



**Richard L. Petcher**  
Regional Extension Agronomist for SWAL  
Baldwin County Extension System  
302A Byrne Street, Bay Minette, AL 36507  
(251) 937-7176; Cell (251) 202-1009; SL 7\*145



**February 5, 2008**



**NEWS LETTER FEBRUARY 2008**

**UP COMING MEETINGS**

**Peanut Production Meeting**

Date: Monday, February 11, 2008

Place: Captain Ron's Seafood Restaurant in Mobile: 8850 Tanner Williams Road

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Speakers: Dr Austin Hagan, AU Peanut Pathologist, Ron Weeks, AU Peanut Entomologist, Chris Balkum, AU Peanut Agronomist, Marshall Lamb with the National Peanut Lab and Randy Griggs, Executive Secretary of the Alabama Peanut Producer's Association. Sponsored dinner for those attending.

**Peanut Production Meeting**

Date: Monday, February 11, 2008

Place: ALFA Building in Robertsdale, AL

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Speakers: Dr Austin Hagan, AU Peanut Pathologist, Ron Weeks, AU Peanut Entomologist, Chris Balkum, AU Peanut Agronomist, Marshall Lamb with the National Peanut Lab and Randy Griggs, Executive Secretary of the Alabama Peanut Producer's Association. Sponsored dinner for those attending.

**Peanut Production Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Place: Extension System Meeting Hall in Monroeville.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Speakers: Dr Austin Hagan, AU Peanut Pathologist, Ron Weeks, AU Peanut Entomologist, Chris Balkum, AU Peanut Agronomist, Marshall Lamb with the National Peanut Lab and Randy Griggs, Executive Secretary of the Alabama Peanut Producer's Association. Sponsored dinner for those attending.

ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES, AND TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY, COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES AND USDA COOPERATING

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability

### **All Crop Farm Day 2008**

Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Place: Walnut Hill Community Center, 7850 Highway 97, Walnut Hill Florida

Time: 8:00 a.m. until 2:30

8:15 Cotton Production, Dr. Dale Monks, Auburn University Cotton Agronomist

9:00 Corn Production, Dr. David Wright, University of Florida Agronomist

10:00 Wheat, What to do now to finish the crop

10:15 Soybean Production and disease control, Dr. Dennis Delaney and Dr. Ed Sikora, Auburn University Soybean Specialists.

11:00 Peanut Production, Dr. John Beasley, University of Georgia Peanut Agronomist.

12:00 Sponsored Dinner

1:00 Cotton Insects: Dr. Ron Smith, Auburn University Cotton Entomologist

1:15 Row Crop Economics: Marshall Lamb with the National Peanut Lab

CEU, CCA, and Commercial Applicator Points, Industry Booths and Demonstrations

This meeting is in cooperation with the Alabama, Florida and Georgia Extension Systems

For more information contact- Libbie Johnson – 850.475.5230

### **Mobile Cotton Production Meeting:**

Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Place: The Light House Restaurant in Bayou la Batre

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Speakers: Dru Rush, Cotton Agronomist and Dr. Bob Goodman, AU Cotton Economist.

### **Controlling Wildlife (Deer and Wild Hogs) Damage in Row Crops:**

Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Place: (Tentative) Perdido River Farm's (Poarch Band of Creek Indian's) facility.

Time: 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Deer and wild hogs have become the # 1 pest in our corn, cotton, soybeans and peanuts in Southwest Alabama. This problem is common to most every grower in this area. The purpose of this meeting is to go over what we are up against and discuss methods that we can employ to improve our crop success.

A few of the topics and speakers are:

Mark Smith, Auburn University Wildlife Specialist: Intensive trapping

James Armstrong, Auburn University Wildlife Specialist: Non lethal methods that growers can employ.

Chriss Jaworowski, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources: wild hogs.

Lt Reed, Al. Dept. of Cons. And NR: Laws concerning animal removal.

Ronald Britnell, Regional Extension Agent in Wildlife and Conservation: Demonstration and plans of cost affective traps.

David Elliot, NRCS Perdido River Farm's

Beau Brodbeck, REA in Wildlife and Conservation

Richard Petcher, Regional Extension Agronomist

### **Row Crop Management Information:**

Here are several **agricultural weather** web sites that again may be of interest to you.

[www.agclimate.org](http://www.agclimate.org)

[http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewImages/images.php3?img\\_id=17894](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewImages/images.php3?img_id=17894)

## CROP PROFIT PROFILE

Every grower is seriously studying the crop that brings the highest returns on his investment. The web site for the Auburn University 2008 **Row Crop Enterprise Budgets** is:

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/agec//pubs/budgets/2008/rowcrop08.php> These budgets may help you in your study. Be encouraged when you use these enterprise budgets. I believe that the growers in Southwest Al typically produce higher yields than most of the rest of the state and often when careful can use fewer inputs. These budgets are only a guideline, but can be very useful in helping to calculate your costs and expected returns. Every grower's inputs are different. Study carefully the crop program that works for your farm.

