ALABAMA COOPERATIVE Extension SYSTEM
Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities

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On The Farm

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NEWS LETTER FEBRUARY 2010

The National Agriculture Statistics Service reported crop acres and yield for Alabama were:
Cotton: 250,000 acres harvested with 691 pound per acre yield.
Corn: 250,000 acres harvested with 108 bushel per acre yield.
Peanuts: 152,000 acres harvested with an average of 3,100 pounds per acre yield.
Soybeans: 430,000 acres harvested with an average of 40 bushels per acre yield.
Wheat: 220,000 acres planted. 180,000 harvested with a 55 bushel per acre yield.

Upcoming Production Meetings:

Regional Cotton Production Meeting: Tuesday, February 9 starting at 6 p.m. at the Stagecoach Cafe in Stockton. Stockton is on highway 59 about 3 miles North of I-65. Program: Cotton Varieties for 2010, Dr. Dale Monks, Cotton Economics, Dr. Robert Goodman, Cotton Weed Control, Dr. Mike Patterson and Cotton Insects, Dr. Ron Smith.

Alabama, Florida Peanut Trade Show: Thursday, February 11 in Dothan Alabama at the Peanut Festival Fair Grounds on highway 231 South. For more information call the Alabama Peanut Producer's Association at (334) 792-6482. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and program will go through lunch.

Mobile Peanut Production Meeting: Monday, February 15 starting at 12 noon at the West Side Bistro. Program: Randy Griggs, Executive Secretary of APPA, Legislative Update, Marshall Lamb, Peanut Economics, Kris Balkaum, Peanut Agronomics, Dr. Austin Hagan, Peanut Disease Control, Dr. Ayanava Majumdar, Peanut Insect Control.

Baldwin Peanut Production Meeting: Monday, February 15 starting at 6 p.m. at the ALFA Building in Robertsdale. Program: Randy Griggs, Executive Secretary of APPA, Legislative Update, Marshall Lamb, Peanut Economics, Kris Balkcom, Peanut Agronomics, Dr. Austin Hagan, Peanut Disease Control, Dr. Ayanava Majumdar, Peanut Insect Control.

Atmore Peanut Production Meeting: Tuesday, February 16 starting at 10 a.m. at David's Catfish House on Highway 21 South of Atmore. Program: Teresa Roper, Secretary of APPA, Legislative Update, Marshall Lamb, Peanut Economics, Kris Balkcom, Peanut Agronomics, Dr. Austin Hagan, Peanut Disease Control, Dr. Ayanava Majumdar, Peanut Insect Control.

Mobile Cotton Production Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2010 starting at 12 noon at the Light House Restaurant in Bayou La Batre. Dr. Dale Monks and Dr. Robert Goodman will be the speakers.

Soybean Production Meeting: Wednesday, February 24 starting at 12 noon at David's Catfish House on highway 21 South in Atmore. Program: Dr. Dennis Delaney, Soybean Agronomics, Dr. Ed Sikora, Soybean Disease Control.

Soybean Production Meeting: Thursday, February 25 starting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Elberta.
Program: Dr. Dennis Delaney, Soybean Agronomics and Soybean Disease Control. This will be a part of the Elberta Young Farmers monthly meeting.

CORN PRODUCTION TIPS 2010

Much of this letter will be simple reminders that most corn producers know. However, it might be worth taking a few minutes to read over these short articles.

Corn is the first crop in the spring to be planted in South Alabama. In 2009 there were 250,000 acres of corn harvested in Alabama, with an average yield of 108 bushels per acre. There were 15,000 acres of corn harvested with an estimated yield of 115 bushels per acre in Southwest Alabama. For most growers this was not a good corn production year. Corn is a good rotation and has less input of time and money than cotton or peanuts. The risk of drought is a real downer with corn, unless you have irrigation. Hopefully this year will bring a bumper crop with no droughts or hurricanes and decent prices.
Weather is the biggest factor affecting corn; however, there are a number of things that a grower can do to up his odds of making a good crop.
Selecting your corn hybrid is top priority. There are some excellent varieties to choose from. Is it worth spending ten dollars more for one variety over another? If that variety yields 10 more bushels per acre than a cheaper variety, over 4 acres that would be 40 more bushels. At $4.00 per bushel that would be $160 minus the $10 difference in purchasing cost which would be $150 more profit to you by planting the higher yielding, more expensive variety. If you are planting very much corn, 100 acres or more it is also important to select several hybrids with different maturities to spread out your risks.

APPLIED SCIENCE REPORT

On Farm variety testing research can be very helpful and make good field demonstrations for agronomic practices in our area. Research is conducted at the university and research stations. These however, are done on grower's fields and typically on a larger scale. Often they are as much a part of a verification program for our area as they are research.

