



Season 5 Episode 20—State Harvest Summary

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Announcer

The Alabama Crops Report Podcast, your trusted information source for Alabama agriculture.

Blake Lanton

All right, everybody, we are here in the Roaming studio once again. We just got our winter meeting finished where we finalized all of our production meetings. So y'all be looking, in the near future for your agents to post our production meeting dates and locations. We got a room full here, so I'm gonna kind of leave out introductions. We kind of just plan to talk about the year as a whole. How everything wrapped up? We generally start with corn, so I figure we'll go there. We've got Eros here. So what was, you know, what did our state average yield as a whole? Or you have that number?

Eros Francisco

You caught me by surprise.

Eros Francisco

Anybody has done that number.

Cade Grace

I think about 157.

Eros Francisco

157.

Cade Grace

I believe so.

Eros Francisco

So the crops report from last week.

Cade Grace

I think I went off NASS surveys somewhere. I think 150 somewhere. 157 on corn and 39 on soybeans.

Eros Francisco

Worse than last year, 41 on beans. Oh 31.

Cade Grace

Yeah. So, it's up a little bit.

Blake Lanton

Glad Cade's on top of some stuff there. Yeah, yeah.

Simer Virk

Think, at least some of us are.

Blake Lanton

Yeah yeah.

Simer Virk

Eros, so all right here what's in general I mean even just the yield but also general crop kind of outlook for this year. What do you notice? How did it look? And what are some of the things, maybe considering going into next year?.

Eros Francisco

Yeah, we just had an intriguing year because we had a very good season for some regions in Alabama and challenging in other pockets. Overall, corn was good. You're adding 157 as a statewide, we did have very nice corn yields everywhere in north Alabama.

Eros Francisco

You know, it was great. The challenge was the wet and cold, spring that we had. Most of the of the fields, they did not go through a very hard drought, during filling of kernels. So it kept the yield good. A lot of fields over 250. I think we did have a very, the yield record was broken, and I think Eddie's here.

Eros Francisco

He can jump in and be more specific about what happened to records this year.

Eddie McGriff

Well, most corn growers in north Alabama had really a good crop. In some of them, it was the best crop ever for the first time. And we'll they'll announce the yields, the national corn contest will announce the yields on December the 17th. But I can go ahead and give everybody a preview. We had two growers this year that had over 400 bushels in the national corn contest.

Eddie McGriff

So the previous record for Alabama was 355. So, these growers have beat that record by almost 50 bushels per acre. And we had a dryland grower that did 341. Now the 400-bushel yields were on some plots that we were working with them. And these were actually ten-acre blocks. So we had over 400 bushels on a ten-acre block irrigated and over 340 bushels on a ten-acre block dry land.

Eddie McGriff

So as far as corn yields, most growers were happy with it. I know that's some area struggled, but as a whole, we probably had as good corn yields as we ever had this year.

Eros Francisco

Yeah. I'm going to bring a just an example. It was a very wet and to a certain extent, cold spring as compared to other years. One of our trials, we did have different nitrogen rates. And we did have a very high rainfall, precipitation, just after planting. And everyone was like, is, questioned themselves, what about nitrogen?

Eros Francisco

Did we lose all the nitrogen? And we did have a control. And 145 pounds of nitrogen yielded very nicely, compared to the control. So even though, we see the rainfall events, after nitrogen applications and we think

about re-applying the whole rate. In these trial, we didn't see the need to apply to the whole rate again because nitrogen was still there.

Eros Francisco

So we may have lost like 20% to 30% of the nitrogen rate, but not the entire rate.

Simer Virk

Cade, do you want to go next since we're up in North Alabama?

Cade Grace

Sure. Corn. You know, a lot of guys had their best dryland corn year ever. I know, I know, one farmer, he had 1200 acres, dry land average 230, which is exceptional. Had some, some corn go over 300. And then you also had folks that stayed too wet, you know, planted late and cut anywhere from 40 bushels to, you know, over 200.

