Scouts, entomologists and extension specialists have been compiling information on Missouri sugar cane aphid colonies in recent days.

Dr. Moneen Jones, Research Entomologist at the Delta Center stated, “If left untreated or under-treated it (sugar cane aphid) can cost 100% loss. With 220,000 acres of sorghum planted this year that could be a disaster if the word doesn't get around. This insect has been moving at a rate of 40 miles per week with threshold reached 3-7 days after discovery.”

Consultant, Jake Mikels, found colonies throughout Mississippi County to Blodget including groups of 10-15 aphids every 4-5 flag leaves with numbers growing. Consultant Michael Johnson reports colonies near the high school, in fields around Holcomb and near Dexter. Colonies have also been spotted located northwest of East Prairie in the dogwood area by consultant Smith Deline.

Aphids in the head with sooty mold - picture by Drew Ellis of Dow Agro Sciences
Some growers treated sugar cane aphids in sorghum 3 weeks ago, searching diligently for the first colonies to time the application correctly.

Ray Nabors knows from experience that these insects have the ability to shut down a combine at harvest due to the amount of honeydew produced.

For more information contact you local agronomy specialist. Keep abreast of current insect issue by following Dr. Jones on twitter @bootheelbuglady or Drew Ellis @MidSouthAgGuy

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**Grazing Management Series**

**Keeping Track of Finances for Farmers**  
*Tuesday, September 1st, 6:00 PM*  
- Kevin Anderson, MU Extension Ag Business Specialist  
- Wesley Royer, FSCB Branch President  
- Kevin Griffon, FSCB Loan Officer

**Funding and Cost Share Programs**  
*Tuesday, September 8th, 6:00 PM*  
- Selma Mascaro, NRCS Resource Conservationist  
- LaDonna Petzoldt, FSA Loan Officer

**Soil Health, Pasture Species Selection and Weed Control**  
*Thursday, September 17th, 6:00 PM*  
- Anthony Ohmes, MU Extension Agronomy Specialist

**Forage and Nutrient Management**  
*Thursday, September 24th, 6:00 PM*  
- Joel Tatum, MU Extension Livestock Specialist

**Cost:**  
$5.00 per session  
or $15.00 for entire series

**Location:**  
MU Extension Center,  
137 West Main Street, Fredericktown, MO 63645

**Contact:**  
573-783-3303 or klineju@missouri.edu to register

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The University of Missouri Extension is an equal opportunity/ADA institution. Our programs are open to all.  
If you require special accommodations please let us know and we will make arrangements.
Fall Calving Approaching

Body condition of cows and heifers at calving impacts incidence of dystocia, colostrum quality, and return to estrus or post-partum interval which affects rebreeding ability. Target for mature cows at calving time is a body condition score of 5 while 1st calf heifers have a target of 6. Fat cows can experience calving difficulty due to too much fat in the pelvic area where the calf will pass through during the birthing process. Thin cows can be too weak to push out their calf and also have calving problems. Thin cows have lower colostrum quality and passive immunity transferred to the calf will be lower than cows in a condition score 5 or 6. Body condition is typically lost following calving due to the high nutrient requirement for the production of milk. Because lactation is higher on the priority scale for that cow than reproduction, a thin cow will use her resources to produce milk and put reproduction on the backburner. This can cause a slow return to estrus and you may have trouble getting her bred back in a timely manner. Minimizing the loss of body condition following calving and making sure cows/heifers are in good condition prior to calving can help reduce these negatives.

Body condition scoring (BCS) is done on a 1-9 scale with 1=emaciated and 9=obese. Cattle typically range in the 4-7 score. With a score of 5 the indicator is that you can see the last 2 or 3 ribs and a score of 6 has a smooth appearance over the ribs. Moving BCS requires from 75-125 pounds of body weight depending on the frame size of the animal.

As calving approaches it is also important to know the signs of calving and animals experiencing calving difficulty. The stages of labor, physical changes, signs of labor, and time frame for each stage is listed in the table below. Recognizing abnormal delivery can help to determine when and if to assist the cow and help to save calves and reduce post calving problems in the cow.

