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NEWS LETTER JULY 2008

Upcoming Meetings:

Precision Ag & Field Crops Day

Date: July 10, 2008

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Isbell Farms in Cherokee, Alabama

Topics: Crop update, grain bin storage, irrigation, variable rate irrigation, variable rate seeding, continuously operating reference station (CORS), weed management in conservation tillage, nitrogen management in conservation tillage, bio energy: gasifier, spatial variability of nematodes, variable plots. Exhibitor area featuring precision ag vendors. CCA points will be offered.

This meeting is conducted by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System the USDA-ARS National Soil Dynamic Lab Conservation Systems Research, ALFA Farmer's Federation and the University of Georgia Precision Ag Team.

Directions from Birmingham; Take I-65 N to Exit 310 Cullman/Moulton. Turn left onto HWY 157N. Travel approximately 57 miles to HWY 20/US 72-ALT West and travel approximately 22 miles to Cherokee. Turn North on Main ST. (There is a Chevron gas station at this intersection), travel to second intersection and turn right (east). At next intersection (approximately 1 block). Turn left (North) onto North Pike. Travel North for approximately 3 miles, to grain bins, which will be on your right with "Isbell Farms" sign in front.

For more information call Shannon Norwood, 256-353-8702 ext. 28 or hubersr@aces.edu. Or look on the following web site:

http://www.aces.edu/counties/Limestone/files/Field_Day_Info_for_web.pdf

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

Southern Peanut Growers Conference

Date: July 13-15, 2008

Place: Edgewater Beach Resort, Panama City Beach, FLa.

For Hotel Reservations call: 1-800-874-8686, Ask for the Southern Peanut Growers Conference rate.

Registration materials available online at: ww.southernpeanutfarmers.org

For more information contact your state organization: Alabama -334-792-6482, Florida – 850-526-2590, Georgia -229-386-3470, Mississippi – 601-947-4223.

Huxford Row Crop Field Day:

Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Time: 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

Place: Huxford Baptist Church. From I-65 at Atmore take Highway 21 North for about 8 miles. Just past the pole mill take highway 30 going west toward McCulough. Continue for ½ mile. The Huxford Baptist Church is on the left. .

Topics: The primary purpose of this field day is to help growers with insect, disease and weed management decisions on **cotton, peanuts, soybeans and upcoming small grains**.

Speakers: Dr. Ron Smith, Dr. Austin Hagan, Dr. Ed Sikora, Dr. Dennis Delaney, Dr. Barry Brecke and Dr. Steve Brown with Phytogen.

This meeting is conducted by both the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the University of Florida Extension System.

Soybean Asian Rust, by Dr. Dennis Delaney and Richard Petcher

Predictions are that Asian Soybean Rust will be on the increase in 2008. Fungicides are the only effective management tool for soybean rust at this time. As of today (June 30, 2008) soybean rust was found on Kudzu in Mobile County on June 6, but there have been no new reports of soybean rust. There have been no reports of Asian Soybean Rust on soybeans in the state this year. We have sentinel test plots in Baldwin, Washington and Escambia counties that are monitored weekly, as well as a network across the state and country. Growers can call the AU Rust Hotline at 800-446-0388. It is updated weekly or with each new find by Dr. Ed Sikora, AU Soybean Pathologist.

The USDA web site at www.sbrusa.net may be helpful to growers for checking the current distribution of Asian Soybean Rust in the U.S.

The publication “Using Foliar fungicides to Manage Soybean Rust” has detailed information concerning the management of soybean rust. This bulletin can be found on-line at www.sbrfungicides.net .

Soybean producers with fields with good yield potential (25 bu/A or more) may still want to consider a fungicide application to control diseases other than soybean rust. Averaged over many trials, this has generally given around a 6 bu/A yield bump. If you’re going to make a single application, it should go on between the R3 (3/16 inch long pod) and R4 (3/4 inch pod) when looking at the top 4 nodes. Check our Soybean IPM Guide for recommended fungicides. Use plenty of water, generally 15 to 20 gallons per acre are needed to get good coverage of leaves with ground equipment.