Cade Grace

That later planted corn, there was a time period in there in late July where it got really hot. It was 100 degrees every day. Night time temps were in the 80s, and just had some pollination problems and, and thus lower yield. But for the most part, the guys that got planted in April and were able to mitigate a lot of that early season rainfall had probably the best corn yields I've ever had.

Cade Grace

So it was kind of the tale of two crops, up our way. Beans were really the same way. And so you had if you were able to get around the wetness, some really good, really good bean yields. I know some folks in the Valley made over 100 bushels an acre. I think a new, state record was set this year in soybeans.

Cade Grace

I think the Hobbs's up in Elkmont, Limestone County. I saw that this week. That's exceptional especially I think they're 19 years old. The two brothers, I mean, that's big. And to do something like that at a young age. So, you know, it was just all over the board, you know, double crop beans that got dried didn't do well.

Cade Grace

But, you also had some good, good beans that were plant late as well, some 60, 80 bushels. It just depends on where you were, if you call it the pop ups, if you didn't, how wet your ground was early. Just a strange year to go from having in May, 12 to 14 inches of rain.

Cade Grace

June was, you know, not as wet. And then it just kind of tapered off. So I think overall it was a better crop than, than 24 was for sure.

Blake Lanton

Well, you know, we kind of talked earlier in the year where we saw how much corn was going to be in the landscape. Yeah. And how it was all starting to turn out a little bit. We almost had too good a corn crop because there are only so many places to go if you don't have storage.

Blake Lanton

So what's y'all's area like in the Wiregrass about storage? I mean, did y'all get the bottleneck that we got? And we had some guys sit in the field for a week and a half with the combine. Just couldn't run because no where the corn to go.

Aaron Wells

Yeah. That was the big thing in the southeast part of the state is, you know, we're just not set up for grain storage too much. And we have I think three feed mills, that are the major outlets for the corn in our areas. And so, corn harvest season got extended several weeks this year longer than normal.

Aaron Wells

And a lot of folks could just get one load delivered a day, and that was about all they could do. They could just, shell corn and fill up a semi. And just that was that was it. Yeah, they had to shut the combine off. And that went on while there was still some corn when peanut season started, which had not yet been harvested.

Aaron Wells

So, it just it made for a long harvest season. I think overall our yields were pretty good in southeast Alabama, I would say. But the harvest season was this year, we did have increased acres also. But, the harvest season this year, I think really kind of amplified the, the issue that if we are going to be in the grain business, more than just a year or two, we probably need to look at some solutions for storage, and where we can possibly capture some of these, better prices in the winter time also.

Blake Lanton

Yeah, I think when we did we have the scout school in Bella Mina

Simer Virk

In July

Blake Lanton

I was in July and I remember seeing all that short corn. So I guess the only thing that they benefited from there is most of the corn had been moved and they were able to at least get it on out. But we can't we kind of saw that, you know, that was going to be a problem when I guess, you know, years like this really shows you the issues that you really don't even think about.

Blake Lanton

Did we, I know, we had one farmer who filled up all his storage with corn and then couldn't harvest their beans because there was nowhere to put them. Did you hear of any of that go on too? I mean, did the corn harvest affect the main harvest too?

Blake Lanton

Okay, Eros

Eros Francisco

It may have happened to a certain extent. I remember back in September at when everything was shut down for like 1 or 2 weeks, and nobody was delivering. Nobody was receiving grains. It may have impact a little bit of the beans. We did have yields all over the board. Regarding beans, we did have a very nice yield record set this year, but considering the state statewide, our official average being 39 bushels per acre, that shows that we still have a long way to go to make that crop better in every situation.

Eros Francisco

Of course, we can't compare corn being planted earlier in, getting a very nice weather into July, and then beans having to struggle in and survive the drought in August or September. Whenever that drought happens, and it happens almost every year, so beans are always struggling more than, than corn. That's why we need to as if we know that we're going to struggle with weather.

