

UGA Extension Meriwether County ANR E-Newsletter

April 5, 2017

PESTS AND IPM

It's about time to start up the "Pest of the Week" segment but first I want to write about Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Most of my education and research experience has involved IPM. A typical definition of IPM is the one below from the University of California:

IPM is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.

What that means is that producers need to know their farm environment including differences in fields; know the crop or livestock varieties that do best in that environment; know the other organisms sharing that environment; know the best management practices for the crop or livestock chosen; know the most common pests; be able to accurately identify them; know how best to scout or monitor for them; know the biological and cultural management practices for them as well as recommended pesticides; and know the toxicity variances of those pesticides and use the least toxic when possible.

As mentioned above, correctly identifying a pest is crucial to IPM but it should always be done whether practicing IPM or not. Never assume, never guess. One of our main jobs as extension agents is to help people correctly identify pests. If we can't do it we find the specialist who can. As part of my education I have taken multiple courses in taxonomy which is the science of identifying and naming organisms. I've studied plant taxonomy, grass taxonomy, arthropod/insect taxonomy and mycology or the taxonomy of fungi. All of these subjects are necessary to have the general knowledge to identify crop and animal (including human) pests.

Some pests are common enough that most people would recognize them, such as a cockroach. But there are about eleven species of cockroaches to be found in Georgia and their biology differs. The difference in biology means there will be different best management practices for those species. And that leads to the real point of this article. It is not enough to just identify a pest. To be successful at managing a pest with the least inputs you must also know and understand the biology of the pest. That includes knowing the life cycle as it occurs in your location, feeding habits which include

understanding the anatomical structures used for feeding, the damaging stages of development, if reproduction is sexual or asexual, overwintering habits, numbers of generations, ability to move, etc.

I came across a situation last week where a grower had correctly identified one pest in a crop but it was not the pest that had caused the damage he was most upset about. Because he saw the one pest but not the other he assumed incorrectly that it was the culprit. If he had understood the biology (practiced IPM) of the pest that he saw he would have known that it was not the culprit. Another point I'd like to make is that knee-jerk reactions to pests or damage should be avoided. Too many people are guilty of doing just that. All crops can tolerate damage and a lot of research has gone into determining the economic threshold for certain pests and their damage in certain crops. For example, in field corn at the seedling stage with armyworm damage, the recommendation in Georgia is to treat when 25% of the seedlings have damage. In this case there is no need to use a pesticide until ¼ of the crop has been impacted. You do not treat just because you saw an armyworm; you monitor to assess what, if any, damage has occurred. If there is damage you measure the amount. Then you decide whether or not a treatment is called for. Many plant crops can actually withstand 10-30% damage before yield is impacted. One major impact that is the result of over application of pesticides is resistance. We have situations with both plant crops and livestock where the pesticides for certain pests are no longer effective. And there is no new pesticide chemistry being discovered to replace those. So some of the benefits for practicing IPM is saving the efficacy of pesticides as well as saving money.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are presently under court orders to reassess the environmental impact of 9 commonly used pesticides. Some of these pesticides have come under fire because they have shown up in the critical habitats of endangered species. The main reason that they show up in these off-site locations is most likely due to incorrect or illegal uses. If you do not apply a pesticide according to its label you have broken the law! Pesticide manufacturers pay billions of dollars to have their products registered and a big portion of that money goes into determining the impact on non-target organisms. All pesticide labels have an "Environmental Hazards" section which explains what non-target organisms or their habitats are especially sensitive to that product. Besides protecting endangered species, an emphasis is also being placed on pollinator species which includes our native bees as well as the introduced honey bee. If the on-going assessment of pesticides on non-target organisms continues to confirm that pesticides are showing up where they shouldn't be, chances are that those pesticides will either be more difficult to acquire or will lose their label. And the real people to blame will not be the manufacturers but the applicators using them unlawfully. So please remember to read the label before you even purchase a pesticide, read it again before you use it and then follow it. Because if you don't you may find in the near future that the pesticide is no longer available.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF NEW DRAFTS OF REGIONAL WATER PLANS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

Regional Water Planning Councils have developed updated drafts of Regional Water Plans that are available for public review and comment now through May 19, 2017. Reports from the councils address surface and ground water availability, water uses, water quality, nutrient modeling, future use modeling and other topics. Most important are the water management practices recommended by the councils. There are three **high priority** practices recommended for the Upper Flint update: 1) Continue to improve the agricultural water withdrawal metering program 2) Evaluate storage options in the Upper Flint Region that can provide for supply and flow augmentation in dry periods and 3) Increase education directed toward improving water quality.