**Recognizing abnormal delivery:**
- If time from feet being visible to birth is longer than 2 hours
- No progress in a 30 minute period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Physiology</th>
<th>Signs</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dilation of cervix, uterine contractions begin, water sac expelled</td>
<td>Cow is nervous, kicking at side, lying down, slight straining</td>
<td>Heifers: 4-6 hrs Cows: 2-3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Calf enter birth canal, feet &amp; head protrude first, calf delivery complete</td>
<td>Strong frequent straining—lying down, water sac and/or calf visible, discharge of fluids</td>
<td>Heifers: 3-6 hrs Cows: 2-4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Uterine contractions expel membranes</td>
<td>Mild straining, membranes hanging out, discharge of fluids</td>
<td>Heifers and cows: 2-8 hrs Abnormal if more than 12 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Erin Larimore, Livestock Specialist, University of Missouri, Jackson, MO.
Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to Missouri businesses and residents affected by the severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding that occurred May 15 to July 27, 2015. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster following the denial of the state’s request for a major disaster declaration on August 13, 2015.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, Lincoln, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Francois, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Warren and Washington counties in Missouri; and Adams, Calhoun, Monroe and Pike counties in Illinois.

“SBA is strongly committed to providing Missouri with the most effective and customer-focused response possible, and we will be there to provide access to federal disaster loans to help finance recovery for businesses and residents affected by the disaster,” said Contreras-Sweet. “Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

“Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters whose property was damaged or destroyed by this disaster,” SBA representatives are on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center at Mercy Jefferson Hospital, Marketing Conference Room (MOC North) 1400 US 61, Festus, MO 63028 to answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application. This center is open Mondays - Fridays, 8 am-5 pm except labor day until Thursday, September 10 at 5 pm

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to $2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to businesses and homeowners to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Disaster loans up to $200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to $40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 2.625 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 1.688 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955 or emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339. For more information about SBA’s disaster assistance programs, visit http://www.sba.gov/disaster.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is October 19, 2015. The deadline to return economic injury applications is May 18, 2016.
**Crop Update**

**Measuring Harvest Losses**

A quick check in front, under, and behind the combine during harvest will give an idea of preharvest, header ear and kernel, and combine losses. Combine harvest loss can range from 3% to 5% of crop yield. Anything higher, adjustments should be made.

First determine ear loss in 1/100 of an acre (435.6 square feet). One 0.75 pound ear or equivalent smaller ears equals 1 bushel per acre. Three 0.5 pound ears equals 2 bushel per acre. Header ear loss is determined by subtracting total ear loss behind combine from preharvest loss of unharvestable ears in front of combine. Second, determine kernel loss from header and combine by counting kernels in ten 1 square foot samples. Two kernels per square foot equals 1 bushel per acre. Combine loss is determined by subtracting header kernel loss from total kernel loss behind separator.

**Stockpiling Pasture**

With poor hay harvest conditions when hay was at maximum quality there were many acres harvested late. This season, you may consider stockpiling some fescue fields to help supplement feeding this winter.

The first step is to inventory available winter feed and determine the number of paddocks to designate for stockpiling. Pure stands of fescue work better than stands with heavy clover mix. Fescues waxy leaf makes it the only choice for stockpiling. The grass will be high in protein and total digestible nutrients for the herd ration.

Heavily graze, cut for hay or mow fescue down to 3 inches around the first two weeks of August in selected areas for stockpiling. Apply 30 to 40 units of nitrogen mid-to late-August. In pure, healthy stands in good soil where production can be maximized, up to 60 units of N can be applied. Nitrogen products to consider are urea + urease inhibitor (NBPT), ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate.

Keep livestock and equipment off of selected fields until after the first hard frost, around early to mid-November. Strip graze cattle to prevent them from trampling or laying on forage. Base grazing area on animal units of dry matter needed for one day. The grazing wedge program may be used to provide a monthly snapshot. Grazing wedges can be found at the MU website: [http://grazingbeef.missouri.edu](http://grazingbeef.missouri.edu).