Eros Francisco

We need to have everything lined up for a nice yield. So being scouting for pests and diseases and getting the plants up and running faster in the spring, It's just crucial. And also, fertility, we have been seeing results showing that the more residual we have, especially P and more fresh applications of potassium may be something that can help farmers here and there.

Eros Francisco

So, soil test your soil. I'm sorry. Go sample your soil and test for P and K and also sulfur. It's crucial to have a good balance, with the good soil pH there, just to help beans fill, those seeds, those pods, fighting the drought, if that happens.

Simer Virk

Talking about wet weather, David, weed control was a little challenge. Or how did that pan out for corn?

David Russell

Yeah. From a weed management perspective, I think we've got to step back into the latter half of 2024 season because we got dry and really hot toward harvest last year. And of course, considering high input costs, it wasn't a whole lot of people that went back to control anything. Once the crop came out. And as you can imagine, even if they were to have sprayed something or had but would have been proactive at any weed escapes following harvest in the 2024 season, the weather wasn't favorable to really control those weeds.

David Russell

So as you can imagine, a lot of things went to seed. And then as we set up into the beginning of the 2025 planting window with all the rain we had, you can imagine what happened. Everything germinated. And even if it did get sprayed early, burn down, or pre-plant, it may have worked, but then, the rains delayed our planning.

David Russell

And so there were multiple applications that we saw statewide. In this year, guys wondered if the residuals that they had initially put out even, were going to last, you know, through rainfall, diluting that and washing it through the soil profile. So, there were a lot of weed species that were really troublesome this year.

David Russell

A lot of the pigweed that germinated, I think, we saw an uptick in that species, along with some of the tea weeds or prickly sida or leaf sida, that composite spectrum there. And of course, in early spring, let it served to a lot of grass escapes. So, and then overall, you know, high input costs.

David Russell

So we were trying to cut corners, in regard to a herbicide program. And we saw a lot of producers trying to piecemeal their own concoctions together and trying to find really affordable options that may have worked and may have saved them a few dollars compared to the premix products. But at the end of the day, we'll probably see a lot of those same weed populations back as we begin the 2026 season.

David Russell

So I guess a lesson learned from all this is that, you know your crop fields better than anybody else. And where those weeds have been a historical problem, expect that to be the same conversation as we go into the 2026 season. And we would just preach like we always have a proactive approach and relying on the soil residuals before that, that weed even emerges.

Blake Lanton

Yeah, we, I mean, of course, grass was our biggest issue, but I actually, saw a I'm gonna call it a lily pad, but it was a pond weed in the middle of a cotton field this year. I mean, that was the story of this year. Rain. Rain, rain. But I guess real quick, there were some really good cotton yields? Bad market prices, but good yields.

Josh Lee

I, I know, you know, it's I've heard many conversations, you know, going on farm and so, I mean, we've made some of the highest yields we ever had, but we ain't getting paid for it. And that's the song on repeat, you know, I'd say across the southeast, even across the Cotton Belt. So I'm a numbers guy. I like to crunch them.

Josh Lee

And I got to ask this question this morning. So that's why I know these numbers right off the top of my head. So, USDA has us at 285,000 harvested acres. Right now, in terms of yield right now, the predicted deal for December, we were over two Bale. So 1,011 pounds is our lint yield average here for the state.

Josh Lee

It's exceptional. We really had some conducive weather, that was in our favor. Was it in everybody's favor? Not necessarily. The biggest thing was to me that I saw guys that were, on time with planting, had really favorable conditions in August and September. So that really led to us being able to retain fruit and been able to keep fruit all the way into harvest.

Josh Lee

So we do have, you know, we had that we saw increased yields. We're able to harvest that bottom crop and we saw some improved, you know, fiber quality stuff. And just to give like a quality aspect, just to season average, just pulling up from USDA. Micronaire's average is 4.42, staple length 36.6, strength 30.85 and 82 on uniformity.

