

## Dates to Remember

**June 12** – NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) signup deadline.

**June 15** – NAP planting deadline for watermelons.

**June 30** – NAP Planting deadline for sweet potatoes.

**June 30** – deadline to enroll in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) safety net programs.

**July 15** – deadline for Acreage Certification for spring seeded crops which includes corn, soybeans and grain sorghum, Conservation Reserve Program acres and perennial grass.

## Consider Pipe Planner When Irrigating

By Dr. Henry English, director, Small Farm Program, UAPB

**W**hen irrigating, what can be done to stop excess water runoff, polytubing blowouts or bursting? Consider using Delta Plastics Pipe Planner application at [www.pipeplanner.com](http://www.pipeplanner.com) to stop runoffs, blowouts and for help in determining polytubing size to buy.

Pipe Planner is a web-based irrigation program designed to help create an efficient irrigation system for furrow irrigated row or vegetable crops. This program uses a computer to select hole sizes for the polytube. It takes into consideration the flow rate of the irrigation well, the length of the polytube, and the elevation between the water source and the end of the polytube to select polytube size.

Pipe Planner estimates watering time, and it can reduce water consumption by an average of 25 percent. In many cases, yields have increased with Pipe Planner. If you furrow irrigate row or vegetable crops, this is the program to use.

To use Pipe Planner, a producer needs to provide well discharge and elevation along the polytubing pad. Growers needing to calculate their well discharge (GPM) may be able to borrow a portable flow meter from their local conservation district.

In some counties, water management specialists are located in conservation district offices in the Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS) office. These specialists may be able to help producers use the program. Also, in some Extension offices, growers can get assistance from agents in using the program.

Farmers can receive financial and technical assistance for using the Pipe Planner program as a part of the EQIP 449 Irrigation Water Management Conservation Practice. Farmers can also get financial assistance for installing polytubing through EQIP 443 Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface Conservation Practice.



Interested persons watch a polytubing demonstration using the Pipe Planner program, which uses a computer to select hole size for the polytube.



# So You Think You Want to Grow Southern Peas

By Dr. Henry English, director, Small Farm Program, UAPB

A yield of 100 to 150 bushels per acre (25 pounds per bushel is the average yield for hand-harvested fresh southern peas) and 75 to 112 bushels per acre is the average yield for machine-harvested southern peas. The 25 pounds of green pods per bushel should shell out to approximately 13 pounds of fresh peas if good production practices were practiced.

Select a variety based on customer preference, pest resistance, yield and harvest method. If hand-harvesting, use either bush type or vining types. If machine harvesting, use bush types. The Pinkeye Purple Hull is very popular in south Arkansas. Some recommended pinkeye varieties include Quick Pick, Top Pick Pinkeye, Texas Pinkeye and Pinkeye Purple

Hull BVR.

For good yields, begin with a soil test for fertility recommendations. Seeding rates vary according to seed sizes, but a general guide is 20 to 25 pounds per acre for bush types and 15 to 20 pounds per acre for vining type varieties.

Row spacing is 4 to 6 seeds per foot for bush types and 2 to 4 seeds per foot for vining types. Plant seeds ½ to 1 ½ inches deep. The optimum soil temperature range for germination is 70 to 95 degrees F. Planting dates range from May 1 to August 1. Southern peas mature in 55 to 70 days depending upon variety and weather conditions. For fall production, plant early enough so that harvesting is completed before damaging frost occurs.



Southern peas breeding plots on the UAPB farm in Lonoke.

To control weeds, consult the Cooperative Extension Service publication MP 44 *Recommended Chemicals for Weed and Brush Control* for herbicides and rates.

# Average Land Value and Rent Prices in Arkansas

By Stephan Walker, Extension associate, UAPB

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts an annual survey to collect data on crop acreage, land use, grain stocks, farms, rents and the value of land and sales. The figures in the table are from the 2019 June

Area Survey.

Both the value of cropland and the cash rents increased from 2018 to 2019 on the national level while individual states experienced increases or decreases. For pastureland, both value and cash

rent rates increased on the national level.

At the state level, the value of cropland (irrigated and non-irrigated) in 2019 ranged from \$1,040 per acre in Montana to \$13,700 per acre in New Jersey.

NASS information may be used to provide producers with a guide as to what land is worth and what it rents for in Arkansas. Remember, these are average values only. Information from local real estate agencies may be a better source.

Find land value through the Quick Stats 2.0 database ([quickstats.nass.usda.gov](http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov)) and find national, state and county cash rents data at [www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide\\_to\\_NASS\\_Surveys/Cash\\_Rents\\_by\\_County/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Cash_Rents_by_County/)

## Arkansas Average Land Value Per Acre

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cropland Irrigated	\$3,230	\$3,290	\$3,340
Cropland Non-Irrigated	\$1,960	\$1,990	\$2,060
Pastureland	\$2,460	\$2,530	\$2,610

## Arkansas Average Cash Rent Per Acre

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cropland Irrigated	\$132	\$136	\$131
Cropland Non-Irrigated	\$43	\$49	\$49
Pastureland	\$18	\$18	\$19