2009 Alabama On-Farm Corn Hybrid Program
Dryland Roundup ® Test
Test Location: Washington County
Farmer Cooperators: Rod Richardson
Regional Extension Agent: Richard L. Petcher
Extension Grain Specialist: Dr. Brenda Ortiz
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Planted: March 19, 2009 Harvested: July 28, 2009
Tillage: Conventional Plant Population: 26,000
Previous Crop: Peanuts Soil Type: Bama Fine Sandy Loam

Corn hybrids were provided by participating seed companies based upon their top two choices for Southwest Alabama. The test was replicated four times at this site. Each hybrid was planted in a four row strip the length of the field on 36 inch row spacing. The harvest length of the test was 800 feet. Yields were averaged from the four replications. Producers are encouraged to consider several sources of information when making hybrid decisions.

Table 1. Corn Hybrid Yields with Poncho® 250 Seed Treatment

Hybrid	Technology Trait(s) [1]	Advertised Maturity	Harvest Moisture [2]	Yield @ 15.5% moisture
		(days)	(%)	(bushels/acre)
DeKalb DKC68-06	RR2/YGCB	118	22.1	137.8
Terral TV25BR23	RR2/YGCB	114	20.6	136.0
DeKalb DKC67-22	RR2	117	18.3	134.7
Average				136.2

[1] Trait Key: RR2 = Roundup Ready® 2 Corn; YGCB = YieldGard® Corn Borer.
[2] Harvest moisture was averaged between the four replications.

Table 2. Corn Hybrid Yields with Cruiser® Seed Treatment

Hybrid	Technology Trait(s) [1]	Advertised Maturity	Harvest Moisture [2]	Yield @ 15.5% moisture
		(days)	(%)	(bushels/acre)
Pioneer 31P42	HX1/LL/RR2	119	19.7	146.7
Pioneer 33F87	HX1/LL/RR2	114	19.0	145.3
Terral TV25R31	RR2	115	22.2	135.2
Dyna-Gro 58K02	RR2	119	19.8	134.6
Dyna-Gro 58K40	RR2	117	20.0	132.1
NK-Syngenta 77P-3000 GT	GT/CB/LL/RW	114	19.4	127.7
CropLan 8756 VT3	CRW/RR/YGCB	117	18.1	125.5
CropLan 8221VT3	CRW/RR/YGCB	119	17.7	109.7
Average				132.1

[1] Trait Key: RR2 = Roundup Ready® 2 Corn; GENVT3 = Genuity™ VT Triple PRO™; HX1 = Herculex® I; LL - LibertyLink®; YGVT3 = YieldGard VT Triple®; GT/CB/LL/RW = Agrisure® GT (glyphosate tolerance), CB (corn borer), LL (Liberty Link®), and RW (rootworm), HX (Herculex I Insect protection), CRW (Corn Rootworm).
[2] Harvest moisture was averaged between the four replications.

Appreciation is expressed Rod Richardson, the Alabama Wheat and Feed Grain Commission, and the participating seed companies for supporting this test.

2009 Alabama On-Farm Corn Hybrid Program
Dryland Roundup® Test
Test Location: Baldwin County
Farmer Cooperators: George Swartz
Regional Extension Agent: Richard Petcher
Extension Grain Specialist: Dr. Brenda Ortiz
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Planted: March 12, 2009
Tillage: Conventional
Previous Crop: Peanuts

Harvested: August 3, 2009
Plant Population: 26,000
Soil Type: Bama Fine Sandy Loam

Corn hybrids were provided by participating seed companies based upon their top two choices for Southwest Alabama. The test was replicated twice at this site. Each hybrid was planted the length of the field in a four-row strip at 36 inch row spacing. The harvested length was 300 feet. Yields were averaged from the two replications

Table 1. Corn Hybrid Yields with Poncho® 250 Seed Treatment

Hybrid	Technology Trait(s) [1]	Advertised Maturity	Harvest Moisture [2]	Yield @ 15.5% moisture
		(days)	(%)	(bushels/acre)
DeKalb DKC68-06	RR2/YGCB	118	24.3	141.7
DeKalb DKC69-71	RR2/YGCB	119	24.2	136.5
Terral TV25BR23	RR2/YGCB	114	25.2	135.9
Average				138.0

[1] Trait Key: RR2 = Roundup Ready® 2 Corn; YGCB = YieldGard® Corn Borer; YGPL = YieldGard® Plus.
[2] Harvest moisture was averaged between the two replications.

