Extension Retirement

Jeff Copeland, Area Livestock Agent, is retiring on October 1 after 29 years with Cooperative Extension. This special occasion will be celebrated with an informal floating get-together and pig pickin lunch from 1-4 p.m. on August 7 at the Perquimans County Extension office. Extension wants to include anyone interested in attending, but has to rely on our mailing lists which may miss some people. Feel free to invite your family and friends that may not hear about Jeff’s retirement celebration otherwise. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by calling the Perquimans County office at 426-5428 by July 31 so they can adequately plan for food.

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Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact your county Cooperative Extension agent.

For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact Denise Bunch at 252-482-6585 no later than five business days before the event. 369 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of $29.52, or $0.08 per copy.
Peanut Spray Advisory

Chowan County farmers can visit the Chowan County Extension website at http://chowan.ces.ncsu.edu/ to receive the daily Peanut Leaf Spot and Sclerotinia Spray Advisories. Select “Field Crops” from the menu on the left of your screen, then scroll down until you see “Peanut Advisory”. I have posted each days spray advisory there starting with July 17. If you would prefer to receive this advisory by fax, please call me at 482-6585.

Fields with a history of Sclerotinia should be scouted carefully to determine if the disease is present and if treatment is necessary. I’ve also seen Tomato Spotted Wilt in Peanuts in addition to leafspot. Producers who have not made their first leafspot fungicide applications should do so as soon as possible.

Tri-County Wheat Production Meeting

A tri-county wheat production meeting will be held at the Gates County Extension office on Tuesday, August 4. Dr. Randy Weisz, Extension Small Grains Specialist, will be on hand to discuss various production topics. The meeting will start at 12 noon. For more information, or to pre-register, call the Extension office at 482-6585. Pesticide credits have been applied for.

2009 Wheat Variety Recommendations

Randy Weisz • NC State University & Christina Cowger • USDA-ARS

Our recommendations are based on variety tests from the 2008 and 2009 NC Small Grains Official Variety Testing Program (OVT or “Green Book”), 2009 Beaufort County variety tests conducted by Gaylon Ambrose, and observations of pest levels in tests across NC over the past three years. The information we collect on variety resistance to insect and disease pests is published here in Table 1, and also in the OVT. Our variety rankings are not always the same as those reported in the OVT, because 1) we use additional tests not available to the OVT, 2) we may exclude low yielding locations used in the OVT, and 3) we examine both average variety performance and stability of performance across years and regions.

Last year variety performance in Perquimans County differed from the rest of the state. This year, those differences were less pronounced. Consequently, we are releasing a single variety recommendations list for all of NC. However, several varieties that performed differently in the northeast are noted in Table 1.

Variety Selection

• **Plant at least three varieties.** The “Above Average Yielding” varieties are good first choices for 2009 (see Table 1). The next to consider are the “Above Average But Less Consistent Yielders”. These are varieties that on average had high yield, but are more risky. Finally, the “Average Yielding Varieties” are likely to produce acceptable yields but may not win a yield contest.

• **To avoid freeze damage** no more than one (if any) early or med-early heading variety should be planted, and at least one late heading variety should be planted.

• **Fine-tune variety choices to make sure they hold up** against the most common problems in your region. Here are some examples:
2009 Wheat Variety Recommendations continued....

- **Central Piedmont.** The three most common yield robbers in this area include Spring freeze damage, Barley yellow dwarf virus, and Fusarium head blight (scab). A variety that was high yielding, late heading, and resistant to these two diseases would be ideal. Table 1 shows that Dyna-Gro Shirley is such a variety.

- **Coastal Plains.** Powdery mildew, leaf rust, and soilborne mosaic virus are common wheat pests in this region. Ideal wheat varieties should be high yielding and have resistance to all three of these diseases. Table 1 shows that Dyna-Gro Dominion, P 26R12, USG 3342, and SS 8641 meet these criteria.

- **Tidewater.** Hessian fly and Soilborne mosaic virus have been frequent yield robbers in the Tidewater. Two varieties with resistance to these pests are P 26R12 and C 9436 (Table 1).

**Special Recommendations For Head Scab**

In 2009, some growers were hard-hit by Fusarium head blight (“scab”). Scab can be a problem any year that we have rain and mild temperatures before and during flowering, when wheat is susceptible to this disease. Abundant corn debris, whether on your farm or elsewhere in your county, also increases scab risk. Scab lowers wheat yields and test weights, and produces a toxin called DON or “vomitoxin” that can make grain unsuitable for human or animal consumption. Here are some important recommendations to keep in mind:

- **Variety resistance is the best defense against scab.** Many varieties have moderate to good resistance to scab. Plant varieties rated “MR” for scab. Do not depend on resistance if the variety is only designated as “S” for “susceptible.”

