



*Alabama A&M and
Auburn Universities*



February 3, 2009

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NEWS LETTER FEBRUARY 2009

Upcoming Production Meetings:

Mobile Cotton Production Meeting: Tuesday, February 10 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Light House Restaurant, 12495 Padgett Switch Road in Bayou la Batre. Program: Dr. Ron Smith, AU Cotton Entomologist on Stink Bugs and other cotton pests, Dr. Steve Brown and Al Wright with Phytogen, Jerry Spivey with FiberMax and Rod Higdon with Deltapine.

Atmore Cotton Production Meeting: Wednesday, February 11 starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Best Western Restaurant in Atmore. Program: Dr. Dale Monks, AU Cotton Agronomist, Dr. Mike Patterson, AU Cotton Weed Scientist, Dr. Ron Smith, AU Cotton Entomologist, Dr. Robert Goodman, AU Cotton Economist and Cotton Seed Company and Industry Updates.

Alabama-Florida Peanut Trade Show: February 12, starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Peanut Fair Grounds just South of Dothan on highway 231. The trade show will have over 50 exhibitors and University Speakers.

Evergreen Soybean Production Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Jalisco's Restaurant on highway 83 South in Evergreen. Speaker, Dr. Dennis Delaney, AU Soybean Agronomist.

Atmore Soybean Production Meeting: Wednesday, February 18, starting at 11:30 at the Best Western in Atmore on highway 21 just off of I-65. Speaker, Dr. Dennis Delaney, AU Soybean Agronomist.

Atmore Wheat Production Meeting: Wednesday, February 25, starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Best Western in Atmore on highway 21 just off of I-65. Speaker, Jimmy Clements, Agronomist with Plantation Seed. Clements will share timely information for our wheat growers. After lunch we will visit the On Farm Wheat Variety Test and have a session in the field.

Baldwin Soybean Production Meeting: Thursday, February 26, 2009, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the ALFA Farmer's Federation Building in Robertsdale. Speakers are Dr. Dennis Delaney and Dr. Ed Sikora.

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

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Managing Feral Hog Damage

Wednesday, March 4, starting at 8:00 a.m. at the 5 Rivers Delta Center, 30945 Five Rivers Blvd., Spanish Fort, Al 36527. Program 8:30-2:30 Handouts and lunch provided. Send check to Wild Hog Management, Att. Kelly Knowles, 3301 Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University, 36849. Phone (334) 844-1010 (credit card payment). Program: Dr. Mark Smith, AU Wildlife Specialist and others. Excellent program.

Winter Grazing and Row Crop Cover Crop Field Day: Wednesday, March 18, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Monroe Gin in Uriah on highway 21 South. We will meet in the field approximately ½ mile North of the Gin. Speakers, Tim Tucker, producer and Dr. Edzard van Zanten, AU Plant Breeder and Dr. Don Ball, AU Forage Specialist and Regional Extension Agents, Anthony Wiggins, Ken Kelley and Richard Petcher.

Corn is soon to be planted

Most corn seed has already been purchased. However, if you are looking for a good hybrid to plant dry land in Southwest Al. here is a short list:

Crop Lan Genetics 799RB

Dekalb 69-71

Dyna-Gro 58K40

Pioneer 31P40

Terral 25BR23

Wheat Scouting and Fertilizing

The time to top dress wheat is just prior to stem elongation where rapid uptake of Nitrogen begins. That will usually be between the middle of February and early March depending on when you planted the wheat, the variety and weather. Base this timing on your crop and not the calendar. The wheat varieties AGS 2000 is rather tall and has weak straw strength and therefore tends to lodge, especially if too much Nitrogen is applied. Suggest not going over 100 pounds of N per acre on this variety. Wheat will also benefit from Sulfur. Add 10 to 20 pounds of Sulfur per acre. You may apply up to 30 pounds on deep sandy soils. This is also a good time to scout for aphids. At the full tiller stage 6 aphids per row feet is the threshold level for applying an insecticide. Aphids spread the Barley Yellow Dwarf Disease. Controlling the aphids is the best way to prevent the disease. This is a good time to scout for other diseases as well. As of this time we have seen no sign of other diseases. We have also seen no sign of Hessian fly in our wheat so far either. Growers will want to keep a close eye on this pest as well as the weather warms up. The next peak of the Hessian fly cycle is predicted for the month of March.

