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On The Farm

NEWS LETTER APRIL 2010

UPCOMING PRODUCTION MEETINGS:

Gypsum and its Many Uses on Row Crops

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2010
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: David's Catfish House in Atmore
Speaker: Dr. Malcolm Sumner is with the Southern Company. Dr. Sumner is Professor Emitrus with University of Georgia Soil and Environmental Science.

MG V to VI Roundup Ready^{R} Soybean Varieties

Washington County, AL 2009

Dennis Delaney, Extension Specialist, and Richard Petcher, Regional Extension Agent

This trial was planted on 10 June 2009 following a wheat grain crop on the Russell Hendrix Farm near Fruitdale, Alabama. Each cultivar was planted in a single block of 21 ft wide and approximately 650 ft long in 20-inch rows using an IH 800 row crop planter grain into burned stubble. Plots were maintained according to Extension recommendations. Rainfall was generally plentiful, although short dry spells were encountered during the summer. Height was measured before harvest in a straight line perpendicular to the plots, while no significant lodging was noted for any variety. Plots were harvested on 6 November 2009 using the producer's combine and a weighing grain buggy. Yields were adjusted to 13% moisture and 60 lb/bu.

Table 1. Washington County MG V to VI RR Soybean Varieties, 2009

Brand	Variety	Bu/A @ 13.0%	Ht (in)
Pioneer	96M60 (RR)	53.6	26
Asgrow - DeKalb	DKB 64-51 RR	52.9	32
Asgrow - DeKalb	DP 6568 RR	49.4	24
Pioneer	95M50 (RR)	48.4	22
Armor	55-A5	44.3	26
NK	S 59-B8	42.3	24
Asgrow - DeKalb	5905 RR	42.0	26
NK	S 61-Q2	40.4	24
Dyna-Gro	SX09667	40.2	20
Dyna-Gro	V622nRR	39.1	27
Terral	59R16	37.1	21
Croplan	5007	30.3*	18

*Heavy shattering noted @ harvest

Appreciation is expressed to Russell Hendrix and neighbors for their cooperation, particularly at harvest, and seed industry reps for their support. The Alabama Soybean Producers (check off) grant support is also appreciated.

Soybean Inoculant Test 2009

Producers: **James and Jason Weber in Escambia County, Alabama**
Regional Extension Agronomist: **Richard L. Petcher**
Auburn University Soybean Agronomist: **Dr. Dennis Delaney**

Planted: May 20, 2009 **Harvested:** November 19, 2009

This test was a single strip, 8 row plots on 30 inch row spacing. Rows were 2540 feet long. Plot size 1.17 acres. The Soybean variety was Terral 59R16. Moisture at harvest was 16 %.

Treatment	Harvest Weight	Bushels per acre at 16 % Moisture
Check No Inoculant	4086 lb.	58.2
Vault NP in furrow	4176	59.5
Vault LVL liquid on seed	4198	59.8
Vault SP	4216	60.1

Products donated for this test by: Glen Wiggins with BeckerUnderwood.
Seed donated by: Trey Cash with Terral Seed Company.

Results of this test and similar tests across the Soybean Region show that Soybean Inoculants pay to use even on land that has previously had soybeans on it. There were no significant differences in the no inouclant verses the inoculant. However there was enough yield increase to more than pay for the inoculant. On land that has never had soybeans it is highly recommended that a soybean inoculant be used.

SOYBEAN INSECTICIDE SEED TREATMENT STUDY

ESCAMBIA COUNTY, ALABAMA – 2009
Grower Cooperator: **Eric Hall**
Extension Entomologist: **Tim Reed**
Regional Agronomist: **Richard Petcher**

Asgrow 5606 soybeans that were either untreated or treated with Cruiser 5FS insecticide (thiamethoxam) were planted May 16, 2009. Plots were 11 rows wide and 1154 feet long. There were 4 replications of each treatment with treatments arranged in a RCB design. The Cruiser treatment was applied at the rate of 1.28 liquid ounces of Cruiser 5FS per 100 lbs of soybean seed. The insecticide was diluted with water and sprayed over the seed in an electric concrete mixer to evenly coat the seed. Plant inspections on July 8 showed very low levels of three-cornered alfalfa hopper damage in both treatments. Plots were harvested November 11 and yields were determined using a weigh wagon equipped with digital scales. Yields were as follows: Cruiser-Treated seed = 55.3 bu./acre and non-treated seed = 55.5 bu./acre. Differences were not significant (P>F = 0.9).