Table 2. Corn Hybrid Yields with Cruiser® Seed Treatment

Hybrid	Technology Trait(s) [1]	Advertised Maturity	Harvest Moisture [2]	Yield @ 15.5% moisture
		(days)	(%)	(bushels/acre)
CropLan 8756VT3	CRW/RR/YGCB	118	24.4	151.3
Pionner 31P42	HX1/LL/RR2	119	22.1	145.8
Pionner 33F87	HX1/LL/RR2	114	21.9	140.3
NK-Syngenta 77P-3000 GT	GT/CB/LL/RW	114	23.1	135.8
Terral TV25R31	RR2	115	23.1	120.6
Dyna Gro 58K40	RR2	117	24.4	116.5
CropLan 8221VT3	CRW/RR/YGCB	118	21.1	112.2
DynaGro 58K02	RR2	119	24.1	109.8
Average				129.0

[1] Trait Key: RR2 = Roundup Ready® 2 Corn; GENVT3 = Genuity™ VT Triple PRO™; HX1 = Herculex® I; LL - LibertyLink®; YGVT3 = YieldGard VT Triple®; GT/CB/LL/RW = Agrisure® GT (glyphosate tolerance), CB (corn borer), LL (Liberty Link®), and RW (rootworm), H (Herculex I Insect protection), CRW (Corn Rootworm).
[2] Harvest moisture was averaged between the two replications.

Appreciation is expressed to George Swartz, the Alabama Wheat and Feed Grain Commission, and the participating seed companies for supporting this test.

University Corn Variety Test information

Alabama: www.alabamavarietytesting.com Georgia: http://www.swvt.uga.edu/
Mississippi: http://msucares.com/crops/corn/index.html Louisiana: www.lsuagcenter.com
The LSU information might be helpful especially to growers in Baldwin and Mobile Counties.

Corn Companies Top Hybrids For 2010

Besides the University Variety Test there are also many company corn hybrid tests. Below is the list of top corn hybrids several companies have sent me that they have to offer growers in Southwest, Alabama. Unfortunately, I was not able to get a list from every company. However, this list should be helpful. I would encourage you to call these companies to find more information concerning their hybrids

Dekalb Corn Top Hybrids for 2010: Rod Higdon

VT3Pro (above ground worm protection as well as Yieldgard and RR)
DK 66-96 VT3Pro - newest germplasm - excellent yields dryland or irrigated, excellent standability, good corn behind corn hybrid (116 day)
DK 68-05 VT3Pro - sold as DK 68-06 in 2009 - excellent yields dryland or irrigated, tremendous standability, good disease package, good stress tolerance(118 day) - flowers earlier than other comparable maturities (longer grain fill with 1280 GDU's to mid pollination)
DK 67-88 VT3Pro - large hybrid - excellent yield in southern Alabama -excellent silage, good disease package, good emergence and growth (117 day)
DK 67-21 VT3Pro - best fit under irrigation or wet fields - good diseasepackage (117 day)

YieldGuard Roundup Ready
DK 69-71 YGRR - excellent southern hybrid with good disease package, standability and stress tolerance - good dryland or irrigated, good ear flex(119day)
DK 67-87 YGRR - same hybrid as DK 67-88 above
DK 67-23 YGRR - same hybrid as DK 67-21 above
DK 69-44 YGRR - excellent yields under irrigation with high populations (fixed ear - 33k-34k) smaller plant with good standability (119 day)
Roundup Ready
DK 69-72 RR - same hybrid as DK 69-71 (see comments above)
DK 67-86 RR - same hybrid as DK 67-88 (see comments above)
DK 67-22 RR - same hybrid as DK 67-21 (see comments above)
DK RX 940 RR - good southern hybrid with maturity above 120 days, good yields dryland and excellent RR silage hybrid
DK 69-43 RR - same hybrid as DK 69-44 (see comments above)
CONVENTIONAL CORN
DK 697 - same hybrid as DK 69-71 (see comments above)

Pioneer Top Corn Hybrids for 2010: Ken McLeod 850-393-8216
Pioneer has maintained a corn breeding program in Georgia since the mid 60's. This Pioneer Research Station also conducts off-station work in Alabama as well.

