

AG HAPPENINGS

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Farley's Thoughts

As spring approaches, I believe it is a good time to count our blessings. As I reflect on the devastation to livestock, wildlife, and obviously, the people, who lost their lives in the wildfires in the Panhandle of Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, it reminds me that conditions could be much worse here in Central Texas. The rains late last summer and fall were a mixed blessing. A lot of grass was grown for grazing, but it left a lot of dry forage that contributed to a fuel source for the wildfires.

I always look forward to spring, especially after a warmer winter that has adequate rainfall. 2017 holds a lot of promise. Deep moisture is in the ground. Cattle prices have actually improved since last fall. Peanut, corn, and cotton acres are going to be up this year. Peanut and cotton prices are up compared to last year. Pecan prices are very good for this time of the year. Milk prices are well above year ago levels, but still need to improve. Dairies have a lot of leftover feed, especially hay.

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New Retail Store Opening

A block off historic downtown DeLeon on the corner of Gonzales and Austin you can find our new and improved retail location that provides all your pet, lawn, garden, and vet supplies. You need to come by and see all the new merchandise out on display. We still sell all your livestock feeds, fencing supplies, and more but have added lots of extras!

Ernie says, "don't forget to ask for lawn preemerge to get those pesky grassburrs."



Forage and Grain Sorghum Management for Aphids

All is not lost when it comes to planting sorghum but there are some recommendations that will certainly help overcome Sugarcane Aphid problems....

- Plant early. Sugarcane aphid populations begin to increase as weather warms but coming out of winter populations are low. Getting your sorghum crop in the ground early gives the plant a head start.
- Sorghum seed treated with a neonicotinoid insecticide gives up to 45 days of aphid control. This gives the young plant time to establish and could help delay an insecticide treatment.
- None of the so-called resistant or tolerant hybrids have been shown to be able to keep aphid numbers below treatment thresholds. At best they slow the rate of aphid population increase; when the aphids arrive the threshold will most probably be exceeded and insecticides will be necessary. However, research has shown that there is a significant economic benefit to using resistant hybrids even though they still need to be sprayed at the normal threshold. Let us help you with variety selection if you want resistance.

Don't be afraid to plant any of our sorghum type plants whether for forage or grain, just be smart about it!

Farley's Thoughts continued:

One of the things that I am thankful for, is a decision that I made many years ago. After graduating from Tarleton State University, my wife and I decided to stay in the rural setting of De Leon, Texas. We could have moved to the big city and tried to make the most money possible but I have never regretted our decision to stay in a rural area. Being allowed to operate an independent business, dealing with country customers and country employees keeps me happy. National corporations struggle to provide good customer service, care for small communities, or their employees. Other than the grace of God, Farley Farm Supply would not have survived 40 years without loyal customers and loyal employees.

I appreciate and do not take for granted the many blessings that have been bestowed on my family at Farley Farm Supply.

Enough Nostalgia!!!!!! Let's get on with spring 2017.

.....JIM

Keith's Thoughts

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I have had the good fortune to partner with Jim Farley right after my college graduation. Although Farley Farm Supply has undergone several changes over the past forty years, Jim and I have maintained a personal and business relationship for (Cont on next page)

Cotton Planting

Using Topguard Terra To Control Cotton Root Rot: New Label Amendments

The Texas Department of Agriculture has approved a FIFRA a 2ee supplemental label for additional methods of application. The fungicide can be applied up to 30 days before planting 2-4 inches directly below where the seed is to be planted. The use of equipment with GPS guidance systems may ensure proper placement.

The fungicide can also be applied pre-emergence in a 3-4 inch band behind the planter press wheel, it can be applied over the top to 1-2 leaf cotton, and it can be applied as a directed spray to the base of 2-4 leaf cotton. With these methods, rain or overhead irrigation is needed afterwards to activate the fungicide.

Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency recently approved an amendment of the Section 3 label to allow application through the drip tape. The tape must be directly below the cotton and run in the same direction of the row and should be no deeper than 12 inches below the soil surface

Best Management Practices For Auxin (2,4-D Type Herbicides)-Tolerant Cotton Technologies

In recent news, new auxin herbicides have received Section 3 approval for use in XtendFlex (dicamba-tolerant) and Enlist (2,4-D tolerant) cotton. Currently, three dicamba herbicides (XtendiMax™ with VaporGrip™ Technology, FeXapan™, and Engenia™) and one 2,4-D containing herbicide (Enlist Duo™ with Colex-D™ Technology) have received federal approval. At the time of this writing, XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology, Engenia, and Enlist Duo with Colex-D Technology have received approval for use in Texas. FeXapan herbicide is not currently approved for use in Texas at the time of this writing, but is anticipated to receive state approval in the near future.

The ability to use these herbicides will certainly provide additional options for managing troublesome glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth and common waterhemp, but will also present some challenges with regard to off-target or drift movement of these herbicides. Most drift from cotton fields will be to pasture with no issues but with more and more planting of peanuts and other susceptible crops we need to be very careful.