Josh Lee

So look, overall pretty good. But you know, I'm going to allude to this. One of the biggest stories that I get, you know, was the 26 season going to look like. And I know acreage will be down. Like there's no doubt in my mind that it will be down to the extent of how much. I'm not really quite sure.

Simer Virk

Josh, did we, I know earlier this year when we were talking about corn acreage is all that we were expecting different percentages across the state based on cotton prices and other stuff. What did it actually ended up from the planted acres?

Josh Lee

So it was a little bit of a drop from what I remember when I first came in, that number was hovering around, planted acres were having around 300 and something thousand, and we actually harvested 285. So it was a little bit of a dip. You know, one of the biggest things I think that happened, you know, was up in North Alabama, a lot of our cotton acreage, you know, they just couldn't get into plant, you know. And so those acres were not planted. So, it was kind of hard for me to give an estimate of how much I think is going to be planted in 26 because I don't have that aspect.

Simer Virk

Just for, you know, insect control and some kind of in some market uncertainty definitely will be down. I'm thinking that it'll be down. I predicted between 15%, from harvested acres right now.

Simer Virk

Eddie, cotton situation?

Eddie McGriff

Cotton situation was pretty amazing when you think about it. We had a wide range of cotton yields, but for the most part we were pleasantly surprised with the late cotton yields. We actually had a lot of light cotton that yielded over two bales. So in our regions that I have, most of our growers overall say the Cherokee County, which is one of the largest growing regions up there.

Eddie McGriff

The gin told me that they're going to average 1,040 pounds over all their cotton, and that I don't know if that includes some of the drowned out acres. We had a lot of replant. We had a lot of prevented planting. We had a lot that they were going to plant late and they switched to soybeans, but the cotton crop was surprisingly good.

Eddie McGriff

I think the only negative that we had is that the price was so low and everybody's mentioned that.

Simer Virk

So, do you know the actual percentage that didn't get planted in your region?

Eddie McGriff

Well, we only got,

Simer Virk

Early on, we were saying about 40%, right? Yeah.

Eddie McGriff

We only planted about 40% of what we were, planting 40 to 50% in some areas. But it was it was less than half of the intended acres, actually got planted in that that didn't get planted either went to soybeans. And we had a lot of prevented planting because it rained all during April. And then it rained just about every day during May.

Eddie McGriff

And so we weren't able to get the crop in time. In other words, we had some early planted cotton in late April, very early May. And then we skip to late May to June before we started planting again.

Blake Lanton

Cade, kind of the same in your area. Probably not as much or as much not planted is what 80 had? You may got a little more on the ground.

Cade Grace

Yeah. Just kind of depended on the rainfall like over the western part of the counties that were, you know, Fayette, Lamar, Marion. Yeah, acreage was off big time over there. Hardly any cotton. I would say that, a lot of those acres either got put in prevent plant and just laid fallow.

Cade Grace

Some were planted to beans. I would say cotton acreage over there in that, that west part was probably down 60%, 70%. Okay. You go up in the Tennessee Valley and I think you were down anywhere from 30% to 60%, depending on its location. But probably the lowest amount of ginned bales that I've known of in a long time, in the Tennessee Valley.

Cade Grace

And, but you know, there were some really good yields, you know, some folks made, you know, three plus bales an acre. And then you had all the way down to 400, you know, pounds an acre, just depending on if you got, if you got some rainfall, you already planted late. And then you come in, and you're, you're depending on pop-up showers and, you know, you miss one, you keep missing, and then you ended up with a lower yield.

Cade Grace

But I think all in all, in the 11 counties I cover, I think we were probably about half of the intended acres that got planted. And then the yield would be, you know, pretty close to that. That's the yield.

Blake Lanton

And so I noticed down in the Wiregrass, I guess I was down there a couple of weeks ago and I still saw some unharvested fields.

Aaron Wells

Yeah. Right now, I would say if I just had to try to put a figure on it, we're probably still got 15%, 10 to 15% left to harvest. Which the harvest season this year has been very good for us. November was, for the most part, pretty dry. You know, historically, October's our driest time of the year, but that's usually when we're harvesting peanuts and cotton kind of takes a backseat till about November.