33F87 (HX1,LL,RR2); 114 day – Also available in a RR2 version called 33F85. **NEW** workhorse hybrid family for those challenging yield environments. Good grain quality and husk coverage. Good disease package makes this family suited to plant in corn after corn situations (strip-till) where the previous corn crop's residue is left on the surface. Plant dryland and/or limited irrigation. Harvest plant population 26-28,000.
33V16 (YGCB, RR2); 115 day – Also available in a RR2 version called 33V14 . A workhorse family that excels across all soil types. Dark orange colored grain with high test weight. Good disease package makes this family suited to plant in corn after corn situations (strip-till) where the previous corn crop's residue is left on the surface. Good standability. Plant dryland and/or limited irrigation. Harvest plant population 24-26,000.
33M57 (HX1,LL,RR2)**;** 115 day – Available in a RR2 version called 33M53. In addition, we have a conventional version called 33M54. This family excels both dryland and irrigated. Dark orange colored grain with high test weight. Good standability. Harvest plant population 24-26,000 dryland, 28-32,000 irrigated.
31N30 (HX1,LL,RR2)**;** 119 day – Also available as a RR2 version called 31N26. This family is capable of tremendous yields under well watered environments. Plant under well watered environments only. Dark orange colored grain with high test weight. Good disease package makes it suited to plant in corn after corn situations (strip-till) where the previous corn crop's residue is left on the surface. Excellent standability. Harvest plant population 28-32,000 irrigated.
31P42 (HX1,LL,RR2)**;** 119 day – Also available as a RR2 version called 31P40. In addition, we have a conventional version called 31P41. This family is suited for both dryland and irrigated conditions. Capable of tremendous irrigated yields and stable dryland yields. Always plant after the soils have warmed up good. Excellent standability. Harvest plant population 24-26,000 dryland, 28-34,000 irrigated.
31D59 (HX1,LL,RR2)**;** 120 day - Also available as a RR2 version called 31D57. In addition, we have a conventional version called 31D58. This family is capable of tremendous yields under well watered environments. Plant under well watered environments only. Excellent standability**.** Harvest plant population 28-34,000 irrigated.

Terral Seed Company Top Corn Hybrids for 2010: Trey Cash 662-617-0326
REV (REVOLUTION) 26R50 115 day relative maturity. Excellent stalk and root strength. Performs on all soil types. Placed first in the Fairhope Corn Hybrid Variety Test and second at Headland.

REV 25R19, REV 25HR39, 112 day relative maturity. Good root and stalk strength with a flex ear. The 25HR39 topped the Tifton Georgia test by 10 bushels and topped many University Variety Trials.

REV 28HR20, REV 28R10, 116 day relative maturity. Very good to excellent stalk and root strength. Placed first in the Tifton, Georgia irrigated test.

TV25BR23 114 day relative maturity. Semi-flex ear type. Plant population range 26-28 K dry land and 29-31 K irrigated. Excellent stalk strength and drought stress. Adapted to all soil types.

TV25R31 Roundup only. 115 day relative maturity. Plant population 26-28 K dry land and 29-31 K irrigated. Roundup Ready high yield champion. Semi-flex ear, excellent for dry land. Excellent stalk and drought stress.

Croplan Genetics: Mike Daughtrey 334-790-5190
Dyna Gro Top: Ryan McKenzie 888-300-5079
Syngenta Northrup King and Garst Seed Company: Jenny Buller 229-221-9825
Again, I think this list will be helpful to you in making you corn hybrid selections.
And do call the above companies as they also have proven top hybrids for this area. However, I was not able to add their complete list at this time.

CORN SEED TREATMENTS: Dr. Kathy Flanders, AU Grain Entomologist

The seed of most corn hybrids is pretreated with various insecticides and fungicides. Seed treatments don't protect corn all the way through the growing season. They are really designed to protect the seedling in the first 30 days after planting. More than 20 different insects, including white grubs, wireworms, southern corn rootworms, seed corn maggot, and chinch bugs. Poncho (clothianidin) and Cruiser (thiamethoxam) are the two insecticides used most often to treat corn seed sold in Alabama. The 250 rate of either material provides protection against moderate infestations of most seedling pests of corn. Some farmers may want to order their corn treated with a higher rate of insecticide. For example, farmers in SW Alabama who have had problems with billbugs in the past might want to choose the 1250 rate of Poncho or Cruiser. Sugarcane beetle can cause serious problems, especially in new fields that were in pasture, hayfield, or CRP land in 2008. Corn in these new fields would also benefit from seed treated with the 1250 rate. Farmers in Baldwin and Mobile Counties who have had problems with early season stink bug damage would probably benefit from choosing the 1250 rate. Other fields that are at risk from heavier than normal damage from early season insects are those that are in conservation tillage, or those that are planted to corn in 2009, following corn in 2008. These fields might benefit from corn seed sold with the 500 rate, which will provide more consistency under heavier insect pressure. Cutworms can damage early season corn, particularly in fields in conservation tillage, or with a green cover crop or heavy infestation of winter weeds. Seed treatments alone can't prevent all damage from cutworms, because the cutworms can cut quite a lot of seedlings before they succumb to the seed treatment. The best management practice for cutworms is to burn down green foliage early, so that there is a weed free month before the corn is planted. The next best strategy is to spray the corn at or just before planting with an inexpensive synthetic pyrethroid.

Here are the web sites for the **Auburn University Integrated Pest Management Guides** for cotton, corn, small grains, peanuts and soybeans: These are very helpful in finding information on controlling insects, disease and weeds on these crops. For Corn:
http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-A/VOL1-2010/corn.pdf
For the rest of the crops go to:
http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-A/

Again, I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Petcher

Richard L. Petcher
Regional Extension Agent
Agronomic Crop