Keith's Thoughts continued

twenty of those years. This relationship has allowed us to share a mutual vision for the success of the company.

As we approach spring there are several decisions that need to be made that will affect us for the upcoming year. In addition to my job at Farley Farm Supply, I have a cow/calf operation, peach orchard, and various farming endeavors.

There are many decisions I will make this spring which will affect my personal operations, just as those decisions will affect many of you. I worry about cattle prices, rain, crop yields and production cost not only for my personal operations, but also for how these factors will affect our customer base.

The decision I made in college to pursue a career in the agriculture industry has been a solid choice for myself and my family. I believe in the future of agriculture, not only for myself, my two sons and you, the grower.



Pecans: PNC, Scab and Fertility

Pecan prices have been really good this year so far and it looks like they will stay that way for awhile. Most growers I've talked to are preparing to make 2017 as good a year as possible and trying to make sure they do things right in their orchards.

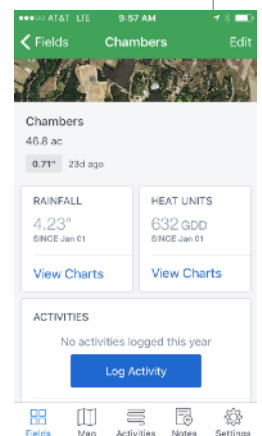
There is one insect, pecan nut casebearer, and one disease, pecan scab, that can derail your plans and as always you can't grow without food (fertility).

- Pecan scab fungicides work very well if used properly. In fungicide trials I conducted last year the primary reason for success was beginning treatments early. Treatment should start in the beginning stages of nutlet development, around May 1st and not wait till the end of May or into June to start.
- Pecan nut casebearer can take over 50% of your crop in the 1st generation and if not treated will hang around doing damage in the 2nd and 3rd generations. The best insurance you can buy is a simple PNC trap that tells you when to spray. We sell the traps but we do need to know if you need traps since we order traps and bait when needed to keep them fresh. Traps need to be put out in the orchard around April 15 and you need at least one trap on 40 acres. Don't miss out, call and let us know to order your traps.
- Lastly, don't delay on fertility. Now is the time to apply nitrogen and it is easy and cheaper with urea and a simple tractor pull spreader. Also, don't forget the zinc at budbreak. We have had great success with N-Zinc liquid and continue to offer it at the same price.



Technology Works!

It's hard to believe how dependent we have become on technology in our daily lives... social media, the internet, and our smart phones. These same technologies are also available in our business ventures, more specifically agriculture. One great smart phone app that has recently gained popularity is called FarmLogs. The app allows individuals, after creating an account, the ability to save individual field locations to keep track of crop information. The best part about the app is that it alerts you with the daily rain totals on every field! It's not 100% accurate (we've seen it over an inch off after a big rain), but it gives a general idea and provides historic rain data. FarmLogs also allows the user to record the





Peanut Planting

Another significant change in our area is the acres being planted to peanuts. One thing driving this increase is a better price. Grower prices have gone from \$350 a ton to being over \$500 per ton. Another factor has been the rotation out of peanuts for a number of years. Coming back to peanuts on basically clean ground increases yields and virtually eliminates disease sprays. Two (2) tons of peanuts per acre with low input costs can sure mean more money in a growers pocket. Sure makes peanut competitive with any other crop you might grow.



amount of inputs (i.e. fertilizer), seeding rates, and planting dates to maximize crop health. The best part... FarmLogs is free of charge! "But wait there's a catch?" After you create your account, the FarmLogs team will contact you via email in order to sell the paid subscription of the app that unlocks a new level of crop management tools. FarmLogs finally contacted me by phone last week encouraging me to experience the upgraded version of the app. I told them I couldn't justify paying for the app and they were more than understanding and grateful that I downloaded their app. But that's just me, this app may be the key to taking your operation to the next level. If you have a smart phone, you would be foolish not to download the FarmLogs app as you as you finish reading our newsletter! Matt Nowlin, *Lead Technologist*

What Does Your Soil Sample Say?

We do appreciate the fact that most producers simply trust us to make recommendations for soil fertility but we do send you a copy of your soil sample shortly after we receive it from the lab. We take time to look at your soil levels and the crop you plan to grow to make a recommendation. A soil lab will make a crop fertility recommendation but we use our local experience to make what is usually a lower recommendation for fertilizer. These "suggestions" are based on experience and what we think will be a normal yield. If you think your yields would be higher or lower then your recommendation would change. Don't hesitate to call and talk to us about your soil sample results, that's why we take them so we don't have to guess!

Corn Planting

Corn planting acres continue to increase as dairy producers make the switch from sorghum silage to corn silage. Part of that is due to aphid problems in sorghum but a big part is due to good levels of soil moisture especially in dryland fields. Another consideration is that corn varieties are much, much better than years ago. We can plant earlier, have greater cold tolerance, better fertilizer utilization, higher plant populations and best of all higher yield. The first consideration is always who will buy your silage but it is a viable crop that deserves some consideration in your crop mix.