With regards to the first practice, on December 1, 2016 the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) agency took over regulation of the metering program that was in place and under the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission. According to the metering program all agricultural irrigation wells and pumps must have a measurement device installed. And now any irrigation point that pumps more than 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute) is required to also have an EPD permit. These changes are partially being implemented due to allegations by the state of Florida that Georgia farmers were not in compliance with water usage requirements. The allegations were directed at Southwest Georgia farmers but everyone using water at the set volume needs to be in compliance. Other high volume users are golf courses.

For the third practice, everyone should be aware of local and state-wide water uses. They should also be aware of water quality and what impacts that quality. If you read the Upper Flint River Plan (and I hope everyone will look at it) pay attention to the Summary of Impaired Waters in the Upper Flint on page 3-13. The Flint River has some definite issues. One of the focuses for Meriwether County for revenue is tourism and the Flint River is being looked at as a place of interest for tourists. In that case everyone in Meriwether County needs to be involved in addressing, supporting and implementing practices to improve the Flint River's water quality.

The draft updated Regional Water Plans may be viewed at <http://epd.georgia.gov/draft-regional-water-plans>. Meriwether County is in the Upper Flint region. Instructions for submitting comments are also included on the website. Written comments are welcomed, and should be received by close of business on May 19, 2017. Comments should be submitted via the website so that EPD may properly capture and convey all comments received on behalf of the Regional Water Planning Councils. Comments may also be sent via regular mail addressed to: Georgia EPD, Attn: Jennifer Welte, Watershed Protection Branch, 2 MLK, Jr. Dr. S.W., Suite 1152, Atlanta, GA 30334.

SMALL FRUITS

The Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium sent out the second issue of its newsletter this week. This organization started in 1999 with the mission of developing a relationship between land-grant universities as well as with industry representatives. Each university member contributes \$35,000 annually that goes towards research projects involving small fruit production. The consortium also provides funding for extension agent training every year. This year the training focused on new varieties being developed and coming to market of blackberries, blueberries, muscadines, table grapes and strawberries.

Production guides are provided by the consortium as well as IPM guides. Anyone can access the information at their website: <http://www.smallfruits.org/>

This issue has articles on a new muscadine variety, Paulk, released by UGA and on blackberry diseases, cane/leaf rust and orange rust, partly written by Phil Brannen, UGA Plant Pathologist. To access the newsletter to read these articles and more please visit: <http://www.smallfruits.org/Newsletter/Vol17-Issue2.pdf>

To subscribe to an electronic notification service of new Small Fruit News issues on the web, send your e-mail address to brendaw@uga.edu.

FORAGES

The March issue of the **UGA Forage Extension Team Newsletter** is available on-line now. It includes articles on seeding warm season perennials, moldy hay and hay as a cause of burning barns.

These articles are posted on the UGA Forage Extension Team Blog at <http://blog.extension.uga.edu/forageteam/>.

Everything you want to know about forages in Georgia can be found at: <http://extension.uga.edu/agriculture/forages/>

CATTLE

Meriwether County Cattlemen's Monthly Meeting

We will meet for the last time at Blackbird Café in Woodbury at 7:30 PM. Our sponsor is Georgia Deer Farm and Agri-center at 850 Hwy 27 North Roopville, Georgia, 30170.

Lemmon Cattle Enterprises will be auctioning all of its registered Angus during a sale on May 27, 2017 at the farm at 16810 Woodbury Hwy, Woodbury, GA 30293.

SMALL RUMINANTS

The monthly report for the **National Scrapie Eradication Program** for February 2017 is now available. [PDF Monthly Report](#)

No classical scrapie cases have been reported in sheep or goats in FY 2017. The last classical case was reported in April 2016.

To learn more about scrapie, the disease, and the national scrapie eradication program, please visit the [A HIS VS Scrapie Website](#) and www.eradicatescrapie.org.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The **Georgia March Newsletter** is now available on-line:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/State-Offices/Georgia/newsletters/1300020171403.pdf>

If you are interested in becoming organically certified FSA can help with up to 75% of the cost. Check it out!

2017 Acreage Reporting Dates

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. The following acreage reporting dates are applicable:

May 15, 2017 Sweet Corn (Planted 8/26-5/15), Tomatoes (Planted 8/16-4/5)

July 15, 2017 All other Crops

August 15, 2017 Tomatoes (Planted 7/1-8/15)

Commodity Loan Rates for 2017 are available by state and county here:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/commodity-loan-rates/index>

Livestock Forage Payments as of March 2, 2017 for Georgia numbered 25,546 for a total of \$118,773,223.

