

## PROJECT REPORT 2005

**Title:** Maintenance and Expansion of the Auburn University Extension Websites for Grain Crops and Precision Agriculture

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### Summary:

The existing Precision Ag website has been replaced by the new Precision Ag Web Portal ([www.aces.edu/precisionag](http://www.aces.edu/precisionag)). The portal is an entirely new design and provides far greater functionality than the previous website. Portals, as opposed to standard websites, are designed to not only provide useful information and downloadable content, but also to facilitate interaction between users. The portal allows users to create custom accounts, maintain a calendar, interact with one another, check weather, and it is the window to many more precision agriculture resources. The portal will contain the project reports and summaries for commodity group funded projects.

There are many new features in the web portal, including the following:

- User Accounts: allows users to personalize their web experience, post articles and comments as themselves, and have the opportunity to gain access to user-only areas of the portal.
- Forum: interact with other portal users by posting questions to the forum area that can be answered by other members, or by answering questions posted by others.
- Search: search the portal for an article of interest, the date of a meeting, or any other item of interest.
- Commodity Projects: download the project reports and summaries from the various commodity groups.
- Calendar: stay up-to-date with the latest precision ag meetings.
- Weather Forecast: find the latest weather information for your area.
- Contact Information: provides the office, Southern Linc, and cell numbers for members of the Precision Ag team.
- Stories: read the latest stories related to precision agriculture.
- Main Precision Ag Page: contains links to the primary precision ag areas, help guides and articles, precision ag links, and other websites affiliated with the program.
- Scouting Guides: will include links to the scouting guides for corn, soybeans, small grains, and cotton that are under development.

The Grain Crops website ([www.aces.edu/dept/grain](http://www.aces.edu/dept/grain)) continues to be an important source of information for grain crop producers and has been updated to adhere to the ACES webpage specifications. Since the establishment of the website the number of hits increases weekly. Several farmers, county agents and superintendents of experiment stations have commented how helpful the website is in their work. Alabama Variety Test results, publications, and timely information sheets are printed straight from the web page, enhancing the dissemination of information and reducing the need to print and keep large inventories of these publications.

Each of the websites supported by the grant will continue to be updated and enhanced to provide the visitor relevant information on both precision agriculture and grain crops. Scouting guides are under development for a variety of crops and these guides will be posted as they are completed. Relevant news stories will be posted on a regular basis on the Precision Ag site, so that visitors can have the latest information on precision ag hardware and software. Variety trials, publications, timely information sheets, and other information useful to grain producers will be posted to the grain crops site as it becomes available.