

# Missouri Ag News

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## Stockpiling Fescue

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Now is the time to think about how you are going to feed your cattle through the winter. You can always rely on the time old tradition of feeding hay; however it will cost about \$25 per bale to mow, rake and bale this year. That is not including the fertilizer you remove from that field when you take the forage off. Each bale of hay constitutes about \$53 worth of fertilizer. Add that all together and it costs about \$78 per bale. Hay is not bad to feed but if you figure up the costs associated with it and the relatively poor nutritional value of most hays, you are better off doing something else.

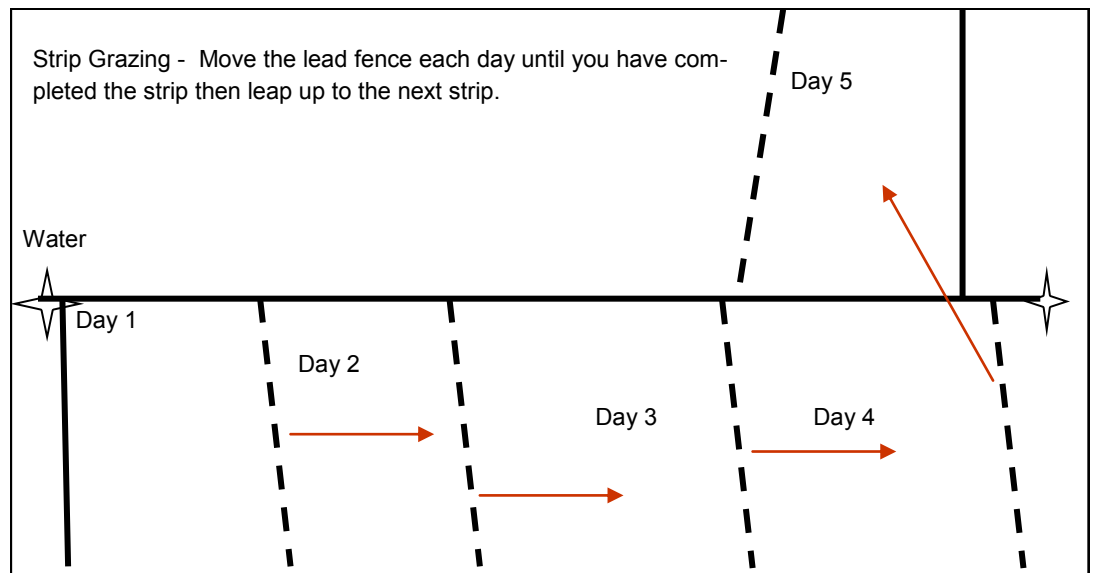
Stockpiling fescue may be a more sensible way to manage your cattle during the winter. The biggest problem associated with stockpiling fescue is having enough pasture in

reserve to keep animals off after August first. The best pastures to save are the ones that you have clipped, mowed or grazed the top growth before June 1. This will allow for maximum growth in September and later. Applying 60 to 80 lbs. of nitrogen fertilizer around the fifteenth of August will increase your yield, even in dry years.

In trial studies performed on research farms a few years ago, stockpiled tall fescue was the cheapest feed used to winter cattle at a cost of \$22.33 per acre for 125 grazing days. Hay was estimated at \$56.00 per ton and winter annual pastures cost \$70.33 per acre for 93 grazing days. The nutritional value of stockpiled fescue can far exceed that of hay. During the months of November and December the percent crude protein of stockpiled

Look for the color code to find articles related to the following.

Crops	Horticulture
Engineering	Livestock
Forestry	Other



“ ” continued.....

fescue is typically 14% and rarely falls below 11.5% in late December. Typical averages for grass hay quality can range from 12% crude protein from hay cut in May to a low of 6% for late June and July cuttings with the average being 10% crude protein.

The best way to graze stockpiled fescue is to strip graze the pasture after October 15. This is usually accomplished by stretching an

electric wire across the field using temporary posts and allowing animals access to as much pasture as they will clean up in three to four weeks. At the end of that period move the wire back the same distance and allow cattle to clean up the area. By strip grazing, you can save up to 40% of your forage from waste.

Stockpiling tall fescue for winter grazing is a very feasible and economical way to supply your

animals with good-quality winter forage. Remembering a few key dates to manage your stockpiled fescue can be critical to the production and quality. Remove cattle by August 1 to allow for fall growth, apply nitrogen fertilizer around August 15, and hold off grazing until after October 15. Happy grazing!

Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Greenville, MO.

## Rules - Food Safety Modernization Act

Two new regulations to prevent unsafe food from reaching consumers will take effect through the FDA July 3, 2011.

The first rule strengthens FDA's ability to prevent potentially unsafe food from entering commerce. It allows the FDA to administratively detain food the agency believes has been produced under unsanitary or unsafe conditions. Previously, the FDA's ability to detain food products applied only when the agency had credible evidence that a food product presented was contaminated or mislabeled in a way that presented a threat of serious adverse health consequences or death to humans or animals.

Beginning July, the FDA will be able to detain food products that it

has reason to believe are adulterated or misbranded for up to 30 days, if needed, to ensure they are kept out of the marketplace. The products will be kept out of the marketplace while the agency determines whether an enforcement action such as seizure or federal injunction against distribution of the product in commerce, is necessary.

The second rule requires anyone importing food into the United States to inform the FDA if any country has refused entry to the same product, including food for animals. This new requirement will provide the agency with more information about foods that are being imported, which improves the FDA's ability to target foods that may pose a significant risk to public health. This new reporting requirement will be administered

through the FDA's prior notice system for incoming shipments of imported food established under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.

With prior notice, in the event of a credible threat for a specific product or a specific manufacturer or processor, the FDA is able to mobilize and assist in the detention and removal of products that may pose a serious health threat to humans or animals.

For more information regarding these new rules call: 888-INFO-FDA

Information provided from modified FDA media release.

The Agriculture Community in Southeast Missouri says congratulations to.....

David Guethle.

He has been a great resource for professionals, farmers and the community throughout his career. Beginning July 1 he will be an official retiree which likely means he will be busier than ever.

Thank you for your service and help to Missouri. Enjoy!!!!

**RETIRED**



## Downed Rice Endorsement Listening Session

The USA Rice Federation has contracted with AgriLogic Consulting to develop a Downed Rice Endorsement and will be conducting listening sessions throughout major rice producing regions of the U.S. to obtain feedback regarding the feasibility and specifications of developing a Downed Rice Endorsement. This endorsement is intended to offer optional buy-up coverage for rice producers which would compensate a portion of the additional harvest costs associated with a downed rice event (i.e. as a result of high winds, etc.).

You are invited to participate in a meeting to assist in developing the provisions of the endorsement. Your opinion is considered highly valuable.

**Wednesday, August 3 at 6:00pm**

**Delta Research Center**

**147 State Highway T, Portageville, MO**

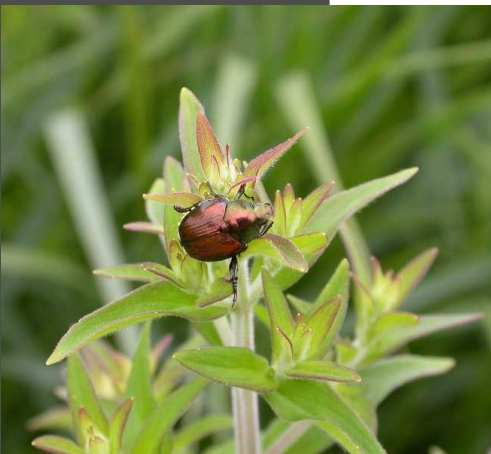
**Please contact Nicole at 913-982-2448 with questions and/or to RSVP.**

This event is sponsored by USDA Risk Management Agency, USA Rice Federation and AgriLogic Consulting.

# Japanese Beetles Begin to Emerge

**“ The adult (Japanese beetles) emerge the middle of June with peak numbers by early July.”**

Picture courtesy of Missouri Botanical Gardens at [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org).



As corn continues to develop and soybeans emerge, continue to scout fields for insect pests. One pest that you will see again this season is Japanese beetle. Japanese beetle is a medium sized metallic green beetle with bronze wing covers and white tufts of hair along each side. The adults emerge the middle of June with peak numbers by early July. Adults live between 30 and 40 days. Adults feed on a wide host of plants. Corn and soybeans are two of those hosts, as well as an array of landscape, tree and garden plants. They are known as aggregate pests, since they tend to be concentrated in one area to feed and mate. That is why it is important to monitor entire fields and not make decisions based on one location of one field.

