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# On The Farm

## NEWS LETTER JANUARY 2008

### UP COMING MEETINGS

#### **Mobile Peanut Production Meeting**

Date: January 21, 2008

Place: The Light House Restaurant in Bayou la Batre

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Barry Tillman, University of Florida Peanut Plant Breeder

#### **Mississippi Peanut Growers Association Annual Meeting and Short Course**

Date: January 22, 2008

Place: Forest County Multipurpose Center in Hattiesburg, MS

Time: 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. MS Grower's Association Meeting

9:15 Dr. John Beasley, University of Georgia Peanut Agronomist

10:00 Dr. Glen Harris, University of Georgia Soil Specialist

10:45 Dr. Marshall Lamb, National Peanut Lab Economist

11:30 Sponsored Dinner

1:00 Dr. Barry Tillman, University of Florida Peanut Breeder

1:30 Randy Griggs, Alabama Peanut Producer's Executive Secretary

2:15 Chris Balkum, Auburn University Peanut Agronomist, Precision Digging

2:45 Kelvin Riggins

3:15 Grower Panel: Lonnie Fortner, John Michael Pillow, Clayton Lawrence Jr. and William Dean Atkins

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

### **Conservation Tillage Workshop**

Date: Wednesday January 23, 2008

Place: Loxley Civic Center in Loxley, Alabama.

Time: 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

7:00 Registration

8:00 Opening and Welcome – Amy Bell, Coordinator, Gulf Coast RC&D, Bay Minette, Al. and Ben Moore, Agronomist, NRCS, Luverne, Al.

8:05 Economics of Conservation Tillage – Bob Goodman, Agricultural Economist, Auburn University, Auburn, Al. and Bill Hughes, State Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Auburn, Al.

8:35 Cotton, Corn, Wheat, Soybean Conservation Tillage System – Lamar Black, Farmer, Millen, Ga.

9:05 Cover Crops in Conservation Tillage Systems – Andy Price, Weed Scientist, USDA-ARS, Auburn, AL

9:45 Break

10:00 Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance – James Dean, Agronomist, Athens, Ga.

10:20 Sod based, Peanut, and Grain Crops Conservation Tillage Systems – David Wright, Extension Agronomist, University of Florida, Quincy, Fl.

11:00 Soil Management – Randy Raper, Lead Scientist, USDA-ARS, Auburn, Al.

11:30 Farmer Panel – Mickey Diamond, Santa Rosa County, Fl.

Jimmy Brooks, Monroe County, Al.

Benny Watson, Escambia County, Al.

12:15 Conservation Programs – Ben Moore, Agronomist, NRCS, Luverne, Al.

12:30 Sponsored Lunch

1:00 End of Workshop

The workshop is designed for Alabama and Florida farmers desiring to learn more about conservation tillage methods from other farmers and conservation tillage researchers.

Topics to be covered at the workshop include cover crop, weed, and fertility management. Additional topics include soil compaction, water relations, equipment and USDA farm programs. The workshop is free and lunch will be provided. For more details about the program contact the Gulf Coast RC&D at (251) 580-0195 or your local NRCS or Extension office.

### **Precision Ag Update & Demonstration Meeting**

Date: January 30, 2008

Place: Tennessee Valley Research & Extension Center in Belle Mina, Al.

Time: 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Program: New guidance and boom control products on the market. Company representatives (Trimble, Raven, Mid-Tech, AutoFarm and others) will be on hand to discuss and demonstrate their newest products. If you plan to attend or would like more information contact Amy Winstead (256-443-4752) or Shannon Norwood (256-412-1696).

**Alabama Young & Adult Farmers' Agricultural Education Association, Inc. Annual Meeting: George Schwartz in Elberta is the present President of the Association.**

Date: February 1 & 2, 2008

Place: Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Al.

Registration and tour information is on the last page.

**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 Baukum, 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 Baukum, 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.

**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 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 at 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.

## **SOIL TEST: ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS YOU CAN MAKE**

This is the first step to having a successful growing season. Every grower should be a soil scientist to some degree. Soil testing will make the difference between having a good fertility program or a great one. Never let fertilizer be your crops limiting factor. And never let over fertilizing or the wrong fertilizer application by guessing drain your bank account. Research has shown that most growers who do not take soil tests and follow them are spending on average \$40.00 more per acre than if they would sample their fields regularly. Across 1000 acres that would be \$40,000.00 savings by simply soil testing. Auburn University has one of the most accurate soils testing laboratories in the world. Their recommendations are never a get by recommendation. Their recommendations are calibrated for your crop on your soil for 120 per cent maximum yield. Adding more fertilizer will make very little to no difference in your crop yield. This basic practice of soil testing is a major key to success in farming.

The Auburn University Soil Test Lab has a new form available on-line at:

<http://www.aces.edu/soiltest>

Highlights of this new form are: Reduced charge to \$7 per sample, allows for credit card payments, and allows for email, fax or mail delivery of reports. Once a grower has user id and password, you can download your results, print it in a different format and change the crop on line if you wish.

### **APPLIED SCIENCE REPORT**

On Farm variety testing and 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.

