the Arkansas Farm Bureau (501-224-4400) for an Arkansas Farm Bureau Livestock Protection Depredation Sub-Permit ([Black Vulture Depredation Permitting Process | Arkansas Farm Bureau \(arfb.com\)](#)). This permit allows approved permit holders to “take” three black vultures and re-apply to “take” two more. The permit requires reporting of killed black vultures as well as hanging them in effigy (see attached vulture effigy guidelines fact sheet).



Black vultures eating a dead cow.

LOOK -----→The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced the signup deadline for the 2022 EQIP program for November 19, 2021. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a

voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement conservation plans that address natural resource concerns. Typical plans include practices for pasture, forest, and animal waste management as well as energy efficiency improvements in poultry houses. For graziers, this is an excellent opportunity to add cross fences and water supplies for better grazing management. In Polk and Montgomery Counties, contact the NRCS office at (479)437-6054 for more information or come by the office at 508 7th Street in Mena to sign up.

Upcoming Grazing Meetings and Seminars:

⇒ **TODAY! November 16, 2021— Acorn Poisoning in Cattle (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 normally every Tuesday at 1pm so see the attached flyer.

⇒ **November 30, 2021— Grazing Management to Meet Animal Performance Targets (1PM—online seminar)** see attached flyer for more information.

⇒ **February 8, 10, 15, 17, 2022 – Forage Management from the Ground Up Training (times and location to be**

announced) Please call Polk County Extension (479)394-6018 to register or for more information. This training is four sessions (Session 1-Soils and Nutrients, Session 2-Pastures, Session 3-Extending Grazing, and Session 4-Weeds). Cost is \$15/session or \$40 for all four.

**Rich Mountain
Conservation
District**

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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://Publications - Rich Mountain Conservation District (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

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#arkansaspastures
 #learnmore #feedtheworld
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 #stripgrazing #fencepost #grazingmadesimple
 #conservewaterbygrazing #increasecarryingcapacity
 #monitorgrazing #sheep #adjuststockingrates #cows

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 #grazingchaos #managemoredisturbless #grazing #foragequality #arkansaspastures #dungbeetles #cows #organicmatter #bettergrazinggreenerpastures
 #grassfeedsgrass #foragecrop #justclosegates #cows #foragequality #grazingaffectsmanure #grazing #grassfeedsgrass #foragecrop #planahead #sheep

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Zoom
 Meeting ID: 833 8374 8077
 Passcode: 810398

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#reduceanecessaryexpense #regrowth #stoptreatingsoillikedirt
 #graze365 #pasturevest #grazing #plantID #growmore
 #plannedgrazing #extendgrazingseason
 #grazewithapurpose #knowyourforages
 #uglypasturesworktoo #pasturelife
 #we ♥ pastures



November 2, 2021
1:00pm CST

Believe It or Not: 3-Wire Electric Deer Fence

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

November 9, 2021
1:00pm CST

NAP Insurance for Arkansas Pastures

Presenter: Stephen Tubbs, AR Agricultural Program Specialist, Arkansas Farm Service Agency

November 16, 2021
1:00pm CST

Acorn Poisoning in Cattle

Presenter: Dr. Shane Gadberry, Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

November 30, 2021
1:00pm CST

Grazing Management to Meet Animal Performance Targets

Presenter: Mark Kennedy, Kennedy Grassland Services, LLC