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NEWS LETTER MARCH 2010

Upcoming Production Meetings:

Row Crop Insect Management for Maximum Profit

Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010

Time: 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Place: David's Catfish House in Atmore, Alabama

Speakers: 9:15 – 10:15 Dr. Tim Reed, Soybean insect management

10:15 – 10:30 Richard Petcher, Staying on top of peanut insect damage

10:30 – 12:00 Dr. Ron Smith, Cotton insect control for top profits

Noon – Lunch

12:15 – 1:30 Dr. Kathy Flanders, Primary Focus on Corn and Wheat with a short focus on grain sorghum and grain storage.

Alabama Department of Agriculture Pesticide Points and CCA Pesticide Points will be given for attending this meeting. This meeting has been approved for 10 recertification points for Demonstration and Research (D&R) and Agricultural Plant Pest Control (AP).

Gypsum and it's Many Uses on Row Crops

Speaker: Dr. Malcolm Sumner with the Southern Company. Dr. Sumner is Professor Emitrus with University of Georgia Soil and Environmental Science.

Date: Thursday, March 25, 2010. Time: 12 noon until 1:30. Place: West Side Bistro, (251-634-1982) located at 9943 Life Line Court. From Airport Boulevard take Snow Road North and then in about ½ mile take Life Line Court to the left. From Tanner Williams road take Snow Road South and then take Life Line Court to the right.

Gypsum and it's Many Uses on Row Crops. Dr. Malcolm Sumner is with the Southern Company.

Dr. Sumner is Professor Emitrus with University of Georgia Soil and Environmental Science. Date: Thursday, March 25, 2010. Time: 7:00 p.m. Place: ALFA Building in Robertsedale. This will be a part of the Elberta Young Farmers monthly meeting.

ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES, AND TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY, COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES AND USDA COOPERATING

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to

Corn Planting Time is Fast Approaching

The February, "On The Farm" News Letter focused on corn hybrid selection. There are also many questions about Bt corn this year. Hopefully this publication will help growers decide when a particular type of Bt corn is appropriate.

<http://www.aces.edu/dept/grain/documents/BtCornBuyersGuide.pdf>

Bob and Max's Best Guess Outlook for Different Row Crops in 2010

Crop	Expected Yield	Total	Brkeven	Total	Brkeven	Expected
		Variable Expenses	Price Over Var Exp		Price Over Total Exp	
Corn (bu)	160	\$475	\$2.97	\$578	\$3.61	3.85
Irr Corn (bu)	250	\$804	\$3.21	\$1,062	\$4.25	3.85
Cotton (lbs Int)	850	\$598	\$0.43	\$736	\$0.87	0.65
Irr Cotton	1200	\$820	\$0.43	\$1,101	\$0.92	0.65
Soybeans (bu)	60	\$335	\$5.59	\$437	\$7.29	9.00
Peanuts(Tons)	2	\$603	\$301.68	\$769	\$384.30	400

The above table presents an example of how farmers could "put a pencil to" our profit outlook for the coming year. To do this for your own farm, just substitute you own yields, costs and price forecast. The information you might need to do this can be found on our ACES website. In our "Profit Profiles", Max Runge, lists various cost items and reports from the commodity exchanges on futures prices. In the "Agribusiness" section you can find sample enterprise budgets to help you figure your costs of production. Go to <http://www.aces.edu> for all kinds of useful information about farming.

Cotton

The two primary questions right now on cotton are what how much does it cost to grow cotton and which cotton variety do I plant?

APPLIED SCIENCE COTTON REPORT 2009

I would like to thank each grower and sponsor for their hard work in conducting these tests that are so helpful to our area row crop producers.

Cotton Conventional Variety Test 2009

Producer: Micky Wilkins in Monroe County

Regional Extension Agronomist: Richard L. Petcher

Auburn University Cotton Agronomist: Dr. Charles D. Monks

This test was replicated 2 times. Plot was planted on 38 inch row spacing. Rows were 1228 feet long and 8 rows were harvestd. Plot size was 0.71 acres.