Aaron Wells

So, the weather has been, really good for harvest season this year, but we still do have a little bit left in the fields. The yields were exceptional for our earlier-planted cotton for sure. For especially, you know, the later planted stuff did take some yield hits, but that's to be expected and then normally does.

Aaron Wells

The big thing for us this year was coming in towards the end of summer was the jassids. And I know everybody's you know, that topic's been talked about and, I will continue to go and.

Blake Lanton

I wasn't going to bring it up.

Simer Virk

Well, we will end with peanuts. Yeah, yeah. So it's a good thing.

Aaron Wells

But, it's, it's it's one that needs to be talked about, especially in the upcoming weeks as we look to the 26 crop, as it's something that we we're definitely going to have to keep an eye on and, and be ready to manage that situation when it comes out because it will I well, I shouldn't say it will I?

Aaron Wells

We hope it doesn't. But, there's a good chance that it will. We were fortunate this year in the southeastern part of the state that, it didn't start until so late in the growing season, and that did wind up helping us a good bit on that. But, overall, we still made some really great cotton in our part of the state.

Simer Virk

Is there any maybe, Josh, you can say data so far on maybe in Alabama, how much percent of the cotton got affected by jassid.

Blake Lanton

Scotts got all that data and not should have had it pulled up. But I want to say across the southeast, it was about \$12 million worth of added application cost. I can't remember the acres.

Simer Virk

That's extra cost, application cost.

Blake Lanton

Additional applications

Blake Lanton

We had some cotton planted in Prattville on September the 10th, and that first heavy frost we got, went out there the next morning. I think we got down to about 27 that morning. And that freeze killed about 95% of them. So that's one thing to look forward to. As long as we don't have a 70 degree, you know, February and give some time to, re-populate.

Blake Lanton

So we do have some hope that they're there at least getting knocked back. But yeah, if anybody's getting ready to order seed and, you know, wants some suggestions or other opinions, you know, reach out to one of your agents. Scott's pretty much hammered it in our heads enough that we all kind of know what's going on, but I guess we'll move to the money maker.

Blake Lanton

I've given Kris plenty of time to look up his numbers and check everything out.

Simer Virk

Are you as prepared as Josh?

Kris Balkcom

I don't know. He sounded pretty good at it.

Kris Balkcom

Yeah, well, you know. Oh. Alabama. We increase the acres this year. We continue to rise the past few years. So we had around 195,000 acres for the state. And the past few years have also been very tough, dry years for Alabama as a whole. The peanut crop, however, this time was a little bit better.

Kris Balkcom

Last year in in 24, we averaged around 3,000 pounds. And this year, you know, they have is estimated at 3,300 pounds to the acre. I feel like we could possibly, you know, we might do 35. There was a lot of peanuts in that range. Around 3,500 pound for the state. The thing about it is the, the laterr crop, you know, when it turned off dry, that's what really suffered and took it on the chin and we had a lot of ton peanuts, 2,500 pound peanuts that really pull the average down.

Kris Balkcom

For the most part, the earlier planted stuff, you know, was pretty good, east to west, all the way on the southern end of the state. Grades were better and, than what we've had the past couple of years. We've really had a lot of low-grade and peanuts. And to begin with this year and beginning of harvest season, we started out with them a little low in the upper 60s, but we were able to keep waiting and try to get those peanuts to mature on.

Kris Balkcom

They were just really slow, to get mature. And then once we got to that point, we stayed around, in the 70s there for the most part, for the whole crop. And we even got back to the upper 70s and low 80s on many occasions this year, which is really good.

Simer Virk

Is the total acreage I know when we did the podcast with you earlier and, during the planting or somewhere, you were saying, this is the this year, after so many years, it was like 1.9 million something across the peanut belt?

Kris Balkcom

Oh yeah, for the US, you said. Yeah, yeah. So we were just under 2 million acres for the United States this time, which is a big record crop.