Wheat and Oat Test Results From on Farm Tests in 2008 and Recommended Varieties for This Fall. This information was also reviewed by Dr. Steve Harrison, wheat and oat breeder and variety trial coordinator with the LSU AgCenter.

Seventy percent of a grower's success in grain production is based on variety selection.

**Wheat Test of Top Eight Varieties For South Alabama
Replicated Four Times in Randomized Complete Block Design
Cooperator: Eric and Hilbert Hall in Lottie, Baldwin County
Regional Extension Agronomist: Richard L. Petcher
Planted on December 7, 2007
Fungicide: Quilt 14 oz one time
Harvested June 4, 2008**

Variety	Awns	Plant Height (inches)	Test Weight lbs/bu	Grain Yield Bu/acre	Hessian Fly Reaction
Terral LA482	No	38	59.0	86	MS/MR?
Coker 9553	Yes	37	59.5	83	S/MS
Terral LA841	Yes	32	59.0	78	MS
AGS 2000	Yes	37	60.0	78	MR/R
USG3209	No	26	59.0	77	R
Pioneer 26R87	Yes	35	59.5	76	S
Pioneer 26R61	Yes	31	59.0	71	RL
Pioneer 26R22	Yes	28	59.0	59	S

RL - resistant to all biotypes including L;

R - resistant to most biotypes except L,.

MR - moderately resistant, probably good enough for most HF infestations

S – susceptible to HF.

Sponsors: The Alabama ALFA Wheat and Feed Grain Commission, Syngenta, and Trey Cash with Terral Seed Company.

Comments: Both the **Pioneer 26R87 and the Pioneer 26R22** because of their longer vernalization requirements and the susceptibility to Hessian fly they are **not recommended** for South Alabama. Even though the 26R87 did quite well in this test, overall the results of this variety in farmer's fields were too erratic in this area this last year.

Early Planted Wheat Variety Test of Top Six Varieties: Replicated Twice
Cooperators: Bennie and Matt Watson in Atmore, Escambia County
Regional Extension Agronomist: Richard L. Petcher
Planted November 11, 2007
Fungicide Applied
Harvested June 4, 2007

Variety	Awns	Height	Test Weight	Moisture	Grain Yield Bu/acre	Hessian Fly Reaction
AGS 2000	Yes	41.5	60.5	12.5	84.00	MR/R
Terral LA 841	Yes	34	57	11.6	82.15	MS
USG 3209	No	32	59	13.25	82.05	R
Pioneer 26R61	Yes	37	61.25	13.50	80.79	RL
Terral LA 482	No	41	59	13.70	79.28	MS/MR
Pioneer 26R87	Yes	38.5	60.5	13.00	75.33	S

RL - resistant to all biotypes including L.

R - resistant to most biotypes except L.

MR - moderately resistant, probably good enough for most HF infestations.

S - susceptible to HF.

Sponsors: The Alabama ALFA Wheat and Feed Grain Commission, Syngenta, Trey Cash with Terral Seed Company and United South Genetics.

Comment: Again the Pioneer 26R87 did well in this test, but because of its longer vernalization requirement and susceptibility to Hessian Fly it had very poor results on many farmer's fields in this area and will **not be recommended** for Southwest Alabama.

Single Strip Wheat Test
Cooperator: Hilbert and Eric Hall in Poarch, Escambia County
Regional Extension Agronomist: Richard L. Petcher
Planted December 10, 2007
Fungicide: Quilt 14 oz. applied one time
Harvested: June 5, 2008

Variety	Awns	Plant Height	Test Weight	Moisture	Grain Yield Bu/acre	Hessian Fly Reaction
Vigaro McIntosh	No	36	58	13.9	84.46	S
USG 3592	No	35	57	14.2	83.9	S
USG 3209	No	32	57	14.1	81.8	R
AGS 2000	Yes	39	58	13.6	80.2	MR/R
Terral LA 482	No	40	57	13.9	79.6	MS/MR
Terral LA 841	Yes	32	57	13.9	73.4	MS
AgriPro Magnolia	Yes	36	59	14.8	73.2	MR
Georgia Gore	No	39	57	14.8	72.1	S/MS
AgriPro Coker 9553	Yes	36	61	15.0	69.4	S/MS
AgriPro Panola	Yes	36	58	14.7	61.2	S
Pioneer 26R22	Yes	36	57	17.5	52.1	S

RL - resistant to all biotypes including L.