Planted on May 22, 2009
Harvested on November 18, 2009

Variety	Seed Treatment	Maturity	% Lint	Lint Yield in pounds per acre
Delta Pine 555 BR	Avicta	F	0.43	1260 lb.
Fiber Max 1845 B2 LL	Aeris Trilex	M-F	0.39	1219
LA 1110017	Gaucho	M-F	0.39	1110
Bronco	Aeris	M-F	0.41	1097
CT 210	Gaucho	M-F	0.41	1086
CT 212	Aeris	E-M	0.39	1055
LA 1110035	Gaucho	M-F	0.39	1044
DP 491	Aeris	E-M	0.41	1039
ST 300-050 Linwood	Aeris	E-M	0.41	1005
GA 161	Temik	F	0.39	1000
CT 310	Temik	E-M	0.38	995
ARK 0102-48	Temik	E-M	0.38	985
Phytogen 440 WF	Aeris	E-M	0.41	982
SSG 593	Aeris	Okra leaf ?	0.39	967

Appreciation is expressed to Micky Wilkins, cotton producer, Payton Casey with Growers Supply and the sponsors of this test, the Alabama Cotton Commission and the Delta-Pine, Stoneville, FiberMax, Phytogen, Seed Source Genetics, UGA, LSU and Arkansas Universities.

The varieties Deltapine 555 BGR, FM 1845B2LL and Phytogen 440 WF are not conventional varieties. They were included in this test as standards. Some growers planting conventional cotton use the FM B2 1845LL and the Phytogen 440 WF in their program as these varieties do give some insect protection.

Conventional Cotton Varieties for our area That are Commercially Available

From Seed Source Genetics: 361-548-7560

CT 210 Mid to Full Season Variety

Linwood Early to Mid Season Variety

CT 310 Early to Mid Season Variety

From Bronco Seed: 325-773-2741

Bronco 7139 Mid to Full Season Variety

All of these have had respectable yields in our on farm variety tests. These test have been conducted for 3 years now by Leonard Kuykendall, Regional Extension Agronomist for Central Alabama and on Research Stations by Dr. Dale Monks. These tests have been conducted at EV Smith and Prattville, and on farm in Elmore Co. with

Sanford Peetles and in Montgomery Co. with Shep Morris. All of these are in Central Al. The test conducted on Micky Wilkins Farm in Monroe Co. was a one year study.

In selecting cotton varieties it is important first of all to know what is commercially available in our area. Second to know how these varieties perform on farms in your area. Much information is gained by area farmer shared information. On farm and University variety test information should be reviewed carefully. See how a variety performs for several years at multiple locations across our soil and climate region. In looking at Auburn University Cotton Tests it is best for Southwest Alabama to review the Fairhope, Headland and Prattville locations to see how these varieties performed at these locations and for multiple years if possible.

Cotton RR Flex Variety Test 2009
Producer: Tim Tucker in Monroe
Regional Extension Agronomist: Richard Petcher
Auburn University Cotton Agronomist: Dr. Charles D. Monks

Planting Date May 22, 2009

Harvest Date November 20, 2009

This test was replicated twice. Row length was 1100 ft on 38 inch row spacing. Two rows from each plot were harvested. Plot size was 0.32 acres.

Variety	Seed Treatment	Maturity	% Lint	Lint Yield in pounds per acre
Delta Pine 0949 B2RF	Avicta	M-F	0.43	1075 lb.
Phytogen 485 WRF	Avicta	M	0.39	951
DP 0924 B2RF	Avicta	E-M	0.44	935
Stoneville 4554 B2RF	Aeris TA	E-M	0.41	923
Dyna Gro CT0934 B2RF	Avicta		0.41	923
PHY 375 WRF	Avicta	E	0.42	866
DP 555 BR	Avicta	F	0.44	852
ST 4288 B2RF	Averis TA	E-M	0.40	850
DP 0935	Avicta	M	0.43	833
Dyna Gro 2570 B2RF	Avicta	M	0.42	814
Fiber Max 1740 B2RF	Aeris	E-M	0.43	753
ST 5458 B2RF	Aeris	M	0.43	726
ST 5288 B2RF	Aeris TA	M	0.42	660

Appreciation is expressed to the sponsors of this test. Sponsors are the Alabama ALFA Cotton Commission, Dyna Gro, Delta-Pine, Stoneville, FiberMax and Phytogen Seed Companies and the Monroe Cotton Gin.

This test favored the full season varieties as the plot was harvested a little late.

