

Missouri Ag News

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Fall Armyworm Make Their Way Across Lawns and Pastures

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Crops	Horticulture
Engineering	Livestock
Forestry	Other



I have been receiving a few calls regarding fall armyworm. Fall armyworm migrates this way each year from the Gulf Coast states. Some years the population is minimal due to natural controls such as fungus and predators. This season, numbers have been elevated in numerous areas of southeast Missouri. Fall armyworm is a leaf defoliator, primarily a grass pest in lawns and grass pastures.

They may also feed on legume leaves such as alfalfa and soybean. The average number of growth stages of armyworm larvae is six, with an average of five days per stage. Therefore, the average life span of armyworm larvae is 30 days. Fall armyworm have a characteristic inverted white "Y" on their head and stripes.

Scouting in the morning or evening when armyworms are most active is the best time to determine if threshold numbers exist. Threshold numbers in grass pastures is 3 or more larvae per square foot. Threshold for soybean is based on 20% defoliation during pod fill, prior to R6 (beans touching in pod), which this time of year limits the number of fields that could be affected.

Pyrethroid insecticides are effective in controlling armyworm outbreaks. Two products that are recommended for fall armyworm in pasture are zeta-cypermethrin and lambda-cyhalothrin, both sold under various trade names. Be sure to read and follow all label directions and be aware of pre-harvest and grazing restrictions.

For more information on fall armyworm contact your local extension center and ask for MU guide 7115: "Managing armyworm complex in Missouri field crops" or find it on the web at <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G7115>.

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



Photo - Fall Armyworm by John C. French Sr., Retired, Universities: Auburn, GA, Clemson and U of MO, Bugwood.org

USDA Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

Do you or a group of producers have a value added agriculture idea or concept that needs exploring? If so, the USDA-Value Added Producers Grants (VAPG) may be something worth considering. VAPG grants are awarded as either working capital grants or planning grants. Working capital grants are for an established agriculture business that is expanding into a value added agriculture enterprise. For example a blueberry processing cooperative may be expanding to blueberry jam processing and would need funds to market this product. The VAPG can be used for this marketing activity.

The second type of grants are the planning grants. Planning grants can be used for feasibility studies, business plans, attorney fees etc. to both determine if an enterprise is feasible, and then to develop the enterprise.

To receive a VAPG grant, the applicant or applicants must produce the agriculture commodity and the project must entail a value added agriculture product. The agriculture commodity must meet one of the five value added methodologies:

1. Has undergone a change in physical state.
2. Was produced in a manner that enhances the value of the agriculture commodity.
3. Is physically segregated in a manner that results in the enhancement of the value added agriculture commodity.
4. Is a source of farm or ranch based renewable energy, including E-85 fuel.
5. Is aggregated and marketed as a locally produced food product

The last one is aggregated and marketed as a locally produced food product, to me opens up opportunities for Southeast Missouri farmers, especially those selling their products into the local food market.

There are misconceptions about grants – in coffee shop talk, there is “all of this free money out there, just for the taking.” In my experience, having been involved with over 50 different grants and initiatives – this is not true. For federal and state grants, there is a time consuming application process, there is a review and then upon reward, there are established criteria for receipt of the funds. The VAPG grants are competitive, so a good application is paramount. For a VAPG grant, it usually takes me about a week to write it.

The 2012 proposals for VAPG funds are due by October 15, 2012. Funding for this year’s round is down compared to years past, so there will be more competition for funds.



For more information about the grant access the USDA website at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG.html.

If you or a group of farmers have an idea for a value added agriculture enterprise and would like to pursue a USDA-VAPG grant please contact me, Van Ayers at the Stoddard County Extension Center at 573-568-3344. If we miss the 2012 VAPG, we can always apply for Missouri Value Added Agriculture grant funds.

Van Ayers, Agriculture and Rural Development Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Bloomfield, MO

MISSOURI PESTICIDE COLLECTION

A FREE PROGRAM FOR ALL MISSOURI FARMERS AND RESIDENTS

October 6, 2012 Kennett, MO

WANT TO LOWER YOUR FOOTPRINT ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT?

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is providing you with a convenient, free opportunity to properly dispose of your pesticide waste. Please bring your waste to your local collection site on **Saturday, October 6th** between 9am and 4pm. The following items will be accepted:

- Fungicides • Herbicides • Insecticides • Pesticides • Rodenticides
- Fertilizers containing herbicides or pesticides

OPEN TO ALL MISSOURI FARMERS AND RESIDENTS. THIS PROGRAM IS ONLY BEING OFFERED ONCE.

**Kennett Compost Station
18464 County Road 508
Kennett, MO**

Contact MDNR Southeast Regional Office at 573-840-9750 for questions or visit dnr.mo.gov for other collection sites and dates. This pesticide collection event is to serve individual households and small or family farmers. Pesticides from businesses, pesticide production facilities, pesticide distributors, pesticide retailers and the like cannot be accepted. MISSOURI RESIDENTS ONLY.

Collection services will be processed by The Environmental Quality Company.