Simer Virk

Yeah. Okay. Any major issues or anything in peanuts this year or kind of same?

Kris Balkcom

Well, I think probably one of the big concerns would be as we've increased acres over the past few years and leaning more on peanuts, it's probably, we may have compromised our rotations in some places and that's going to increase our disease pressure and nematode pressures. Well, so, you know, people just, you know, just trying to survive on the farm and plant the best crop, for the time being.

Kris Balkcom

And and now that we, I've done that, we continue to increase acreage. And, you know, when we think about the price of these other commodities, you know, we'll probably decrease in peanuts. I would say, for this coming year.

Simer Virk

So the overall acreage would be less than this year. It will go more to corn?

Kris Balkcom

Definitely. I think corn is going to probably get the acres. I would say, you know, with the price of cotton in the 50s, I don't see it putting a lot of acres that way.

Simer Virk

Aaron, what's your take on the peanuts?

Aaron Wells

I would say it from my perspective, it looked like we had about an average year as far as yield goes. And as I said earlier, well, peanut harvest kind of got stretched out to just because of the increased acres. Like Kris said, the, wasn't too many reports of, you know, buying points, just having to come to a complete stop because they're out of wagons or trailers or whatever.

Aaron Wells

So that was in my mind, that was kind of a miracle in and of itself.

Blake Lanton

Well, I think y'all had a little bit of rain. I know the southwest. They had a good rain where they pretty much nobody picked for a week and a half. I think the rains worked out just right where it slowed y'all down enough where they weren't.

Aaron Wells

Yeah, I think that was probably about middle of harvest season. So that did. And we were starting to get in a situation where the ground was getting hard. And I know just before harvest season, there was a big worry that everybody was going to run out of blades because the ground was hard. And we got a rain just before harvest season that got to kind of get all that.

Aaron Wells

Those fears kind of, squelched a little bit. But I can't pinpoint any one particular thing right off that that just kind of stuck out in my head. It seemed like just kind of just an average peanut crop. We didn't really have any major pest. You know, some of our diseases probably were a little higher this year. Them kind of going back to what Kris said because of rotations being shortened and things like that. But, it was it was a it was one of those years you kind of like to have. And every now and then there's, there's not any huge surprises in the year for you.

Simer Virk

I was pretty pleased with my peanut trial in the Wiregrass. Most of the time, our yields are some of our planter trials. You know, they're usually around anywhere from 4 to 5 or maybe six. This year, we were close to 7000 lb/ac, you know, in some of our plant or seeding rate stuff. So that was pretty good peanuts.

Kris Balkcom

Yeah, I think most farmers in general there that it planted early and I think they were pretty surprised with their yields as well on the farm. Once they started digging them and got into them, they were they were better than what they thought they were.

Simer Virk

You talked earlier about the rotation thing. Is there some thing to consider there for growers who are maybe thinking, going back to peanut again this year on some of the same land?

Kris Balkcom

Well, certainly possibility there's some will. You know, they're, every farm's different and as well as every farmer. So they are always trying to look and look at the numbers and see what they can, what they have the best opportunity and chance to survive another year. And, we had so, some of those would do that obviously, if, you know, we try to encourage those that are they're going to go that route to, you know, really think about on

variety selection and drop maybe a nematode resistant variety this time and try to do some things early there at planning for, help give them some a little bit better

Kris Balkcom

edge on disease pressure, maybe apply fungicide there at the end and for you know and definitely start spraying earlier.

Simer Virk

Use peanut Rx?

Kris Balkcom

Yeah, definitely recommend that.

Blake Lanton

What about cover crops? Are they up or down or people get them in on time? People just not trying?

Kris Balkcom

You know, one of the biggest problems with that is we were talking about the dry weather for us. And, and so we had that long extended dry period. So like I said, the cost of the cover crops we were sitting and they didn't want to put them out there and then get a poor stand or hurt the other seed.

