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<td>SE Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference</td>
<td>Jan 10-13, 2019</td>
<td>Savannah, GA <a href="http://www.seregionalconference.com">www.seregionalconference.com</a></td>
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<td>GA Peanut Farm Show</td>
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Recent

I am thankful for the sunshine today and forecast sunshine for many days. We still have a lot of cotton and a few peanuts to pick. Several Irwin County farmers participated in the GA Pesticide Clean Day yesterday. The 4-H and FFA hog project is underway today with tagging and blood testing this morning. We are working on our meetings for next year and several are already set.

Vernon Biggers received the JE Leger Agribusiness Award

One box of Sweet Potatoes left – we can get more – please let us know

Late peanut sample not ready on board but kernels are mature
4-H Junior Conference at Rock Eagle

4-H Senior Project Achievement last weekend in Moultrie

Youth Hog Project underway at our house

Twin and triple row peanut comparison – can’t pick due to rain

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Peanut Survey
We need your help again for the 2018 growing season. We really need your help with the survey. This information will play a vital part in her research and it will provide much needed information to you in the counties regarding yield potential based on planting date and your location in the state. **This will also help us realize the true impact from the storm and the late planting this year.**

**We need two peanut farmers to participate.** You name will not be used on any of the data collected. This will be for every peanut field you have. Questions are: county, field name, latitude and longitude (we can used Google Earth for this), plant date, variety, row pattern, irrigated, saved seed used, rotation in the field, soil type, yield, grade, and lastly comments about the field (i.e. stand issues, disease, etc.).

Cotton Nematode Samples – Sample ASAP
Cold weather coming so sample soon. With cotton harvest having started, it is time to take cotton nematode samples. In order to have a good representation of nematode populations within a field, predictive nematode samples should be taken in late fall usually just after cotton has been harvested which would be in October or November. It is better to take samples prior to harvest, but most growers find it easier to sample after the cotton stalks are mowed. However, do not wait too long after harvest to sample because nematode populations will begin to decline once their food source is removed.

**Guidelines for Nematode Sample** Each soil sample should represent no more than a 20 acre field or section of a field. The smaller the field area you sample, the more accurate your results will be. In each section of the field take 12 to 15 cores. Take samples 8 inches deep within the plant root zone. Place these in a bucket and thoroughly mix the sample being sure to break up any clumps. You should have approximately one quart of soil in the sample that you send off. The soil should be transferred into a labeled plastic bag with sampling date for nematode assay. Once sampled is put in a zip-lock type bag, it should be kept cool (refrigerate if possible) and not allowed to get dry. Samples should not sit in a hot vehicle or even in direct sunlight because this can kill any nematodes in the sample and lead to inaccurate results.

Avoid sampling fields that are too wet or too dry. A good rule of thumb is that it is best to sample soil that would be about right for good seed germination.

Samples should be taken in a random manner throughout the area of the field being sampled. Commonly used patterns included modified “X’s” or “Z’s” that cover the entire area. Samples should include all areas of the field, not just poor areas that show signs of nematode damage. Submit samples to the laboratory quickly.

Reference: UGA extension Bulletin “Georgia Cotton Nematode and Management Considerations”

EPA Announces Changes to Dicamba Registration
Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it is extending the registration of dicamba for two years for “over-the-top” use (application to growing plants) to control weeds in fields for cotton and soybean plants genetically engineered to resist dicamba. This action was informed by input from and extensive collaboration between EPA, state regulators, farmers, academic researchers, pesticide manufacturers, and other stakeholders.

“EPA understands that dicamba is a valuable pest control tool for America’s farmers,” said EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “By extending the registration for another two years with important new label updates that place additional restrictions on the product, we are providing certainty to all stakeholders for the upcoming growing season.”

The following label changes were made to ensure that these products can continue to be used effectively while addressing potential concerns to surrounding crops and plants:

**Dicamba registration decisions for 2019-2020 growing season**
- Two-year registration (until December 20, 2020)
- Only certified applicators may apply dicamba over the top (those working under the supervision of a certified applicator may no longer make applications)
- Prohibit over-the-top application of dicamba on soybeans 45 days after planting and cotton 60 days after planting
- For cotton, limit the number of over-the-top (OTT) applications from 4 to 2 (soybeans remain at 2 OTT applications)
- Applications will be allowed only from 1 hour after sunrise to 2 hours before sunset
- In counties where endangered species may exist, the downwind buffer will remain at 110 feet and there will be a new 57-foot buffer around the other sides of the field (the 110-foot downwind buffer applies to all applications, not just in counties where endangered species may exist)
- Clarify training period for 2019 and beyond, ensuring consistency across all three products
- Enhanced tank clean out instructions for the entire system
- Enhanced label to improve applicator awareness on the impact of low pH’s on the potential volatility of dicamba

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Label clean up and consistency to improve compliance and enforceability

The registration for all dicamba products will automatically expire on December 20, 2020, unless EPA further extends it. EPA has reviewed substantial amounts of new information and concluded that the continued registration of these dicamba products meets FIFRA’s registration standards. The Agency has also determined that extending these registrations with the new safety measures will not affect endangered species.