- **Plant at least three varieties with different heading dates,** to avoid all your wheat flowering at the same time.

- **Avoid planting very late.** Late planting means later flowering in the spring, when warmer temperatures are more favorable for scab.

- **If it is rainy during and after heading,** and the variety has high yield potential but is rated “S” or “MS” for scab, consider **applying a special fungicide** at flowering. These include Prosaro and Caramba; they must be applied with nozzles angled at 45 degrees, and may reduce scab by 40-60%. Folicur will also provide some control. Do not apply a strobilurin fungicide for scab.

- **To help make fungicide decisions** just before and while your wheat is flowering next Spring, check the scab risk forecasting website at www.wheatscab.psu.edu. This website will tell you if you have high, medium, or low scab risk.

**Need More Information?**

Go to http://www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu or call your local county Extension office.

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Made possible with funding from the NC Small Grain Growers Association. Use of brand names & mention or listing of commercial products does not imply endorsement by the NC Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.
Go to the NCSU Small Grains Website at the following address to access the table.

http://www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu/SmartGrains/No22VarietySelection2009.pdf
Select “2008-09 NE NC Wheat Variety Trials” from the website to access the chart that appears on the following 2 pages in the mailed newsletter.
Northeast Ag Expo

The 2009 Northeast Ag Expo will be held in Camden County at the Farm of J.C. and Cliff Rountree on Wednesday, August 12. This year’s featured crop is soybeans. Private and commercial pesticide applicator credits, in addition to Certified Crop Advisor credits, will be offered. The agenda is listed below. For more information, including directions to the farm, go to the Chowan County Extension website, click on “Field Crops” and scroll down to the link for the 2009 Expo.

7:30 am    Registration
8:15 am    Welcoming Remarks
8:30 am    Planting Dates and Growth Stages of Soybeans - Dr. Ron Heiniger, Extension Crops Science Specialist, NC State University
8:55 am    Soil Compaction and Its Effect on Soybeans - Alan Meijer, Extension Soils Specialist, NC State University
9:20 am    Pre- and Post-emergence Herbicide Programs for Soybeans - Dr. David Jordan, Extension Peanut Specialist, NC State University
9:45 am    Soybean Varieties - Mark Powell, Interim County Extension Director, Camden County
10:10 am   Plant Populations for Roundup Ready Soybeans - Dr. Jim Dunphy, Extension Soybean Specialist, NC State University
10:35 am   Nematode Management for Soybeans - Dr. Steve Koenning, Extension Plant Pathologist, NC State University
11:00 am   Yield Enhancers - Dr. Jim Dunphy, Extension Soybean Specialist, NC State University
11:25 am   Wildlife Food Plots for Doves - David Rowe, Supervising Wildlife Biologist Coastal Region, NC Wildlife Resource Commission
11:50 am   Lunch Ruritan Club, South Mills on NC 343
1:00 pm    Weather and Its Impact on Crop Production (at Ruritan Club Building), Dr. Ron Heininger, Extension Crops Science Specialist, NC State University
1:30 pm    A Cost Effective and Agronomically Sound Fertility Program (at Ruritan Building) - Dr. Carl Crozier, Extension Soils Specialist, NC State University
2:00 pm    Land Shaping From a Farmer's Perspective - Don Keaton/Ray Albertson
2:30 pm    Water Control Structure Pilot Project - Chad Poole, Research Associate, Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Upcoming Events

July 29  Cotton Scouting School, 2 hours N, O, D, and X pesticide credits
Martin County; 6—8:30 p.m.; Call J.B. Coltrain at 792-1621

August 4  Tri-County Wheat Meeting, Pesticide credits applied for
Gates County Extension Office, 12 noon

August 5  Blackland Farm Managers Association Tour
Carawan Farms, Hyde County, 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

August 7  Retirement Celebration for Jeff Copeland
Perquimans County Extension Office, 1-4 p.m.

August 12  Northeast Ag Expo
Camden County, 7:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m

September 15  Private Pesticide Applicator “V” Training
Pasquotank County Extension office, 5:30—7:30 p.m.

“X” Training; 2 hours A,G, H, I, L, N, O, D and X credits
Pasquotank County Extension office, 7:30—9:30 p.m.

September 15  Virginia Tech Tidewater AREC Pre-Harvest Crops Tour
Hare Road Research Farm, Suffolk, VA