Peanuts for Southwest Alabama 2009

The 2008 Peanut Crop was a record breaker for the entire peanut belt. There were 1,507,000 acres planted in the U.S. with the yield averaging 3,416 pounds per acre across all acres. Why was this past year a record breaking harvest? There was very little Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus in 2008. The weather pattern somehow worked out in the peanuts favor. There was very little White Mold in 2008. And growers had a wide selection of good peanut varieties planted.

The two most important factors for a grower to know at this time on peanuts are to know your costs and to know your peanut varieties.

Know your costs. At present the peanut expected price for 2009 is \$355 per ton. Of course prices may change, but this is a good price to calculate your budget as of today.

Peanut Budget Profile

Variable Costs	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	Cost/ Acre	Your Costs
Seed	125	0.85	\$106.00	
Lime	½ Ton	35	17.50	
Fertilizer	0-20-40	0.70	42.00	
Boron			2.00	
Herbicide			60.00	
Insecticide			20.00	
Nematicide			20.00	
Fungicide			75.00	
Tractor, Machinery, fuel and repairs			75.00	
Crop Insurance			25.00	
Land Rent			80.00	
Cleaning and drying			30.00	
Interest on Operating Capital			20.00	
Labor			10.00	
		Total Variable Costs	\$580-600	

This budget is strictly a tailgate budget. The most important column above is **your costs**.

With the present price of \$355 per ton peanuts it would take yields of 3,300 pounds per acre to break even. Growers are encouraged to make their own calculations as expenses are different on each farm.

Marshal Lamb with the USDA Peanut Research Team in Dawson ,Ga.

Decisions for the 2009 Peanut Crop: 1. Realize that we are oversupplied and that an acreage reduction is needed to get markets back into balance. But also realize that depending on acreage and yield, we could see some large swings this year that could have late season effects on the markets. 2. If a

contract is offered, evaluate it based on: 1- other crop returns, 2- YOUR cost of production (if you cannot cover your variable cost, then do not plant).

The second premier decision is to know your peanut varieties and selecting the best variety for your farm. I would encourage each grower to study each variety thoroughly. I rely heavily on University data for peanut variety information. Some of the following web sites may be helpful.

Florida Peanut Variety Info: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG269>

Georgia Peanut Variety Info: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/swvt/>

Auburn University: <http://www.alabamavarietytesting.com>

Some of the University data is not on line yet.

I also study these varieties in the field while being grown in our region and rely heavily on growers testimonies of these particular varieties. Below is the peanut variety test grown on Adam and Ray Bertolla's Farm in Baldwin County. It contains very good information for our area growers.

Peanut Variety Test 2008
Producers: Adam and Ray Bertolla
Auburn University Peanut Agronomist: Kris Balkcom
Regional Extension Agronomist: Richard L. Petcher

This test was replicated 4 times in randomized complete block design.
 Planted May 28, 2008 Harvested October 29,2008

Cultivar	Yield in pounds/acre	Grade TSMK	Significant Difference in yield
Georgia Greener	5,163	77	A
Florida O7	4,930	77	A B
Georgia 03L	4,850	71	A B
AP-3	4,707	73	B C
Georgia Green	4,329	77	C D
McCloud	4,289	76	D
AP-4	4,206	76	D

Appreciation is expressed to Adam and Ray Bertolla and the Alabama Peanut Producer's Association for sponsoring this test.

A few of the varieties that are highly recommended for our area will be in very short seed supply. However, if you have the opportunity to get these varieties do no pass them up.

Florida 07. (140 day) Were at the top or near the top of all university trials. A few growers in Southwest Al. had them on their farms and were well pleased with the FL 07. Carl Sanders, President of APPA had them on his farm and was very pleased with final yields. It is a large seeded peanut so suggest applying gypsum.

Georgia 06G. Outstanding peanut. I have not seen them grown here. Marshal Lamb with USDA Peanut Research Team in Dawson, Ga. had them on his farm and they performed outstanding.

Georgia Greener. Topped the On Farm Test on Bertolla Farm in Baldwin. Excellent peanut.

Georgia 07W. Also an excellent peanut. Probably will be very short seed supply.

Tifguard. Also an excellent peanut. Probably very little seed. It has excellent nematode resistance.

