Agriculture News
Chowan County Crops Newsletter

Congratulations to the Cotton Yield Contest Winners

First Place - Hayes Farm
Second Place - Carey and CY Parrish
Third Place - Yates Parrish and Son

The winners will be recognized at the Farmer’s Appreciation Banquet, the date of which has yet to be determined. All three will also receive two bale/acre certificates.

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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 Market Outlook

Dell Cotton, Executive Secretary of the Virginia Peanut Growers Association and Manager of the Peanut Growers Cooperative Marketing Association, will be at the Ag Center in Chowan County on Monday, March 16 at 6 p.m. to update producers on the peanut market and contract situation in 2009. Pizza will be provided at a cost of $5 per person. Call the Extension Office at 482-6585 by noon on March 16 if you would like to enjoy the meal.

Perquimans County Marketing Meeting
Lewis Smith, County Extension Director

All of you know that farm commodity prices have suffered while some input costs have continued to rise into 2009. Profit margins will be much thinner this year than in 2008. Many are still trying to decide which crops to plant, and how much acreage to devote to each one. On Thursday, March 19th beginning at 12 noon in the Perquimans Extension center auditorium, Drs. Nick Piggott and Michele Marra from the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics will be conducting a meeting that will hopefully make some of your decisions in this area easier. The items that will be covered are:

- Grains and soybean market outlook in 2009
- Impact of the Farm Bill on your operation
- Crop Insurance Options/Needs
- Marketing Tools for your use including forward contracting, puts, call, and options

I realize this could be a busy time depending on the weather. But most of you know that predicting market prices and trends is difficult. The closer to planting that we can have this meeting, the better the information will be for your decision-making. You also realize marketing is one of the only areas that you can directly control to improve your chances of making a profit. We’ll provide sandwiches, chips, and drinks for lunch. You are welcomed to attend the whole meeting, or only the parts that interest you. Contact the Perquimans office at 426-5428 by March 18th so that we can plan for adequate food.

Oil Recycling

If you have used motor oil you would like picked up for recycling please call the Extension office and leave your name, contact information and an estimate of the number of gallons of oil you have. The company prefers to come when we have enough for a truckload but in the event we’re short, I’ve talked with Paul Smith in Gates County about having a pickup that covers both counties.

Factors Contributing to the Recent Increase in U.S. Fertilizer Prices Report

USDA has published a report from the Economic Research Service that looks at supply and demand factors affecting fertilizer prices in the U.S., fertilizer markets and the longterm supply. The report can be accessed at http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/AR33/AR33.pdf or you can pick up a copy at the Extension Office.
Estimating Potential Yield of a North Carolina Wheat Crop

By Randy Weisz

At various times through the growing season, it can be helpful to have a means of evaluating the potential yield of a given wheat crop. This can assist in determining how well the crop is developing, if additional inputs may be beneficial, or if the crop should be abandoned for full-season beans. One of the simplest approaches to estimating potential yield in a wheat crop is to count the number of heads in a given area. Since wheat yields are directly proportional to head density, counting heads per unit area can provide a good estimate of potential yield. If the crop has not headed out, but is close to jointing, the number of heads per square foot can be estimated by counting the number of tillers with at least three leaves.

![Figure 1. Low-seed-weight varieties (18,000 seeds/lb).](image1)

![Figure 2. Medium-low seed weight varieties (15,000 seeds/lb).](image2)

![Figure 3. Medium-high-weight varieties (14,000 seeds/lb).](image3)

![Figure 4. High-seed-weight varieties (13,000 seeds/lb).](image4)

This file is a chapter from Small Grains Production Guide, 2004-05. 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 the NC Cooperative Extension Service 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 Center.
Upcoming Events

March 16  Peanut Market Outlook with Dell Cotton  
Chowan County Ag Center, 6:00 p.m.  
Call 482-6585 to register

March 19  County Marketing Meeting, Perquimans County Extension Auditorium  
12 noon

March 24  4-H Achievement Night and Leader’s Appreciation Banquet  
Chowan County Ag Center, 6:30 p.m.  
Must RSVP by March 18 in order to enjoy dinner

March 30  Transportation Meeting with DMV Troop A  
Getting Farm Equipment Down the Road and Other Road Rules Ag Producers Need to Know  
Nixon’s Catering, 10:00 a.m. with lunch following

March 31  Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training  
Chowan County Ag Center, 8:00 a.m.

We are updating our mailing list. If you would like your name removed from the Agriculture News mailing list please call us at 482-6585. If you would prefer to start receiving the newsletter electronically, please email Heather at heather_lifsey@ncsu.edu and put “newsletter” in the subject line.