Missouri
Department of
Natural Resources

SEMO Bull Sale - October 19

The 71st Semi-Annual Performance Tested All-Breed Bull Sale
will be held Friday, October 19, 2012
at the Farmington Livestock Auction, Farmington, MO.

35 bulls will be available for sale from area producers. Bulls available for sale include 23 Angus, 2 Charolais, 5 Hereford, 4 Red Angus and 1 Simmental. Catalogs will be available soon. For more information you can contact your local Extension office or Darrell Aufdenberg, sale manager, at 573-270-6755. The sale information will also be available on the web at www.semobeef.com.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

Food Bank



Delivering Help and Hope to the Hungry

The Southeast Missouri Food Bank is eager for donations of specialty crops. The food bank will bring a 24 foot box truck to pick up available produce. Edible produce, including seconds, should be in a crate or box. Contact James Landewee, Operations Director at 573-651-0400 several days ahead of time if possible and specify if a refrigerated truck is needed. He will provide you with a tax receipt for anything you donate to use as a tax right-off.

Dealing With Drought Workshop - Greenville

Even though fall rains have improved pasture conditions most livestock operations are short on hay or feed that sustains their animals through the winter. Producers are looking for alternative feeds such as corn stalks or rice stubble to stretch their hay supply. However, these feeds present their own set of problems such as poor nutrient value and nitrates. Questions are also being raised as to what can be planted in pastures to extend the grazing season.

The Wayne County Extension Council is sponsoring a workshop focused on dealing with drought and the issues mentioned above.

The program will be held at the Fishin' Hole restaurant in Greenville beginning at 11 a.m. and running until 1 p.m. Lunch is on your own.

Anthony Ohmes, Agronomy Specialist and Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist will cover topics such as pasture recovery, seeding fall/spring pastures, nitrates in forages, selecting feed resources, cattle management and using decision tools.

We ask that you please RSVP to the Wayne County Extension office before October 3 by calling (573) 224-5600 ext. 8. If you have questions about the program you can contact Kendra Graham at the Wayne County Extension office or e-mail her at grahamkk@missouri.edu.

Missouri Hay Directories

www.mda.mo.gov/abd/haydirectory

This website by the Missouri Department of Agriculture allows a search by county, hay type and bale type to find locations in or out of state that have hay available for purchase. Hay can be listed for sale by contacting Mark Murphy if you wish to be included on the list at 573-751-5633 or Mark.Murphy@mda.mo.gov.

www.mocattle.org/haydirectory.aspx

This website by the Missouri Cattlemen's Association is a list of hay for sale.

www.agebb.missouri.edu/haylst

This website by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and University of Missouri allows a search for hay and allows a posting of hay for sale.

Preparing for Rice in 2013

I'm starting this article by expanding on information from last month. Now is the time to note good and bad spots in your rice fields. There is no better time to address 2012 problems than after harvest while it is still on your mind. When taking notes, record the location and a brief description of the problem. This could be very beneficial and profitable for next year. If possible try to determine if it is fertility, disease, water or something else that caused the problem. Call your consultant and discuss it with him.

Look Back to 2012 and Forward to 2013

The 2012 rice crop harvest is history with over 95% harvested. Yields are ranging from very good, to poor with some struggling amid yields ranging 20-30 bushels/acre below normal.

As you look back and try to prevent low yields, below are just a few observations. The heat was certainly a factor but, in and of itself, was only partially responsible. Water management proved to be crucial. The heat and drought strained the irrigation abilities of many growers and ultimately caused yield losses. Hot spots, or areas where water never extended, were evident in some fields. Drs. Joe Henggeler and Earl Vories, MU Delta center Research Engineers, have valuable new irrigation data that they will present at our upcoming winter rice meeting at Dexter in February 2013. Planting date in 2012 had a significant effect, as usual. The best planting date range is from Mid-April to Early-May. Low fertility, particularly potassium, was observed. Fields with inadequate fertility often expressed their effects as stem rot, cercospera (narrow brown leaf

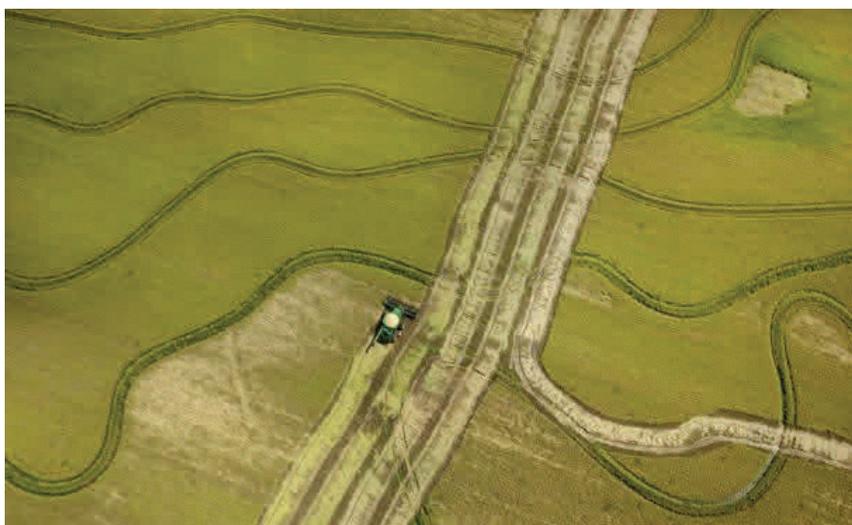
spot), and to a limited extent bacterial panicle blight and other diseases.