The Charles Dean "Deer and Hog Mega Fence"

Richard Petcher, Regional Extension Agronomist in Southwest Alabama, Mr. Charles Dean, Cotton Producer in Baldwin County and Dr. Mark Smith, AU Extension Wildlife Specialist.

Deer, hogs and other wildlife are doing extensive damage to our crops in Alabama. Results from a survey conducted in Southwest, Alabama on Wildlife Damage showed a 10 % loss to our crops caused primarily by deer and hogs. This damage is a $16 million loss to our growers just in Southwest Alabama. Some fields have had to be abandoned totally. This problem is an ever increasing problem. Predictions are that growers who have no problem with deer and hogs someday will.

The costs of wildlife fence are prohibitive to most Alabama growers especially on rented land. However, a less expensive cost efficient fence, the deer and hog mega fence is being used by a few growers in Alabama and Mississippi who have had very good results. The fence is not totally guaranteed to keep deer and hogs out but is very effective, and growers are pleased. The deer and hogs that make it through the fence do not quickly attempt to get out and can then be eliminated with appropriate permission and methods.

Mr. Charles Dean in Little River, Northern Baldwin County farms with fields right on the Alabama River, and this area is historically the worst deer and hog infested area of Alabama. Farming looked like a losing battle. In 1984, he built his first fence that we now call the Deer and Hog Mega Fence. He has been very successful.

The Mega Fence: A three strand high tinsel electric fence is constructed around a field. The strand interval is 18 inches, 36 inches and 54 inches above the ground. Three feet out from this fence is a one strand high tinsel electric fence placed 18 inches above ground. The posts for the three strands are T posts placed 50-60 feet apart and the outside posts are rebar placed 40 – 60 feet apart.

The idea of the two separate fences is to disorientate the deer and hogs. They hit one fence and continue through, but when they hit the second fence it gives them a second opinion and normally they decide it is not worth the shock just to eat a little corn or cotton. The soil is sprayed under the fence with herbicides to be kept free from any grass or weeds that could possibly short out the fence. Once the fence is built it is plugged in immediately with a high mega charger. This charger does not need to be too big unless doing a large area. It is utmost important that the charger have a high joule output. At least an 8 joule output is needed in order to deter the wildlife. For fences covering 100 acres or more a charger with a 12 joule output is recommended. Again it is not how many miles the charger is recommended for as much as the higher joule output. Solar chargers are often used in rural areas.

Cost efficiency: The cost of this type fence (using a 12 joule solar charger, solar panel, t-posts, rebar posts and high tensil wire) is approximately $3,000 to run one mile of fence or to fence in 40 acres. This cost does not include corner posts or labor. On a per acre basis that is $75 per acre. Over a 3 year period of time this would be a cost of $25 per acre to control wildlife. This fence is very cost efficient where your crops are under heavy wildlife pressure.

Time efficiency: This fence can be built during the winter when time is more available and the wire strung just before or after planting. If built correctly the fence will only need monitoring during the growing season. This takes much of the stress and worry out of trying to control wildlife that are damaging your crops.

Key Strategies: There are a few key strategies to this fence. If anyone has the idea that you can completely fence out deer and hogs they are wrong. And it would take more money than most growers would want to spend. Field border preparation is important. Make the borders as smooth as possible, as the deer and hogs will look for and go under at ditches and other low spots. Timing is very important: Put the fence up the day after you plant. The fence you put up must be hot the day you put it up. Deer and hogs are creatures of habit and once they break through a fence they will continue. Once your fence is up and

hot, recheck it the next day and the next. The deer and hogs will tend to break it the first night or so. So do not neglect your fence. Keep it charged all the time. You will still need to check your fence periodically. When the crop is harvested, take down your fence immediately.