# Extra Help to Control Feral Hogs in 12 Counties

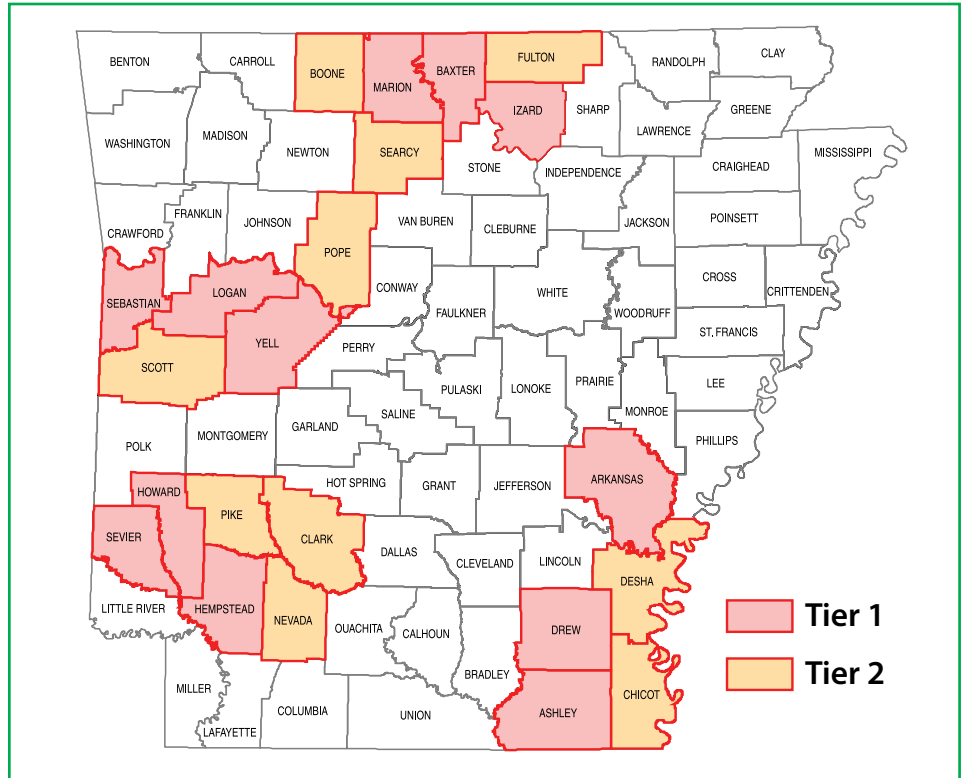
*Dr. Henry English, director, UAPB Small Farm Program*

Feral hogs continue to be a major problem in Arkansas causing millions of dollars of damage yearly. In addition to crop losses, feral hogs damage pastures, destroy wildlife habitat, pollute water and transmit disease to livestock and, in rare cases, to people. Hogs move into urban areas and damage parks, cemeteries, yards and gardens. In prior years about 1,000 feral hogs were trapped yearly under an EQIP pilot program.

To help stem the damage, four pilot projects are underway in areas of Arkansas with the most excessive damage from feral hogs. The pilot projects are Ozark, Southeast, Southwest and West River Valley. These projects are being conducted by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with the Arkansas Agriculture Department Natural Resources Division.

Two of these projects – the Southeast and Southwest – are within the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff’s (UAPB) Small Farm program target areas. Funding is available for Tier 1 counties with plans to include Tier 2 counties later. Tier 1 counties in the southeast are Drew, Ashley, and Arkansas. Southwest Tier 1 counties include Sevier, Howard, and Hempstead.

Producers in Tier 1 counties are eligible for assistance through the pilot project, which consists of three coordinated components (1) feral hog removal by



Extra Help for feral hog eradication is available in Tier 1 counties.

APHIS, (2) restoration efforts supported by NRCS and (3) assistance to producers for feral swine control provided through partnership agreements with non-federal partners.

“APHIS is providing technical oversight and coordination of the trapping program,” Robert Byrd, APHIS Wildlife Services state director, said. “If producers

sight any signs of feral hog activity, they can call me at (501) 835-2318.”

Or, producers can also report sightings, signs or damage to the Arkansas Hog Eradication Taskforce by completing the Arkansas Feral Hog Sighting Report-Cognito form available online at <https://cognitofrms.com/ArkansasAgriculture1/ArkansasFeralHogsSightingReport>.

# Social Distancing Could Benefit Your Woodlands

*By Carol Sanders, writer/editor, UAPB*

With social distancing guidelines in place, landowners can still manage and protect their land during Covid-19. WoodsCamp, an Internet tool of the American Forest Foundation, offers these suggestions from Stephen Lloyd of the Florida Forest Service.

First, walk your property with goals in mind. Think what you would like from your woodlands in 5, 10 or 25 years. Consider all goals from increasing wildlife to generating income.

Second, bring a notebook or camera and look for work that needs to be done such as repairs to fences, culverts or walking trails; updating property line signage and markers; or maintaining a fire break. Take photos of your land this year and each year thereafter to document its condition. These may come in handy in case of a natural disaster.

Contact your forester especially if you need help with a land management plan, to work on your goals or are seeking cost-share opportuni-

ties. Your chances of reaching a forester may have increased because of his/her working from home or office.

Tune in to online workshops, webinars or podcasts.

Take care of estate planning. The American Forest Foundation has information on estate planning topics on [MyLandPlan.org](http://MyLandPlan.org). These resources may be accessed without a My Land Plan account.

Review tax guidelines. Check

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out TimberTax.org, “Forest Landowners Guide to the Federal Income Tax” and “Understanding Your Taxes” (MyLandPlan.org.).

Check into establishing a My Land Plan account. It helps in organization of goals, activities, photos and documents related to land, and it is free.

Look into stewardship programs. Ask your forester about American Tree Farm System (ATFS), Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) or other cost-share programs you may qualify for. If you are already participating in FSP or ATFS and are seeking to recertify, contact your forester.

Learn to identify invasive species. Do a Google search of invasive species in your area, and take photos of anything you are unsure of to send to your forester. Also use an online tool such as Bugwood Apps to help in identification.



Enjoy the beauty and fresh air your land provides. What you should NOT do is request face-to-face contact with contractors or

agree to an unplanned timber sale. Stick to your management plan and work with only reputable contractors and buyers vetted by a forester.

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