Kris Balkcom

As far as, messed that from lack of germination and some of that marginal moisture. So as they as it rocked on and got drier and drier, that dry period extended and they was able some of them went ahead and just started planting, even though it was really trying to do so because it was insured.

Kris Balkcom

It was just going to lay there and not not germinate until we got a rain. And and then we started getting some of those rains now recently. But, you know, it's been raining, kicking them out of the field ten days here. Ten days is pretty critical. As we get right here to the, this time of year, dry and on time.

Kris Balkcom

Why? I was trying to get that stuff done. So, just about to say that there are a lot lower.

Blake Lanton

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know some of the growers in our area had NRCS funding. And their cut off, I think, was Thanksgiving. And I know some of them took about an hour off to go eat Thanksgiving, and they were on a drill all day. So I think Prattville, your's Chandler looks good there. Oh. Did you get everything in that you wanted to get in?

Chandler Gruener

Yeah. So I was a little behind us on my trials, just like everyone else. We were waiting for some of them rains. And so, yeah, we have the Prattville and that we just finished plant in the last one this week. And so I'm wrapped up for the season for planting cover crops. But we'll see how they turn out.

Chandler Gruener

And kind of in the. Springtime for a lot of dry. Periods and kind of later planted how that biomass will work out for us.

Blake Lanton

Well, with so many people here, I know we rushed through everything. I tried to, you know, get a recap of the state as whole, but we do want to make one introduction here. We, hired an agent in the place of, Christy moved from the east central down to the southwest, and we made a legacy hire here.

Blake Lanton

So we've got Rudy Yates son here, Will. Just tell us a little bit what your what your background in school was. I guess you're finished or you're finishing up this week? I guess you're graduating this weekend.

Will Yates

Yes, I'm graduating Saturday, so I completed my bachelor's degree at Auburn University and biological and agricultural technology management. Yes. That was a really good degree of what precision agriculture did, some drone work when I started my master's here at Auburn as well. And then I'm graduating again, like I said tomorrow with a master's in crop, soil, environmental sciences.

Blake Lanton

Good deal. We're glad to have you. And, we know you at least have somebody that knows what you are doing and help you along the way.

Blake Lanton

I am in, you know, your dad's old position, and folks still ask, how he's doing. You always do. And, really enjoyed working with him. One more thing we do want to mention are, Auburn University row crop short course is coming up, January the 20th and 21st. It will be held in Prattville this year.

Blake Lanton

You can find it on the ACES website. Register. I think we do have a cut off for free registration. Do we know when that is?

Eros Francisco

We are allowing everyone to register for free until up to the day.

Blake Lanton

Okay, okay. So, we look forward to seeing you there. We've got, we'll start at, at lunch on the first day, 1:30 on January the 20th at the Doster Community Center in Prattville, Alabama. Speakers from in-house and other universities across the U.S. So look forward to having you all there. Any last thoughts, comments?

Simer Virk

Going into 2026?

Blake Lanton

I think we've all got the same feelings as everybody else. Just when it gets here, it gets here and we'll deal with it.

Aaron Wells

Let's see how sharp we can get the pencil.

Simer Virk

Yeah, yeah.

Aaron Wells

It's getting pretty sharp.

Simer Virk

Yeah. And especially with all the input price, all that I know, Chandler, I think put out in one of the crop newsletter all that. But soil sampling is happening across the state right now, so, you know, make sure you don't cut down on that or anything because that's going to help you make good decisions on the fertility program.

Simer Virk

And we'll probably revisit early next year to maybe bring up some considerations regarding a few of the other things in January and February from different specialists as well.

Blake Lanton

Yeah, we'll probably try to be back in the middle of January with another episode as we go back and try to get over the grants stuff ready and plan. All the research is going to happen next year. But again, thank you all for being here. Thank everybody for listening in. And we'll catch you next time. Yeah.

Simer Virk

And this is the last episode of season five. So when we come next year, we will officially begin our season six of the Alabama Crops Podcast. Thank you all.

Announcer

The Alabama Crops Report is a production of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.