

PROJECT REPORT 2006

Title: Technical Support for Extension Precision Agriculture

Investigators: Paul Mask, Assistant Director, Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources; Kathy Flanders, Entomology; Chris Dillard, Agronomy and Soils; Shannon Norwood, Multi-County Extension Agent

Results:

Chris Dillard and Shannon Norwood continued to be supported by this project in 2006. Interest in and adoption of precision agriculture technologies expanded in Alabama and Chris and Shannon assisted producers across the state in learning about and incorporating these technologies. Several areas were of particular interest to Alabama farmers including targeted soil sampling, equipment guidance, remote sensing, yield monitoring, and variable rate application.

Chris and Shannon provided assistance to producers who were interested in precision agriculture by assisting with the selection and use of precision agriculture equipment and software. They conducted training sessions for county agents and producers designed to increase the knowledge of attendees in various geospatial technologies. In addition, they made numerous on-farm visits to assist farmers with a variety of precision agriculture issues.

Although both of their salaries were funded by other grants, support was needed for their travel and farm demonstrations. Examples of projects supported included the “Implementing Precision Ag: Guidance Systems and Variable Rate Technologies” training session held at the Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center in January and the 3rd Annual Precision Ag and Field Crops Day held at Dee River Ranch in August. Chris and Shannon also participated in the Agronomy Team Tour in which they visited a variety of farms and research facilities in Mississippi to gain a broader understanding of how precision agriculture techniques are being utilized in other areas of the country.