Agricultural Advisory Board

The Chowan County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance was adopted by the County Commissioners during their September meeting. The next step is to form the Agricultural Advisory Board, which oversees the program. This Board requires a minimal time commitment.

To be eligible, nominees must be actively engaged in farming or own qualifying farmland in Chowan County. An application form has been included in this newsletter.

The Voluntary Agricultural District ordinance is posted online at the Chowan County Extension website: http://chowan.ces.ncsu.edu/

For more information call 482-6585.

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North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.
Wheat Management

Due to fall’s wet weather many farmers had to delay planting wheat, if they were able to plant at all, until December. As a result wheat is behind it’s normal growth schedule. In most years and in most varieties wheat reaches GS-30 around March 1-15. Early heading varieties like SS 520 or Panola can reach GS-30 in February. Since this is the ideal time to make the main Nitrogen application, knowing when your wheat hits this milestone is important.

GS-30 is when the crop switches from developing tillers to starting to make grain. It is also the time when the plant starts taking up Nitrogen. When the plant reaches GS-30 it starts to “stand up” and if you slice open the stem you can look for the growing point. At GS-30 the growing point looks like a tiny green pine cone and is 1/2 inch up from the bottom of the stem (see picture).

Based on this year’s conditions, the time to tissue sample may not come until around March 15 if not later. We have a new publication “Optimizing Wheat Nitrogen Fertilizer Rates - A New Tool For North Carolina Producers” that includes a chart with N recommendations for low, medium and high biomass wheat. Selecting the optimal N rate is very different for thin wheat versus thick whet so this would be a good year to use a tissue test.

The system described in the new publication has been developed to help optimize N rates specifically for NC producers. This is in response to research showing the Virginia recommendations, which have been traditionally used, can overestimate the required N for our growing conditions. For more information on tissue sampling, or to receive a copy of the publication, call the Extension office. You can also access the publication at http://www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu.

Pesticide Collection Day

If you have any unwanted chemicals or your farm or in your backyard shed, mark your calendar for either March 3 or May 19. Gates County Cooperative Extension will be hosting a pesticide collection day on March 3 at Lane Farm Supply in Gates from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. On May 19 there will be a collection day in Chowan County. This is a great opportunity to dispose of unwanted chemicals in a safe and legal manner. If you have any questions please call the Extension Office.

Budget Forms

Enterprise budgets for corn, wheat, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, wheat and organic production are available online at http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/extension/Ag_budgets.html. If you don’t have internet access, call the Extension office and we will mail you a copy.

If you are looking for a budget worksheet on figuring crop insurance, try the 2010 Crop Insurance Decision Tool put together by the University of Illinois. You can access it at http://www.farmdoc.illinios.edu/. You will need to download the program before you can use it to enter your farm’s numbers.
Fuel Containment Wall Regulation Meeting

On Friday, March 5 Farm Bureau will host a meeting to discuss the new Fuel Containment Wall regulations. The meeting will be held at Nixon’s Catering and is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. Call Farm Bureau at 482-7434 to register for lunch.

4-H Livestock Show and Sale

The Chowan County 4-H Livestock Show and Sale will be held Tuesday, April 20 at the American Legion fairgrounds. The show starts at 1:00 p.m. Mark your calendar and come support Chowan County youth as they showcase their lambs, goats, hogs and steers.
Upcoming Events

March 3  Pesticide Collection Day - Gates County, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
        Lane Farm Supply, Gates
        Contact Paul Smith, Gates County Agriculture Agent, at 357-1400

March 4  Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training, 3-5 p.m.
        Chowan County Ag Center

March 4  Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training, 7-9 p.m.
        Chowan County Ag Center

March 5  Fuel Containment Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Nixon’s Catering
        Pre-registration required. Call 482-7434 to register.

March 23 Vegetable Production Meeting, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
        Chowan County Ag Center

April 6  Farm City Banquet, Nixon’s Catering

April 21 Chowan County 4-H Livestock Show and Sale

May 19  Pesticide Collection Day - Chowan County