A soil test will help concentrate on potassium. Take a close look at how to best fit your cropping system to your soils and conditions. Try to find a way to rotate. If you can't then study the best practices in order to avoid serious problems associated with rice after rice.

Excessive lodging occurred in many fields. Some possible causes were several short strong wind storms, varieties, rice after rice rotation, soil types, later planting dates, not enough potassium fertilizer, too much nitrogen fertilizer, stem diseases and high yields.

Stinkbugs were heavy again this year resulting in some blanking and pecky rice.

Below are several MU Guides that will steer you in the right direction for basic information for 2013. Also, plan to attend meetings that provide new data and current information that might answer some of your problems.



AP Photo - Danny Johnson

G4361, Guidelines for Producing Rice Using Furrow Irrigation -

Traditional rice culture in Missouri uses flood water management. Reasons for flooding include efficient growth, rice's poor water stress tolerance and its ability to flourish in submerged soil where many competitive grasses and broadleaf weeds cannot survive.

G4364, Boron and Sulfur Fertilization on Rice

Rice producers do not commonly think about fertilizing their fields with boron (B) or sulfur (S). The lack of interest in boron for rice is probably due to the lower requirement of boron for grasses than for broadleaf crops. Soil sulfur availability to rice plants is affected by temperature and moisture, which influences organic matter decomposition rates. Field tests with rice in Missouri have shown that a yield response to boron and sulfur is possible.

G4366, Phosphorus Management for Drill-Seeded Rice -

Proper phosphorus (P) nutrition is critical for producing maximum rice grain yields. Phosphorus promotes strong early plant growth and development of a strong root system. Maximum tillering of rice plants also depends on P availability in the soil. Often P deficiency in rice is referred to as a "hidden hunger" because the symptoms are not apparent unless P deficient plants are directly compared with plants that have sufficient P. When compared with healthy rice of the same age, P-deficient rice is characterized by an abnormal bluish green color of the foliage with poor tillering. Plants are slow to canopy and slow to mature. When plant comparisons are not available, plant tissue testing is the best tool for diagnosis of P deficiency.

G4365, Managing Midseason Nitrogen on Rice with Plant Area Measurements

A standard rice nitrogen (N) program in the Upper Delta region is 70 to 120 pounds N per acre applied pre-flood at first tiller followed by 30 pounds N per acre at 1/2-inch internode elongation (1/2-inch IE) and 30 pounds N per acre applied one week later. In recent years, many farmers have begun using a single application of pre-flood N at 100 to 150 pounds of nitrogen to avoid the expense of aerial

applications of N at midseason. Unfortunately, a single N application program exposes a farmer to increased risk of producing low rice yields because pre-flood soil conditions can cause significant nitrogen losses.

MP729, Use of a Portable Chlorophyll Meter to Manage Crop Nitrogen in Rice

Nitrogen fertilizer, more than any other nutrient amendment, has increased commercial rice yields. Managing crop nitrogen in rice fields is challenging because flooded soils have several pathways for nitrogen loss. The greatest loss is due to bacteria converting nitrate to atmospheric nitrogen.

MP645, Rice Blast Control - Blast, also called rotten neck, is one of the most destructive diseases of Missouri rice. Losses due to this disease have been on the increase since 2000. Blast does not develop every year but is very destructive when it occurs.

MP646, Rice Sheath Blight Control

Sheath blight is the most destructive disease Missouri rice growers face. Crop losses may range from slight to heavy each year, depending on weather, plant growth stage at infection, the extent of infection and the varieties grown.

M171, 2011 Missouri Pest Management Guide: Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Rice, Soybean, Winter Wheat -

This publication provides current recommendations for control of the most problematic weeds, insects and diseases encountered in Missouri corn, cotton, grain sorghum, rice, soybean and winter wheat cropping systems. This information is based on research conducted at MU and elsewhere. Pesticides named in this publication are registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Trade names are included with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the MU is implied. This publication will be revised annually to reflect label updates, name changes and the entry of new herbicide, insecticide, or fungicide active ingredients in the marketplace.

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 **Extension**

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Future Meetings & Events -

Wurdock Farm Field Day: October 5, 2012. Registration begins at 8am with tours starting at 9am at the Farm in Cook Station, MO.

Southeast Missouri Watermelon Meeting: December 5, 2012 in Kennett, MO at the American Legion Building. To register call 573-686-8064.

Missouri Livestock Symposium: December 7-8, 2012 in Kirksville, MO Call (660) 665-9866 or (660) 341-6625 or go to <http://missourilivestock.com>

Missouri Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention and Trade Show: December 11-13, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO

Missouri Rice Meeting: February, 2013 at the Eagles Lodge in Dexter, MO