

## PROJECT REPORT 2008

**Title:** Maintenance and Expansion of the Auburn University Extension Web Sites for Precision Agriculture, Alabama Crops, and Grain Crops

**Investigators:** Chris Dillard, Geospatial Extension Specialist; Paul L. Mask, Assistant Director, Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources; Kathy L. Flanders, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist

**Results:**

The web sites for Alabama Crops, precision agriculture, and grain crops continued to serve as valuable sources of information for Alabama producers during 2008. The precision agriculture site is undergoing major design changes and the new site will be released early in 2009. An employee, Jon Brasher, has been hired to assist in the development of the supported sites.

Precision Ag Site (<http://www.aces.edu/precisionag>)

The Precision Ag Portal is the central web site for those seeking information about precision agriculture. The Portal contains instructional and educational materials for those interested in utilizing precision ag technologies and contains many other features for users. Features include front page news and stories, help guides and articles, and links to research projects and presentations. The Portal currently serves as the host for commodity project summaries and reports, but the reports will reside on the Alabama Crops site in 2009.

A new precision ag site is under development and will be available to the public in early 2009. The new site is being built in accordance with Extension standards and templates. Although the site will have a different appearance, it will allow for updates and enhancements to be made in a timely manner. The new is being developed in collaboration with Brenda Ortiz, Shannon Norwood, Amy Winstead, and John Fulton.

Alabama Crops Site (<http://www.alabamacrops.com>)

The Alabama Crops site is a central location for information on a variety of crops, including wheat and feed grains. Since the launch of the AlabamaCrops.com page, several points of information have been added. A crops calendar keeps users informed of training opportunities, conferences, and meetings. Timely Information Sheets provide users fast access to new information regarding agronomy and plant pathology issues. The AlabamaCrops.com website links users to the streaming video site for ACES. In the past month, a link was added to the AlabamaCrops.com site directing users to the ACES YouTube Channel, providing fast and easy to understand instruction on many topics related to life and agriculture in Alabama. The weather map, from the AWIS site, provides a quick reference for weather in the Southeast. The map graphic on the page refreshes every fifteen minutes.

Grain Crops Site (<http://www.aces.edu/dept/grain>)

The Grain Crops website continued to serve as a central location of information for grain crops producers. Alabama Variety Reports, publications, and timely information sheets can be found for wheat and small grains. Brenda Ortiz, the new grain crops specialist, is currently reviewing the website to determine any changes, enhancements, or updates to be made in 2009.