PLANT SALE

Troup County Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale

April 22, 2017 from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Refresh the garden and landscape. Select from master gardener grown annuals, perennials, shrubs, fruits and vegetables-all reasonably priced! Browse our rare and unusual plants, 2017 new introductions and unique gifts. Master gardeners will be available to offer expert advice and suggestions. Admission and parking-FREE! Located at the Ag Center, Vulcan Materials Rd. and HWY 27 Hamilton Rd, LaGrange GA.

KEEP MERIWETHER BEAUTIFUL CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, April 22nd 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

The clean-up day is almost here. Help [Keep Meriwether Beautiful](#) by cleaning up trash around your home or business on this day. Be sure to get your team together and registered so you can win awards! We have registration forms in the hall outside our office.

Locations for dumpsters: Alvaton Fire Station, Durand Fire Station, Gay Fire Station, Luthersville City Hall, Rocky Mount Store, St. Marks Community Building, Warm Springs Police Department, behind the Probation Department in Greenville, at the old mill site on Washington Street in Manchester, and on Dromedary Street in Woodbury. Only bags of trash may be placed in the dumpsters. All furniture, mattresses and other large items are to be placed **on the ground beside** the dumpsters not in them.

Absolutely no tires will be accepted at the dumpster locations. They must be unmounted and taken to the Meriwether County Public Works Department at 689 County Farm Road in Greenville. Only Meriwether County residents may dispose of tires. Public Works staff will be on hand to help.

For more information please contact Jane Fryer at j.fryer@meriwethercountyga.gov or 706-672-3467.

Water Well Trust

The Water Well Trust, the only national nonprofit helping low income Americans get access to a clean, safe water supply, has announced that it is expanding from fourteen to fifteen the number of Georgia counties eligible to receive assistance for drilling a new water well or rehabilitate an existing well. Meriwether County is now included. USDA grant monies will provide long-term, low-interest loans to applicants seeking new or improved water wells.

To be eligible to receive a WWT loan, applicants must be the owner and occupant of the home as their primary residence. In addition, the applicant's household income must not exceed 100% of the median non-metropolitan household income for the state in which the applicant resides. The 2016 Non-Metropolitan median household income for Georgia is \$45,300. The income criteria apply to both the applicant and all other occupants of the home.

Prospective applicants can download the application form and instruction letter from the website under "Apply" at the top of the home page: <https://www.waterwelltrust.org/>

LOCAL MARKET

Strawberries are here!

Fitzgerald Fruit Farms (Greenville and Woodbury area)

The retail shed at 3355 Imlac Road is open and strawberry ice cream will be available as well as strawberries. <https://www.fitzgeraldfruitfarms.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/thepeachshed/>

Strickland Brothers Farm (Durand and Pine Mountain area)

The strawberry and vegetable field is at the crossroad of Chipley Hwy and John Wallace Road. They are open Mon-Sat. You can contact Terry at 706-881-2414 or you can visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Stricklands-Garden-233167170487274/>

Sweet Berry Orchard (Lone Oak and Luthersville area)

Leighanne and Tom Hagan have varieties of strawberries for sale. They are located at 6659 Lone Oak Road. You can visit them on Facebook to see when they are ready for u-pick: <https://www.facebook.com/TOMandLEIGHANNE/>

LOCAL EVENTS

Warm Springs Spring Fling Festival

April 8 10:00 AM-6:00 PM and April 9 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

The 19th Annual Spring Fling will be taking place in downtown Warm Springs this coming weekend. Featured will be arts, crafts, hobbies, food vendors, entertainment through the day, kiddie train rides, fruit and vegetable stand, a hands-on craft booth for children, karaoke contest, and much more! No admission fee. For additional information, contact the Regional Visitors Information Center at 706-655-3322.

Open Air Meriwether

April 28-29

This event is a plein air painting experience with 20 professional artists painting at Meriwether County locations. A reception is Sunday, April 30 from 2-5 p.m. at Artisans on the Square, located in Hill Brothers Corner, Court Square in Greenville, GA with a wet painting exhibition and sale.

For more information please visit: www.facebook.com/artisansonthesquare or www.facebook.com/meriwethertourism or call 404-386-1328

Sponsored by Arts Meriwether and Artisans on the Square

Country Swing Dance

April 29 7:00-10:00 PM

At QC Arena (Quercus Farm)

805 Flat Shoals Road in Gay, GA

The dance will be held in the 52,000 square foot arena. Music will be provided by Swing South, Georgia's premier Texas Swing Band. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the J. Joel Edwards Public Library. Tickets are available at the Library in Zebulon, Novel Experience Bookstore in Zebulon and at the Q-C Arena. Admission is \$10.00 per person.

For more information please visit: <http://www.friendsofthejoeledwardspubliclibrary.com> or call 770-584-3094.