In corn, Japanese beetle feed on corn silks. Peak beetle emergence and corn pollination, over the past seasons, have had a very small overlap window.

Threshold for corn is an average of 3 beetles per ear during active pollination, and silks are clipped to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch above husk. Pollen shed begins a couple of days before silk emergence and continues a couple days after pollination. Silks emerge on an ear over a 2 to 3 day period, but will continue to be

receptive to pollen for up to 10 days. A uniform field will generally complete pollination in less than a week. Once pollen lands on a silk, the corn ovule is pollinated within 24 hours. Therefore the silk clipping window to cause yield loss is relatively short. However, with delayed planting this season that window could be extended. If you have threshold numbers in a field or even a portion of a field, that area can experience yield loss. Scouting is critical since in many of the cases I have looked at over the seasons, the highest concentrations of beetles are on ends and only extend a few rows into the field or clipping has occurred after pollination, in both cases not warranting treatment. You can determine pollination by carefully peeling back corn husks, so as not to pull unpollinated silks off the ear. Once husk is removed, gently shake ear. If pollination is complete silks will fall freely from pollinated ovules. In general, silk rate of emergence and pollen shed is much more likely to be influenced and yield compromised by drought stress.

In soybeans, Japanese beetles feed on leaf tissue and are lumped into the insect complex of leaf defoliators. Threshold, pre-bloom defoliation for the insect complex, is 25% or more. Threshold, at-bloom through pod fill is 15% or more.

For more information contact your local MU Extension office.

Anthony Ohmes, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Charleston, MO.



# Pinkeye in Livestock

Pinkeye (infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis) is a common infectious disease affecting the eyes of livestock, typically cattle, goats, and sheep. In 1993, it was estimated that U.S. producers lost \$150 million due to pinkeye because of reduced weight gain, milk production and sometimes blindness.

## Causes:

Pinkeye is most often caused by the bacteria *Moraxella bovis* also known as *M. bovis*. Other causes include the virus IBR (infectious bovine rhinotracheitis), *Mycoplasma* bacteria, *Chlamydia* bacteria, and *Neisseria* bacteria. Factors that increase the incidence of pinkeye are excessive UV light, flies, dust, and plant material. These factors serve as a means of transmitting the bacteria from an object to an animal or from animal to animal, and may irritate the eye drawing flies or the bacteria itself. Flies are the most harmful when it comes to pinkeye. The fly will feed on the eye and nose secretions of an infected animal and then transmit the bacteria to an uninfected animal. Research has shown that face flies can remain infected with *M. bovis* for up to three days following feeding on infected material. Animals can also obtain pinkeye during the winter months when feeding on hay bales. Livestock risk

poking themselves in the eye every time they reach in to take a bite from the center of a hay bale. Hay is not the only plant material that causes pinkeye. Tall grass with seed heads serves as an excellent source of eye poking material.



## Signs and Symptoms:

The first, most common signs of pinkeye are excessive watering of the eye and squinting due to pain. As the disease progresses the cornea becomes cloudy or white. An ulcer will most likely develop in the center of the eye if left untreated. In extreme cases the cornea ruptures and the eye fluid will leak out. Temporary blindness usually occurs if the eye clouds over and a white scar may remain on the eye after healing, causing sight problems.

Young animals are the most susceptible to pinkeye because older animals tend to build up a resistance to the disease. However, animals can become infected more than once so it is still important to take preventative

measures in cattle of all ages.

## Treatment:

Studies have shown that *M. bovis* is very sensitive to injectible medicines containing oxytetracyclines, ceftiofur, penicillin, and sulfonamides. Feed additives containing oxytetracyclines also have been shown to reduce treatment time and severity of the disease. Contact your veterinarian to determine the best treatment.

## Prevention:

To aid in the control of pinkeye you should have a good fly control program using spray insecticides, dust bags or back rubs, insecticide-impregnated ear tags, larvacides, or fly traps. Grass, weed and brush control by grazing, mowing, or spraying reduces pollen dust and mechanical irritation that increase the incidence of pinkeye. Spreading hay out and not feeding hay containing mature seed heads can also reduce eye irritants. Breeds of animals with little pigmentation around the eyes are more susceptible to pinkeye than animals with darker eyelids. Vaccinating against pinkeye along with IBR and BVD viral diseases can also reduce incidences of pinkeye in herds.

Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Greenville, MO.