The **Profit Profile Calculator** is conducted by Dr. Max Runge at Auburn University and is updated every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. This too may help you decide on the crop that brings the highest returns for your investment and time. The web site for this is <http://www.aces.edu/dept/profitprofiles/>

**Market Price Information:** Dr. Robert Goodman, Cotton Economist with Auburn University also has a Market Price Close for row crops if you would like a quick update you may call his hot line at (334) 844-5563.

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.

<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/indexes/anripm.tmpl#handbook>

## WHEAT AND OATS FOR GRAIN

As of today, January 29<sup>th</sup> the wheat and oat crops are looking very good for this time of year. The main keys to look for are your variety, planting dates, crop stand, fertility, disease and insects. Understanding these points well will help you with your small grain crop. The weather; having a cool dry spring will greatly enhance your wheat crop.

The **disease** to be looking for in February is powdery mildew. This disease is easy to control and typically does not cause much yield loss. However, if you have it you do need to treat.

**Aphids** are the main insect to scout for. They not only cause a yield loss themselves, but spread the disease Barley Yellow Dwarf, which can be devastating. The threshold for treating aphids is 6 or more aphids per foot of row on 6 to 10 inch tall wheat or oats. At stem elongation treat when there are 2 aphids per stem. Warrior ICS at the 2.56 fl. Oz. per acre is one of the best insecticides for aphids on wheat. With the rain and wet weather aphids have been well below this threshold. An excellent time to scout your fields is right before you apply your fertilizer. If you need to treat for aphids you can put this out with your fertilizer.

**Fertilizing** in the spring is very important: As a rule of thumb it is better to be a little too early than too late when fertilizing your crop. As of today it is too wet in most growers fields to fertilize so just be

ready when field conditions permit. Also remember we need additional rains to get the fertilizer down into the soils. So fertilize as soon as you can, as often March is a dry month here.

**Nitrogen** rates and timing of application are key management factors for making good wheat yields. Nitrogen is also the most expensive nutrient. For expected wheat yields of 40 to 70 bushels use a total N rate of 80 to 100 lb/acre. For expected wheat yields of 70 bushels or more use a total N rate of 120 lb/acre. Here again knowing your variety is important. A variety that has good stem strength and does not typically lodge like USG 3209 can handle the 120 N rates, where one like AGS 2000 would be better to go with the 100 lb N rate. Also adjust the rate based on the following crop. If following peanuts or soybeans, decrease the N rate by 20 to 40 lb/acre. If following corn or cotton increase by 20 to 40 lb/acre. Demand for N is relatively low in the fall but increases rapidly in the spring just prior to stem elongation. Therefore, apply 20 to 40 lb N/acre at planting, and then the remaining N prior to stem elongation. Use the lower rates on heavy textured soils and the higher rate on sandy soils. **Split applications** of N in the spring typically pay especially on sandy soils. It is also highly preferred to split apply N in two or three applications when we have high rainfall. The advantage is, if you put your entire N out at one time and then have heavy rains you may lose the N before the crop actually gets it. You need N early for stem strength and elongation and you need N late for head numbers and head filling. Split applications allow you to not expose your entire N at one time. Put the first spring application on in late January or early February and the second about 4 weeks later. Phosphorus and potassium fertilizer applications should be based on soil testing. Because 65 percent of the total P uptake and 90 percent of the total K uptake occurs before the boot stage, these nutrients should be applied before planting. Split applications (half at planting and half at top dress) of K are recommended on deep sandy soils. Sulfur is an essential nutrient to wheat production and is often missing in our soils. Therefore, wheat producers should make a conscience effort to include at least 10, but preferably 20 pounds per acre in their fertilizer applications. This can be done either pre-plant or top dress. Zinc and Manganese are also possible deficient elements. Other deficiencies of micronutrients in wheat are rare.

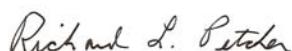
A few growers are using broiler litter on their small grains. If you used 2 tons in the fall you will still need to sidedress with 40 units of N in the spring. If you use broiler litter in the spring, put it out early and do not sidedress with additional N.

**Weed Management:** This is one of the more critical parts of intensive wheat management. It is critical to understand that most herbicides 2, 4-D for example can severely injure your crop if applied after the wheat crop has started to joint. Injury from applying 2, 4-D at the joint stage can reduce your yield by 70-90 %. You may want to look over the chart showing the effect of stage of growth on wheat injury by various herbicides. This was printed in the December 2007 News Letter.

Again the University of Georgia Wheat Production Guide is a good source of information.

[http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/gagrains/documents/07\\_08WheatProductionGuide.pdf](http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/gagrains/documents/07_08WheatProductionGuide.pdf)

Again, I hope this information is of help to you.



Richard L. Petcher  
Regional Extension Agent  
Agronomic Crop