York. (150 day) An excellent peanut for Southwest Al. Topped the full season On Farm Test in Baldwin County in 2007. They have at times a poor seed germination and seedling vigor. So do not plant them early. They have a slow vine growth. However, at harvest growers have been well pleased to extremely pleased with the yields. This peanut has the best TSWV and disease package of any peanut available for 2009.

AT-215 (125 day) A shorter season peanut developed by Dr. Earnest Harvey with AgraTech. This peanut will also be in short seed supply. Does not have as good a TSWV and disease package as some of our other peanuts.

AP-4 Also a new peanut. Have a good yield and grade. So far very few acres have been planted in our area. They have not stood at the top of our area yield data. However, they may be an excellent peanut.

AP-3. (135-140 day) Have performed well in our area. A good peanut to plant early.

Georgia 03L. A very good peanut for our area. Excellent yielder, sometimes has a poor grade.

McCloud. Another new release from Florida. Excellent peanut however, it probably does not have a strong enough disease package for Southwest Al.

C-99R (145-152 day) A variety with very good multiple disease TSWV, late leafspot, white mold, rust resistance and is an excellent yielder with good grades. Typically not as good a yielder as York.

Georgia 02C (150 + days) an excellent peanut for our area. Typically not as good a yielder as York.

AT 3085 RO This peanut has poor late leaf spot resistance. **Probably should not be planted in Southwest Al.**

For Baldwin County and other growers who may be concerned with **CBR**: The varieties that seem to have the worst problems with CBR are AP-3 and C-99R. Tifguard and Ga 02C are the varieties that appear to have the most resistance.

At present the cultivar York has the best TSWV and disease package of any peanut variety available.

The above description of the peanut varieties is very short. Both the Southeast Farm Press and Peanut Grower Magazine have published a fuller description of these varieties. It was too long to print here. More information on each variety can be found in the Peanut Disease Risk Index.

Peanut Disease Risk Index 2009

This page is taken from the Peanut Risk Index compiled by UGA, UFL and Auburn Universities. The entire Peanut Rx is 16 pages long and can soon be found on line at: <http://www.aces.edu> under timely information. It contains some very useful information.

Peanut Variety

Variety ¹	Spotted Wilt Points	Leaf Spot Points	Soilborne Disease Points	
			White mold	Limb rot
Flavorrunner 458 ²	50	unknown	Unknown	Unknown
NC-V 11	35	30	30	25
AT-215 ^{*,2}	30	unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Georgia Green	30	20	25	15
Andru II ²	25	30	25	25
Florida Fancy ^{*,2}	25	unknown	Unknown	Unknown
McCloud ²	20	25	20	Unknown
AP-4 [*]	20	20	15	Unknown
C-99R ⁴	20	15	15	25
AT 3085 RO ²	15	30	25	Unknown
Georgia-05E	15	20	25	Unknown
Georgia Greener [*]	15	20	25	Unknown
Georgia-02C ^{2,3,5}	15	20	10	20
Georgia-03L ⁵	15	15	10	20
AP-3 ⁴	10	25	10	25
Georgia-06G	10	20	20	Unknown
Florida-07 ²	10	20	15	Unknown
Georgia-07W [*]	10	15	10	Unknown
Tifguard ^{3,6}	10	15	10	Unknown
York ²	10	10	5	Unknown
Georganic	5	10	10	Unknown

**Data for these new varieties is limited and risk ratings will undergo changes as needed in the future.*

¹*Adequate research data is not available for all varieties with regards to all diseases. Additional varieties will be included as data to support the assignment of an index value are available.*

²*High oleic variety.*

³*Varieties GA-02C and TifGuard appear to have increased resistance to *Cylindrocladium black rot* (CBR) than do other varieties commonly planted in Georgia.*

⁴*Varieties AP3 and C-99R are less resistant to CBR and are not recommended for fields where this disease is a problem.*

⁵*The malady referred to as "funky" or "irregular" leaf spot tends to be more severe in GA02C and GA03L than in other varieties. Although this condition can look like early leaf spot (*Cercospora arachidicola*), the cause "funky" leaf spot is unknown. Disease losses are not typically associated with funky leaf spot.*

⁶*The new variety Tifguard has excellent resistance to the peanut root-knot nematode.*

The Auburn University Peanut IPM 2009

UGA Peanut Production Guide 2009

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/peanuts/index.html>

These are also very helpful and will be on line soon.

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