**Cotton Variety Test Southwest Alabama**  
**Cooperator: David Womack and Kevin Hollon**  
**Auburn University Cotton Agronomist: Dr. Dale Monks**  
**Regional Extension Agronomist: Richard L. Petcher**

**Planted on May 18, 2007**

**Harvested on December 4, 2007**

Table of Results

Variety	Seed Cotton Weight	Yield per acre at 36 % Gin Turn Out
Phytogen 480WRF	780 lb.	802
Delta Pine 515	780	802
Fiber Max 1880B2RF	760	782
Stonevill 5327	740	761
Delta Pine 143 B2RF	740	761

Fiber Max X064327 B2RF	720	741
Stoneville 6611	700	720
Delta Pine 117 B2RF	700	720
Delta Pine 555 BGR	700	720
Delta Pine 161 B2RF	660	674
Phytogen 485 WRF	640	658
Fiber Max 9063 B2RF	600	617

Sponsors: Alabama Cotton Commission, Delta-Pine, Stoneville, Phytogen and FiberMax Cotton Seed Companies.

Cotton samples from each plot were taken and will be ginned and classified. Results after that may be different than those above.

**Cotton Broiler Litter and Siderdress Nitrogen Study**  
**Cooperator: David Womack and Kevin Hollon in Escambia**  
**AU Soil Specialist: Dr. Charley Mitchell**  
**Extension Agronomist: Dr. Tim Reed**  
**Regional Extension Agronomist: Richard L. Petcher**

Planting Date: May 28, 2007 dusted in. Did not come up for several weeks  
Harvest Date: December 1, 2007

**Broiler Litter** at the rate of 2 tons per acre was applied. The analysis of this litter was very good. The nutrient content of the litter was Nitrogen 3.18 %, Phosphorous 4.37 %, Potassium 2.38 %, Calcium 2.61 % and Magnesium 0.43 %. One ton of this litter delivers N 64lb., P205 87 lb and K20 48 lb. Two tons delivers N, 128 lb., P205, 174 lb., and k20, 96 lb. Costs: Broiler litter cost \$25 per ton plus \$6.00 for spreading. Total cost \$31 per ton. **Total Cost for Broiler = \$62 per acre.**

**Commercial**

350 lb. of 15-18-18 was applied. Cost was \$345 per ton. Cost per acre was \$60  
28-0-0-6 was the siderdress fertilizer, applied at 47.5 lb of N per acre. Cost was \$245 per ton and \$21 per acre. **Total Cost for Commercial = \$81 per acre.**

Comparison	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium	Cost	Yield
Commerical	100	63	63	\$81	447.5 lb.
Broiler 2 Tons	128	174	96	\$62	-8.75
Broiler + 40 N	168	174	96	\$80	+4.75
Broiler + 80 N	208	174	96	\$97	+24.25

### Table of Results of Treatments and Harvest Yields Averaged

Average Yield of each Treatments	Yield of lint cotton Adjusted at 36 % gin turn out per acre
Commercial	447.5 lb. per acre
Broiler + 0 Nitrogen	438.75
Broiler + 40 N	452.25
Broiler + 80 N	471.75

### Table of Results of Treatments, Yield, Costs, Yield and Profit Comparison

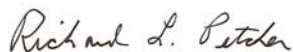
Treatments	Yield at 36 % gin turn out per acre	Cost of fertilizer per acre	Yield Comparison	Profit Comparison
Commercial	447.5 lb.	\$81	447.5 lb.	
2 ton Broiler	438.75	\$62	-8.75	Highest Return
Broiler + 40 N	452.25	\$80	+4.75	2 <sup>nd</sup> Highest
Broiler + 80 N	471.75	\$97	+24	

Sponsors: Alabama Cotton Commission and Dru Rush of DeltaPine.

Results: From this study show that for growing cotton with broiler litter as the fertilizer the first year it is recommended to apply 2 tons of high analysis broiler litter within 30 days of planting and then sidedress with 40 lb of additional Nitrogen during the growing season. Research has shown that litter applied one year gives an additional yield the second year. Cotton the second year of broiler litter application typically needs only 2 tons of broiler and no additional Nitrogen. Litter also has a net liming benefit that should help reduce the need for additional lime in the future in comparison with plots that received commercial fertilizer.

Again, I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Petcher  
Regional Extension Agent  
Agronomic Crops

**State Convention Registration:**

Alabama Young and Adult Farmers' Agricultural Education Association, Inc.  
Twenty-Eighth Annual Convention  
Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Al  
February 1 & 2, 2008

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (if attending): \_\_\_\_\_

Status (check one): AYAF \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to Arrive: Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

Early Registraton on or before January 15, 2008

Pre-registration:           Single (\$75)           Couple (\$150)

Registration after Jan 15: Single (\$100)       Couple (\$175)

Saturday Tours - # of people \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations may be made at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Al by calling (800) 634-8001. Booking ID # 4797. Room rates \$99.00 plus taxes, after January 15 room rates will be \$115.00 plus taxes. Deadline for room reservations is January 15, 2008. Make checks payable to AYAF and send to H.N. Lewis, AYAF, 3410 Skyway Drive, Auburn, Al 36830-6444.

Tentative Itinerary for tours at the state convention:

Bon Secour Fisheries: Family owned business that sells and ships fresh seafood all over the United States.

Weeks Bay Estuary: Part of Mobile Bay, which empties into the Gulf of Mexico. They do water quality studies for the EPA. Nature trials and the best bird watching in the state.

Gold Coast Coin & Currency Show: Largest show of its kind in Alabama and sponsored by United Bank. If you have any coins that might be of value bring them with you and someone will be able to tell you the value of your coins.

Possible tour stops:

BF Goodrich: They make aircraft parts for the military for F-15 and other aircraft.

Flowerwood Nursery: Located in Loxley, Al. This privately owned business ships all kind of plants all over the U.S. The encore azalea is their number one plant they sell.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention! George Schwartz