Results: Growers using this fence state there is no guarantee that it will work for you. However, they are very pleased with their own results. Gratitude is expressed to Charles Dean, Russell Hendrix and Lonnie Fortner for their willingness to share their experiences in order to help other growers. Gratitude is also expressed to Mobile County cotton producer Andy Thornburg in conducting the Mega Fence on Farm Research and Demonstration Test. Gratitude is also expressed to Officer Kevin Hill with the Alabama Department of Fish and Game for monitoring the wildlife infringement. Officer Hill rated the mega fence as having 99.9 % control. Gratitude is also expressed to the Alabama Cotton Commission for sponsoring this important study.

Helpful List of Web Sites

This helpful list of web sites was given to us by Dr. Kathy Flanders, AU Grain Entomologist.
Electronic Resources on Insect Pest Management of Wheat, Corn, Stored Grain and Sorghum in South Alabama

Information from Any Land Grant University: http://search.extension.org

Information from Auburn and ACES on Alabama Crops:
www.alabamacrops.com (about: www.alabamacrops.com)

Overall Pest Management Recommendations

Alabama Pest Management Handbook:
Volume 1: http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-A/ANR-0500-A.html
Volume 2: http:/www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-B/ (http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-B/)

Mississippi: Insect Control Guide for Agronomic Crops 2010 (current link:
http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2471.pdf)

2010 Georgia Pest Management Handbook (current link): http://www.ent.uga.edu/pmh/

Wheat

Alabama Winter Wheat Production Guide (current version:
http://www.aces.edu/anr/crops/documents/AL_2009Wheatprod.guide.pdf)

Alabama Small Grains Insect, Disease, and Weed Recommendations for 2010 (current version):
http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-A/VOL1-2010/smallgrains.pdf)

Southern Small Grains Resource Management Handbook:
http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/B1190/B1190.html

Barley Yellow Dwarf and Aphids:
http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1082/ANR-1082.pdf

Scouting for Hessian Fly:
http://www.aces.edu/dept/grain/documents/HessianFlyScoutingGuide.pdf

Hessian Fly Biology and Management:
http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1069/ANR-1069.pdf

Corn

Alabama Corn Insect, Disease, Nematode, and Weed Control for 2010 (current version:
http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-A/VOL1-2010/corn.pdf)

Georgia Corn Insect Diagnostic Guide: http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/B1221/B1221.htm
(12 Mb pdf version http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/B1221.pdf)

Corn Insect Identification Guide, Mississippi State University
http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2252.pdf

Management of Field Corn Insect Pests in North Carolina
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/plymouth/pubs/ent/index1.html

2010 Buyer's Guide for Bt Corn in Alabama (current link:
http://www.aces.edu/dept/grain/documents/BtCornBuyersGuide.pdf)

Grain Sorghum

Sorghum Insect Pests and Their Management
http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/pdf/B1283.pdf

Georgia Grain Sorghum Insect Control Guide
http://www.ent.uga.edu/pmh/Com_Grain_Sorghum.pdf

Stored Grain

Alabama Cooperative Extension System Stored Grains Page:
http://www.aces.edu/dept/grain/StoredGrainInformation.php

Stored Grain Insect Control Recommendations for 2010
http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-A/VOL1-2010/stgrain.pdf

IPM Tactics for On-Farm Stored Grain
http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1126/ANR-1126.pdf

Fumigating Agricultural Commodities With Phosphine
http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1154/ANR-1154.pdf

Grain Storage Aeration Guidelines for the Southeast
http://www.aces.edu/dept/grain/documents/aerationmanual.pdf

If you need assistance through your county office, contact:

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Again, I hope this information has been helpful to you.

Sincerely,

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