Learn more: https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/registration-dicamba-use-genetically-engineered-crops

Nominations open for Outstanding Georgia Young Peanut Farmer Award

Nominations are now open for the Outstanding Georgia Young Peanut Farmer. The state winner will be announced at the Georgia Peanut Farm Show on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, in Tifton, Georgia. The award is sponsored by the Georgia Peanut Commission and BASF.

The Outstanding Georgia Young Peanut Farmer Award is based upon the applicant’s overall farm operation; environmental and stewardship practices; and leadership, civic, church, and community service activities.

"We have so many young peanut farmers making a difference in their communities and I consider this awards program a great opportunity to recognize one young peanut farmer for their contributions to the agricultural industry," says Armond Morris, chairman of the Georgia Peanut Commission.

The award is open for any active Georgia peanut farmer who is not over 45 years of age, as of Jan. 17, 2019. An individual may receive the award only once. There is no limit on the number of applicants from each county in Georgia.

"BASF is honored to be a sponsor of the Outstanding Georgia Young Peanut Farmer Award," says Dan Watts, district manager of BASF Crop Protection Products. "We are committed to agriculture and bringing new innovative solutions to producers that will allow them to continue to be successful."

Applications are due to the GPC office by Dec. 15, 2018. The award application is available online at www.gapeanuts.com or by contacting Joy Crosby at 229-386-3690 or joycrosby@gapeanuts.com. The award winner receives registration and hotel accommodations to attend the Southern Peanut Growers Conference, July 18-20, 2019, and a sign to display at his or her farm.

Changes to Your GATE Card

Don’t throw away any mail you get from the Georgia Department of Agriculture it could be a very important password.

The Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption (GATE) is a program created through legislation, which offers qualified agriculture producers a sales tax exemption on agricultural equipment and production inputs. Qualified farmers and agricultural producers can apply to receive a certificate showing that they are eligible for this exemption.

You will now need a password to access the system. This password is going to be mailed to current GATE card holders so don’t throw away any mail from the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The letters should be in the mail next week and emailed to those with addresses on file. The online renewal system should open up next week, but you can’t do anything until you have the password. The fees for all cards must be paid online by credit card or e-check. The Department of Agriculture will no longer accept checks as payment.

There are also some changes to the rules and qualifications for the 2019 season. You can view the brochure to see the changes here. See attached flyer.

One big change is this. As of 2019 production year, cards will be issued for a three-year term. This will be implemented in a three year phase-in process. All applications will be processed electronically and charged a fee based on the expiration date of their card. One third of applicants will receive a three-year card ($150), one third will receive a two year card ($100), and one third will receive a one year card ($50).

For assistance, call the Customer Service Center at 855-FARM TAX (855-327-6829) or email farmtax@agr.georgia.gov.

A Dreary Harvest Continues For Some       Lenny Wells

Now that it appears our two consecutive weeks of rain may have ended, growers who did not sustain devastating damage from Hurricane Michael will continue harvesting after the ground dries out a bit. This kind of rain has not likely been helpful to the quality of the nuts still on the ground. Nuts remaining in the trees should be less affected.

Many growers in the Southwestern part of the state are not harvesting as a result of damage inflicted to the nuts in the extensive cleanup process and are forced to rely on crop insurance to help them get through the loss.

In many parts of the state, but especially in east Georgia or in orchards with sandier soils, we have seen much of the crop lost to a problem in which the shucks began turning black and in many cases the nuts fell from the tree. Most of these nuts have very poorly
filled or rotted kernels. This is something we began seeing prior to the storm. This has been most common on Stuart but has been observed on other varieties as well.

Here are some images I took in an orchard on October 2 of this year. There is a little scab visible on these nuts but the primary problem of the shuck turning black here is not scab:

This likely is a result of many of these trees bearing a heavy crop throughout the growing season. Throughout the summer we had a lot of rain. Pecan trees have very large root systems that extend outside the irrigated zone in the orchard. When we were getting rain all summer those roots outside the irrigated zone were getting plenty of water because the soil moisture stayed pretty consistent. This allowed the trees to carry a heavier crop than normal through the season. When it turned off hot and dry in September those roots outside the irrigated zone no longer could get the water they had grown accustomed to and needed with the heavy crop load. As a result the tree became stressed and could not finish out the nuts.