R - resistant to most biotypes except L.

MR - moderately resistant, probably good enough for most HF infestations.

S – susceptible to HF.

Sponsors: The Alabama ALFA Wheat and Feed Grain Commission, Syngenta, Trey Cash with Terral Seed Company and United South Genetics.

Comments: Several of these varieties even though they performed well in this test are **not recommended** for South Alabama. Two reasons are their longer vernalization requirements and their lack of Hessian fly resistance. The varieties not recommended for this area are Vigaro McIntosh, AgriPro Magnolia, AgriPro Panola and Pioneer 26R22. **Georgia Gore** is not a highly recommended variety. It has only fair Hessian fly resistance. However, it is a public variety and may be sold as seed, and may perform fairly well especially if a fungicide is applied.

Oat Variety Test Southwest Alabama 2008
Cooperator: Walt, David, Will and Rod Richardson in Washington County
Regional Extension Agronomist: Richard L. Petcher
Planting Date: November 16, 2007
Harvest Date: June 6, 2008

Variety	Plant Height	Test Weight	Grain Yield Bu/acre
Harrison	44	35	134
Trophy	40	35	133
Horizon 321	44	35	109

In this test we picked what I considered the top three varieties for this area for grain and replicated this test four times. The results are the average of the twelve plots. The variety Harrison was developed by Howard Harrison (Coker's Pedigreed Seed) in the mid 80's. In recent years very little Harrison has been planted in Alabama. It is a top grain variety and definitely a top grazing variety. Harrison is susceptible to crown and stem rust. **Trophy** is a newly released oat developed by Steve Harrison of the LSU Agricultural Center and is marketed by Terral Seed Company. It has excellent test weight and is resistant to crown rust, but susceptible to stem rust. Stem rust is normally not a problem in this area. **Horizon 321** was developed by Ron Barnett (University of Florida) and is marketed by Plantation Seed Company. It is one of the top grain oats produced in Georgia, Alabama and Florida. **Horizon 270** is a new release oat that should be available and considered for this planting season. It is developed by Steve Harrison of the LSU Agricultural Center and is marketed by Plantation Seed. It should be one of the best oats available for 2008. I highly recommend trying them on a few acres.

Sponsors: Alabama Wheat and Feed Grain Commission, Trey Cash with Terral Seed Company and William Birdsong with Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Recommended Wheat and Oat Varieties for 2008

This recommended list is compiled from our On Farm Variety Testing program in Southwest Alabama. Much of this information has been compiled from Farmer's fields and how these varieties performed across this area. **This list was also reviewed by Dr. Steve Harrison, wheat and oat breeder and variety trial coordinator with the LSU AgCenter.** The variety trial information from Auburn University and surrounding states will not be posted for another four to six weeks. Hopefully this list will help you in your variety decisions and allow growers here to order their seed with confidence. It would be best for growers to order their seed as soon as possible.

The Top Five Varieties for this area are:

1. **Terral LA 482** Very early variety developed by Dr. Steve Harrison at LSU, and is handled by Terral Seed Company. It is susceptible to some races of leaf rust and intermediate for reaction to Hessian fly. It should not be planted early to avoid spring freeze damage.
2. **Coker 9553** This variety is from AgriPro-Coker. It has excellent yield potential but is susceptible to some races of leaf rust and moderately susceptible to Hessian Fly
3. **AGS 2000** This variety was released from the University of Georgia in 2000 and is sold by AgSouth Genetics. It has medium maturity and has good leaf rust and powdery mildew resistance. **Hessian fly:** AGS 2000 has moderate resistance, but is not resistant to biotype L..