Calculations to consider:

- A.U. = (# Cow/calf pairs x lbs. per pair) / 1000
- Pounds Dry Matter (D.M.)/Day = A.U. x 30 lbs D.M.
- Total Pounds Forage/A = 250 lb D.M. per inch of forage (yard stick method)
- Forage Intake (% of Body Wt.): Dry Cow = 2%; Stocker = 3%; Lactating Cow = 4%
- # Animals = Total lbs Forage/A x % Grazing Eff. x Paddock Ac / Ave. Animal Wt. x Forage Intake % x Grazing Days

Anthony Ohmes of Jackson Missouri and David Reinbott of Benton, MO  Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension
A University of Missouri Extension agriculture business conference for women is set for Sept. 11-12 at Windermere Conference Center at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Keynote speakers are Katie Dilse, Farm & Ranch Guide’s 2014 Country Woman of the Year, and Texas A&M agriculture economist Jason Johnson.

Topics include a crop and livestock marketing outlook, how to start an ag tourism venture, Missouri fence laws, livestock health, home energy efficiency, meal planning for families on the go, identity theft, insurance, investments and more.

“Throughout the course of our classes for farm women we have had several women express the desire for a conference where they could meet other farm women from across the state,” says Mary Sobba, MU Extension ag specialist and a state coordinator for Annie’s Project. “This is another great forum for women in agriculture to get together to learn about the business of farming and network with others in like situations.”

MU Extension and USDA Risk Management Agency sponsor the conference.

Register at http://extension.missouri.edu/annie or call MU Extension in Polk County at 417-326-4916.

Show-Me Quality Assurance (SMQA) training is a mandatory requirement for all 4-H and FFA youth exhibiting livestock at the SEMO District Fair. If you still need to complete SMQA training you may do so online at: http://agebb.missouri.edu/smqa/.

Show-Me-Select heifer enrollment for fall 2016 calving (May 7, 2016 sale date) is due September 1! Requirements and enrollment forms can be obtained from the Cape Girardeau County extension office or are available on our website: www.semobeef.com. Please call Erin Larimore if you have questions on the program or requirements 573-243-3581.
Welcome Jamie Gundel to the Southeast Region of Missouri, as the Agronomy Specialist & County Program Director headquartered in Oregon County.

Jamie has a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources; and a Master’s Degree in Plant Sciences – both degrees from Missouri State University. He is a new graduate from Missouri State, having graduated this month.

Jamie’s work experience includes serving as a Graduate Assistant for Missouri State University on the Shealy Farm, and employment at Harmony Hill Red Angus Ranch. In addition he had two internships: one with Benton County Solid Waste District as an Education and Outreach Intern; and one with Roaring River State Park as a Natural Resource Aide. Jamie has also worked as a volunteer at the Washburn Fire Department; and on several volunteer environmental clean-up activities.

I know everyone will join us in welcoming Jamie to Extension in Southeast Region!

To contact Jamie call the Oregon County Extension Center at 417-778-7490.
Missouri Ag News is a publication of University of Missouri Extension Specialists in the Southeast Region of Missouri. Contributions to this publication are made by:

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**Future Meetings & Events**

- **Annie’s Project Conference** - September 11-12, 2015 Roach, MO. [http://extension.missouri.edu/annie](http://extension.missouri.edu/annie)
- **Fisher Delta Research Center Field Day** - September 2, 2015 Portageville, MO.
- **Ripley County Fair** - September 9-12, 2015 Fairgrounds in Doniphan, MO.
- **Butler County Fair** - September 16-19, 2015 Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff, MO.
- **SEMO District Fair** - September 12-19, 2015 Cape Girardeau, MO.
- **Grain Engulfment Rescue Trailer display** - September 15-17, 2015 SEMO District Fairgrounds in Cape Girardeau, MO.
- **Missouri Farm to School Conference** - October 20, 2015 Columbia, MO. [http://muconf.missouri.edu/farmtoschool/index.html](http://muconf.missouri.edu/farmtoschool/index.html)
- **Grazing School** - September 17-18, 2015 Patterson, MO. Fee $105 register by September 4 with Sue Denninger 573-883-3566 ext. 3.
- **Shannon County Landowner Field Day** - September 19, 2015 9am-3pm in Eminence, MO. See attachment
- **Land Leasing** – September 21, 2015 Wayne County, MO. Call (573) 224-3035 for more information.

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**Commodities and markets** - [http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/crop-budgets.aspx](http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/crop-budgets.aspx)

**Farm Bill** - [http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/Farm-bill.aspx](http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/Farm-bill.aspx)

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