

Precision Ag And Field Crops Conference

December 8, 2009

Wind Creek Hotel

Atmore, Alabama

www.AlabamaPrecisionAgOnline.com

Row Crop Track

Location: Coosawada Ballroom

Moderator: Libbie Johnson, University of Florida Extension

9:00 Welcome

9:05 NRCS: Update on Precision Ag Incentives
Josh McElhaney, Florida NRCS
Steve Musser, Alabama NRCS

9:25 CORS vs. Base-Station RTK: A Comparison
John Fulton, Auburn University & Alabama Cooperative Extension System

9:45 Sensor Based Variable Rate Application for Cotton
Randy Taylor, Oklahoma State University

10:10 Break

Moderator: Brenda Ortiz, Auburn University & Alabama Cooperative Extension System

10:40 Interactive Presentation on Precision Ag Adoption
Alabama Extension Precision Ag Team

11:10 Economics of Variable Rate Application
Terry Griffin, University of Arkansas

11:30 Farmer Panel: Economics of Precision Ag
Jimmy Brooks, Craig Bishop, Brian Glenn

12:00 Lunch

Livestock Track

Location: Atasi Room

Moderators: Ken Kelley and Buck Farris, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

- 9:00** Welcome
- 9:05** Introduction to GPS
Christian Brodbeck, Auburn University
- 9:25** Considerations for Purchasing a Guidance System
Amy Winstead, Alabama Cooperative Extension System
- 9:45** Handheld GPS Uses
Daniel Mullenix, Auburn University
Attendees will have an opportunity to use a handheld GPS during this session, weather permitting.

Livestock Track attendees are invited to join the economic session in the Coosawada Ballroom following the adjournment of the Livestock Track.

Speaker Abstracts

CORS versus Base Station RTK: A Comparison

John Fulton, Assistant Professor, Auburn University/Alabama Extension

The adoption of high accuracy GPS/GNSS receivers commonly referred to as Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) has increased over the past couple of years in agriculture. One reason for this recent growth of RTK level correction is the availability of RTK Networks including CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Station) as an option to replace traditional Base Station receivers. Farmers who have adopted Precision Agriculture technologies such as guidance systems have started to recognize the advantages of using high accuracy GPS/GNSS receivers in their operations. The benefits of CORS or RTK Networks are that the initial costs of RTK-based guidance systems are substantially reduced making them more affordable. Other benefits are that users do not have to manage the base station plus the coverage area is extended beyond the 2 to 6 miles for a traditional base station. However, cellular service is required to utilize CORS which may limit use in areas with no or limited cellular coverage. Therefore, this presentation will define RTK Networks and how this option differs from traditional RTK base stations while also discussing benefits, required components and costs for these alternatives.

Sensor Based Variable Rate Application for Cotton

Randy Taylor, Extension Engineer, Oklahoma State University

Using sensor systems for variable rate application is becoming more popular for cotton production. When looking at cotton inputs three items for sensor based variable rate application come to mind: plant growth regulators, defoliant/boll openers, and nitrogen. While each of these inputs has opportunities they are not without challenges. The major challenges are developing prescriptions and adjusting equipment to apply the prescriptions. This session will discuss methods for developing sensor based variable rate prescriptions and the potential for accurately putting these prescriptions to work on farmer and commercial equipment.

Economics of Variable Rate Application & Other Precision Ag Practices

Terry Griffin, Assistant Professor – Economics, University of Arkansas

The economics of spatial technologies have been summarized as being 'site-specific'. Some precision ag technologies have provided nearly immediate returns on investments while others are useful for farm management decision making only under the best circumstances. A comparison of the usefulness and profitability of differing types of spatial technologies are discussed and how farmers have made the most of these technologies. Farmers tend to make use of technology in ways that developers have not anticipated. Terry addresses the issues that farmers struggle with and offers his suggestions based on practical experience from a 7 year case study.

Spouse Track

Location: Taskigi Room

Moderator: Susan Wingard, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

- 9:00** Food Safety for the Holidays
Amanda McGrew, REA – Food Safety, Preparation & Preservation
- 10:00** LA Christmas
Pat Libby, Baldwin County Master Gardener
- 11:00** Healthy Holiday Cooking
Carolyn Bivens, REA – Human Nutrition, Diet & Health
- 12:00** Lunch



Lunch Agenda

Location: Coosawada Ballroom

Moderator: Shannon Norwood, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Century Farm Presentation

Recipient: Coker Farms

Presenter: *Dr. Tony Frazier, Alabama Dept. of Agriculture*

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Keynote Speaker

Being Proactive for Agriculture: Using Social Media

Will Gilmer, Gilmer Dairy Farm

Will is a 2001 graduate of Mississippi State University where he received a BS in Agricultural Engineering Technology and Business. He is an active member of the American Farm Bureau Federation-Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee, Dairy Farmers of America, Alabama Farmers Federation, Lamar Co. Farmers Federation, Mississippi FarmHouse Association, Alabama Cattleman's Association and Lamar Co. Cattleman's Association.

Special thanks to Alabama Soybean Producers, Alabama Cotton Commission and Alabama Wheat and Feed Grain Producers

Afternoon Activities

1:30

Workshop on Managing Precision Ag Data

Location: Tawassa A

Wondering how to get data from your guidance system or yield monitor? Want to know how to organize your data and use it for production management decisions? Join us for an introductory workshop on these topics.

1:30

Sugar Cane Tour

Location: Departs from Pre-Function Area

Visit a local sugarcane field and learn about economics and production of sugar cane.

To keep up with the Precision Ag Team, visit our website or social media pages.

www.AlabamaPrecisionAgOnline.com

Twitter @AL_Prec_Ag

Facebook: Alabama Precision Ag Online

Following the conference, we will be posting pictures and presentations on our website and social media pages.

Educational Exhibits

How and Why You Should Use Social Media

Anne Adrian, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

MoisMIS Irrigation Scheduling Program

Ted Tyson, Biosystems Engineering, Auburn University

Southeast Climate Consortium

Melissa L. Griffin, Florida Climate Center

AU Soil Testing Lab

Gobena Huluka, Auburn University

Alabama Department of Environmental Management

Mark Sport

GPS Guidance Systems for Livestock

Alabama Extension Precision Ag Team

Alabama IPM

Ayanava Majumdar, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Educational Exhibits

USDA-ARS Tillage Lab

Kirk Iversen

Alabama NRCS & Soil and Water Conservation Districts

April Griffin, Chasity Pettis and Rhonda Bryars

Alabama Precision Ag Online

Alabama Extension Precision Ag Team

Posters

Maintaining Quality of On-Farm Stored Grain

Kathy Flanders, Warren Griffith & Eric Schavey

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Potential of EC Zones to Evaluate Nematicide Applications for Reniform Nematodes in Cotton

S. R. Moore, K. S. Lawrence, B. Ortiz, J. Shaw, and J. Fulton

Auburn University

Energy Efficient Irrigation

Mark Hall, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

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Alabama Cotton Commission
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