# Downy Mildew on Melons

The upper leaf surface may be yellow, while the lower leaf surface will have water soaked or brown lesions infested with downy mildew.

As the summer moves forward, don't let your guard down when it comes to disease. The key is to be ahead of the problem and catch it before it catches you.

Downy mildew causes problems later in the season when producers are thinking they have their routine down. Downy mildew is fond of areas where humidity is high and nights are cooler.

What starts as irregular yellow spots on the upper leaf will turn to brown spots that will grow to devour the entire leaf, and spread to kill multiple leaves.



Lesions on the lower leaf surface of cucurbit.  
- Picture courtesy of University of California Plant Pathology.

On the lower surface you may notice water soaked areas early on that become brown quickly as the disease progresses.

If you scout plants during the morning you may see grayish fungal growth on the underside of the leaf.

Control strategies should be put into place before symptoms appear because once you have downy mildew you can not remove it, just slow down the progression.

While there are several active chemical options to use against downy mildew some common active ingredients to look for include dimethomorph which is usually mixed with mancozeb or chlorothalonil mixed with mefanoxam.

Brand names listed for control of Downy mildew include Acrobat 50WP, Agri-Fos, Aliette, Cabrio EG, Curzate 60DF, Flint, Forum, Gavel 75DF, Phostrol, Presidio4SC, Previcur Flex, Pristine 38WG, Prophyt, Quadris, Ranman, Revus or Ridomil Gold.

Many of these should also be combined with a second chemical option before application so the label should be read carefully to see what must be used.

To best prepare for the first outbreak of downy mildew use the Downy Mildew Forecast sight online at <http://cdm.ipmpipe.org/>.

This sight shows outbreaks as they move north from Florida so the first applications can be properly timed.

Sarah Denkler, Horticulture Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Poplar Bluff, MO.

## Petroleum Storage Plan

The Oil Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) program calls for farmers and other facilities to have an oil spill prevention plan in place. Under this program a farm is defined as “a facility on a tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising of animals, including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold, \$1000 or more of agricultural products during a year.”

If you have 1,320 gallons of petroleum storage or more on your land you will need to complete a Spill Prevention

Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan by November 10, 2011.

If a spill happens after the plan is in place a farmer can demonstrate that he has thought through the process of what to do and who to contact. If a farmer doesn't have a plan on record then he is open for potential liability.

For those who have or are trying to obtain some type of agriculture certification, this plan could be used as part of that practice as well.

For more information about the

plan go to the following web link where you can download the new EPA brochure at:

<http://www.aradc.org/ARADC/ARADC/Resources/Libraries/ViewDocument/Default.aspx?DocumentKey=581b544c-a5be-4360-91fc-c065ad93dc01>

To download the forms for a SPCC plan go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc>

Bob Broz, Agriculture Engineering, University of Missouri Extension, Columbia, MO

## Irrigation Energy Field Day Thursday, July 28, 2011

### FREE Field Day

**At the University of Missouri Delta Center in Portageville, Missouri.**

**Registration starts at 7:30 am / presentations will be from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. By pre-registering online at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/irrigate/bhconf/2011b/prereg.htm> lunch is free or you may pay \$15.00 for lunch the day of the event.**

Topics include: Faucet and Surge Irrigation, Pump Efficiency, Weather Station Network for Irrigation Scheduling, Pivot Rice, Pivot Re-nuzzling, Funding Opportunities for Energy, Guidelines for Irrigating with Poly-Pipe, Irrigation System Troubleshooting and Safety and Use of Irrigation Scheduling Sensors.

This field day is provided through Energize Missouri Agriculture with a grant from the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. University of Missouri Extension is an equal opportunity institution.

← *Irrigation Tradeshow and Booth Visiting All Day Long* →

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## IPM Pest Monitoring Network

The University of Missouri Division of Plant Science offers access to the IPM Pest Monitoring Network online at <http://ppp.missouri.edu/pestmonitoring/pestalet.html>

This site provides the most up-to-date Pest Alerts in Missouri by monitoring the following pests:

Black Cutworm, European Corn Borer, Corn Earworm, Beet Armyworm, True Armyworm, Southwestern Corn Borer, Tobacco Budworm, Soybean Looper, Japanese Beetle, Western Bean Cutworm and Fall Armyworm.

Alerts are shown by the date and county where the pest was trapped. You can link to maps that will show where throughout the state a pest has been caught.

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