4. **USG 3209** This variety was developed by Virginia Tech and is marketed by UniSouth Genetics. This is a high yielding variety in South Alabama, but only has fair resistance to leaf rust and glume blotch. It is resistant to Hessian fly except for biotype L
5. **Terral LA 841** This variety was developed by Dr. Steve Harrison at LSU and is marketed by Terral Seed Company. It is an early variety with high disease resistance, but is moderately susceptible to Hessian fly. This variety did well in South Alabama this past year. It is the number one variety planted in Louisiana and South and Central Mississippi.
6. **Pioneer 26R61** is another good variety from Pioneer. Placing it not quite as good as the top five. This medium maturity, good yielding variety has good leaf rust, but good powdery mildew, soil borne mosaic virus and is resistant to Hessian fly, including biotype L.

A few new varieties growers should try in this area on a small basis are:

1. **AGS 2060** This line was developed at LSU by Dr. Steve Harrison and is early with good resistance to stripe and leaf rust, soil-borne mosaic virus and Hessian fly. It has tolerance to powdery mildew and glume blotch. It is a good yielding variety with excellent test weight but will lodge under high N fertilization.
2. **AGS 2010** This early maturing variety developed by Jerry Johnson of the University of Georgia is sold by AgSouth Genetics. It has excellent disease resistance and is **resistant to biotype L** of Hessian fly. This variety performed well in South Al. this year.
3. **AGS 2026** This medium maturity variety was developed by Jerry Johnson with the University of Georgia. It has good yield, is resistant to leaf and stripe rust, and has **biotype L Hessian Fly resistance. This variety will do well planted in November, but will not do well planted late.**

Of the varieties above AGS 2060, AGS 2026, and the Terral LA 841 may have the best disease and insect resistance packages.

Several growers this last year tried the Terral varieties on their **wettest ground**. These varieties were developed in Louisiana where the climate is much wetter than here. These varieties performed well here on wet ground.

Georgia Gore is a Public Variety that has done well here. It is also an excellent forage wheat. It has poor leaf rust and stripe rust resistance. It does have some powdery mildew and some Hessian fly resistance. If a fungicide is applied it usually makes a decent yield. It is **not recommended for top grain production**. **Fleming** is an old variety that has always done very well in South Alabama. This variety has a low chilling requirement and has consistently yielded well when planted late. Fleming has good leaf rust, Stripe rust and Powdery mildew resistance and only fair Hessian fly resistance.

Hessian fly: The biotype L Hessian fly is now in Southwest Alabama. They appear to be heavier in Baldwin, Mobile and Washington counties than they are in Escambia, Clarke, Monroe, Conecuh and Butler. The only varieties so far that are resistant to biotype L Hessian fly and are recommended for South Alabama are Pioneer 26R61 and AGS 2010 (AGS 2026, ???). Entomologist across the South agree that Hessian fly could be a major problem in wheat production this upcoming year.

Additional Sources of Data:

Louisiana Yield Trial Results can be found at:

<http://www.agronomy.lsu.edu/LSUWheat/LSUWHEAT.html>

Mississippi Yield Trial Results can be found at:

<http://msucares.com/crops/variety/index.html>

Georgia Yield Trial Results can be found at:

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/swvt/small.html>

Auburn University Yield Trial Results can be found at:

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/aaes/communications/publications/forageandfield.html#anchor818520>

Cotton Insects

Stink bugs are on the increase in our corn, peanuts, soybeans and cotton. As cotton begins blooming and setting bolls scouts and growers should be monitoring fields closely for stink bugs and damage.

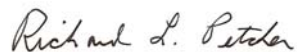
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Extension Entomologist with the University of Georgia writes the Cotton Pest Management Newsletter about once a week. This letter is posted on the UGA Cotton Homepage at:

<http://www.uga.cotton.com>

You may also want to check the Cotton Insect Hotline (1-800-851-2847) for updates on current insect conditions. Even though this information is from Georgia, the information is usually very applicable to Southwest Alabama.

Again, I hope this "On The Farm" news letter has been helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Petcher
Regional Extension Agent
Agronomic Crops