Cotton Company's Variety Recommendations and Availability for Southwest Alabama.

This list is to help growers. I am sure there are other companies and varieties available, but these are the companies that I have had recent contact with.

Delta-Pine Cotton Varieties that are Commercially Available for Southwest Al.

DP 0949 B2RF is a Mid to Full Season Variety

DP 0935 B2RF is a Mid season

DP 1050 B2RF is a Full season Limited Seed Supply

DP 1048 B2RF is a Full season Limited Seed Supply

DP 161 B2RF is a Full season with Limited Seed Supply. It place #1 in the three year average in the full season variety test in Fairhope.

Dyna Gro

Dyna Gro 2570 B2RF is a mid season cotton variety.

Stoneville and FiberMax

ST 4288 B2RF is an early to mid season variety

ST 5288B2RF is a mid season variety

ST 5458 B2RF is a mid season variety. This variety shows some nematode tolerance

FM 1740 B2RF is an early to mid season cotton variety.

Phytogen

PHY 370 WR early season variety

PHY 375 WRF is an early flex variety

PHY 480 WR is a mid season variety

PHY 485 WRF is an mid season flex variety

PHY 565 WRF is a mid to full season flex variety with limited seed for our area.

PHY 440 WF is a mid season variety. It may be a good choice for someone starting into conventional cotton as it does give some insect relief.

Conclusions from all of the above cotton variety information: Take time to study before making your variety selections. Review multi location and multiyear information. And plant several cotton varieties in order to spread your risks.

University Cotton Variety Test Information:

2009 Auburn University OVT and On Farm Trials are available online at:

<http://www.albamacrops.com>

2009 University of Georgia OVT Cotton data are available online at:

<http://www.swvt.uga.edu/2009/pct09/AP104-contents.pdf>

2009 Mississippi State University OVT Cotton data are available online at:

<http://msucares.com/crops/variety/yield/2009/cotton/preliminary.xls>

Cotton Seed Cost Calculator and the Cotton Weed Control Cost Calculator.

This information was passed on to us by **Eddie McGriff**, University of Georgia Extension Coordinator. The web site for this is:

<http://commodities.caes.uga.edu/fieldcrops/cotton/> Both of these are excellent tools.

This tool allows growers to calculate the cost per acre for cotton seed including the technology fees and other costs such as seed treatments. The program calculates the seed/acre, acres/bag of seed, and cost per acre based on row spacing, seed rate, and seed per bag. Up to 5 varieties and/or technologies can be compared side-by-side. The program is pretty much self explanatory and easy to do.

This is a revision of a similar program put together about 4-5 years ago when some seed were still sold in 50-lb bags. Today, all varieties are sold in a fixed seed count per bag. For example:

DeltaPine – 250,000 seed/bag

Phytogen – 230,000 seed/bag

FiberMax and Stoneville – 220,000 seed/bag

Peanut Variety Test 2009

Prdocers: Adam and Ray Bertola

Auburn University Peanut Agronomist: Kris Balkcom

Regional Extension Agronomist: Richard L. Petcher

This test was replicated 4 times
in randomized complete block design
Planted May 22, 2009
Harvested on October 15, 2009

Cultivar	Yield in Pounds per acre		Grade TSMK
Georgia Greener	5850	A	77 A
Ga 06G	5745	A	77 A
McCloud	5055	B	76 AB
Ga Green	4870	B	77 A
Tifguard	4860	B	77 A
FL 07	4840	B	73 BC
AP 4	4560	C	78 A
Ga 03L	4490	C	71 C
LSD	280 lb.		3

Appreciation is expressed to Adam and Ray Bertola and the Alabama Peanut Producer's Association for sponsoring this test.

In reviewing multiyear and multistate locations the peanut varieties for Southwest Alabama, Georgia 06G, Georgia Greener and the Florida 07 have been coming out on top. Seed supply of the Georgia Greener will be a little short this year.

University Peanut Variety Test Information:

2009 Auburn University OVT and On Farm Trials are available online at:

<http://www.albamacrops.com>

2009 University of Georgia Peanut data is available online at:

<http://www.swvt.uga.edu/2009/pct09/AP104-contents.pdf>

Again, hope this information is helpful to you in this upcoming season.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Petcher