We have isolated *Phomopsis*, an opportunistic fungal pathogen from these nuts, but while the fungus may be accelerating the problem, the tree is made susceptible to the fungus by the stress generated from a combination of crop load and late season drought and heat. Short of crop thinning in July/August there is nothing growers could do about this problem.

This problem has severely reduced the crop in the eastern part of Georgia, further reducing an already highly storm-limited crop for the state. As a result I will be surprised if Georgia produces 50 million lbs this year.

**ARC and PLC selection for the Seed Cotton Program**    Serinna Liu and Don Shurley

Attached is the decision aid to assist landowners and producers to make decisions concerning the new seed cotton program in ARC and PLC selection decision for 2018. Producers on a farm have until December 7, 2018 to elect PLC or ARC for seed cotton for 2018. The decision aid addresses specifically with option, ARC or PLC, looks better (potentially provides the higher payment) for 2018 only. Current language in the House and Senate Version of the farm bill provides that producers will be given another election opportunity for 2019-2023 under the new farm bill. Instead, should the current farm bill be extended for another year, it is uncertain if a new election opportunity would be provided for 2019. It is widely believed that longer term, PLC is the preferred choice for seed cotton—but heavy yield loss in some counties due to Hurricane Michael for 2018 could make ARC the better choice for 2018 only. This decision aid specifically compares ARC and PLC for 2018.

**Nutritional Considerations Going into Calving**    Lawton Stewart and Roger Gates

This year has proved to be quite an interesting one. Most producers were able to put up plenty of hay. However, due to average to above average rainfall, a large proportion of the hay produced was harvested at a later than ideal maturity. Based on the samples submitted to the UGA Feed and Environmental Water Laboratory, we are dealing with lower quality forage for winter feeding. For producers with a late winter/spring calving season, this could cause potential issues. Combining this with a few other observations, here are a few situations we are seeing, and the potential ramifications.

1. I will restrict feed in the last trimester to decrease calf birth weights.
2. I need more protein to go with my hay
3. There is a tendency to underestimate crude protein and overestimate energy.

**I will restrict feed in the last trimester to decrease calf birth weights.** Is this correct? Absolutely! The problem is that is not the only thing it will affect. Recent research has focused on fetal programming. Fetal programming is the concept that maternal stimulus or insult during fetal development has long-term effects on the offspring. One of the most critical aspects of fetal programming involves adequate nutrition, or lack thereof, for the dam. Research has shown minimal impact on calf birth weights, however restricted nutrition during the last trimester decreased weaning weights, finishing weights, and hot carcass weights. Additionally,
research from Nebraska indicated that heifers from nutritionally restricted cows reached puberty 14 days later than those with proper nutrition.

Nutrient Requirements of a Beef Cow

I need more protein to go with my hay. Is this correct? Possibly, however protein is only half of the equation. From April 1 to November 1 of this year, 1,260 bermudagrass hay samples and 291 fescue hay samples were submitted to the UGA lab. The mean crude protein and energy (TDN) values were 12.1% and 53.4%, respectively for bermudagrass, and 14.2% and 55.2%, respectively for fescue. Figure 1 represents the CP and TDN requirements of a brood cow throughout the production year. As you can see, as cows are entering the final trimester, their CP requirement is exceeded by the average bermudagrass and fescue sample, but the energy requirement falls short for bermudagrass. More importantly, the CP requirement is met for peak lactation, but falls tremendously short for TDN.

There is a tendency to underestimate crude protein and overestimate energy. The cheapest money you will ever spend in a beef cattle operation is a forage test, guaranteed!!! As part of the recent Master Cattlemen’s Program, Dr. Roger Gates offered free forage testing for participants along with a survey for producers asking them to estimate what they thought the quality of the hay was (prior to testing). This survey resulted in 83% of producers underestimating the protein of their hay compared to the actual. This would result in the purchasing supplemental protein when not needed. For energy, 50% overestimated energy. This would result in depriving needed energy during late gestation and early lactation. In addition to the previously discussed fetal programming issues, this could also cause delayed breeding. An actual example of over estimation of energy is illustrated in Figure 2. The over estimation could likely result in breeding delayed 42 days. The resulting loss in weaning weight could easily reach 80 lb, resulting in an approximate $120 decrease in value per calf. Through forage testing, the producer would know to feed 4 lb/d of a supplement such as corn gluten meal. Based on a 25-cow herd, this could easily return $1,920 above cost. That is a no-brainer!

Brood cow nutrition is a crucial part of a beef cattle operation. Between fetal programming and maintaining the proper calving interval, it is imperative for producers to pay close attention to the nutrients available in their forages, and if they meet the requirements of their herd.

As always for more information, contact your Irwin County Extension Office at (229) 468-7409.

Thank You,
Phillip Edwards Irwin County Agent

The mention of trade names in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the Georgia Extension Service, nor criticism of similar ones not mentioned.