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**IRWIN COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWS - Vol. 40 Wed. Oct 6, 2021**

**Phillip Edwards Irwin County Extension Coordinator**

*In this issue: Meetings and Events, Recent, Row Crop Update – Peanuts, Cotton Defoliation Information, Pecan Field Day Oct 7 – Vidalia Research Center, Sunbelt Expo, Establishing Winter Annual Forage, Feeding Baleage, Grain Sorghum Update, Cotton Marketing*

**Meetings and Events – Please call our office at 468-7409 for more information**

<b>Meeting/Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Pecan Field Day Outside	Thu Oct 7, 2021 10am – 12 noon	Vidalia Onion Research Center 8163 Hwy 178 Lyons, GA
GA National Fair	Oct 7-17, 2021	Perry, Georgia
Sunbelt Expo	Tue-Thu October 19-21, 2021	Spence Field Moultrie, GA
GA Peanut Farm Show	Wed. Jan. 19 1:00 pm and Thu. Jan. 20 8:00 am	UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center

**Recent**



Good looking peanuts - wow (photo: Jeffery Ross)



Tar Spot on late corn (photo: Dr. Kemerait)



4-H Coke Fundraiser Now - Oct 13



Cotton field recently defoliated- photos from Fri (left) and Mon (right)



Pond weed issues (consider grass carp), and possible blue green algae



3-cornered alfalfa hopper damage



Zoom to see 3-day bronzing and lots of immatures too



Peanut approaching optimum maturity



Celebrate 4-H Week



Kevin Phillips doing soybean maturity assessment



Matthew made his solo airplane flight Monday evening

## Row Crop Update: Peanut Kemerait

Peanuts- 3 weeks until harvest and “clean”? I wouldn’t spray. 3 weeks until harvest and spots from top to bottom and leaves dropping? I wouldn’t spray. 3 weeks until harvest and some spots low in the canopy, I probably would spray.

## UGA Cotton Defoliation Update Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaNIxsYkvMM>

## Cotton Defoliation Hand

As possible rain approaches (hopefully not too much) be sure to remember rainfastness - thidiazuron products (Dropp, Freefall, Klean-Pik, etc.), has a 24-hour rainfree period. Thidiazuron is your regrowth inhibitor that also helps with juvenile leaf removal. Now, does this mean that if a grower applies Dropp and it rains 12 hours later that it isn’t going to work at all? I don’t think so. But it could reduce effectiveness compared to if it got 24 hours of dry time. One thing that could improve uptake in a situation like this week is adding an adjuvant (COC, NIS, MSO, etc.) to the tank. However, it should also be noted that an adjuvant could also increase the risk of sticking leaves. Last week I got a call from an agent that said a grower was sticking leaves, but the mix was fairly normal (3.2 oz Dropp, 8 oz Folex, 32 oz Ethephon). With those rates, and the conditions we had last week, I wouldn’t expect to see stuck leaves. But the grower also included an adjuvant in that mix, which I believe was the causal agent of his stuck leaves. So it is quite the balancing act, but this week I would consider using an adjuvant just because of the uncertainty surrounding rainfall. These are just some things that are on the forefront of my mind as we head into this week. If you all have any questions or need anything else addressed please let me know. Have a great week, and call if y’all need anything else!

## Pecan Field Day at Vidalia Onion Research Center October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 Sawyer

This short field day is at the onion center where we planted our Low-Input Variety Trial this year. Since the trees are brand new, most of our discussion is young trees management. If anyone is looking to plant trees, or have newly planted trees, this is definitely for you. This will be an outside meeting. **Please email [agsawyer@uga.edu](mailto:agsawyer@uga.edu) if you plan to attend or call the Irwin County Extension Office and we will sign you up.** Lunch details are still in the works and will follow the meeting.

Date: **October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Time: **10:00 – 12:00**

Location: **Vidalia Onion Research Center (8163 Hwy 178 Lyons)**

Topics Include:

- Terra-Sorb-UGA Fertilizer Trial
- Insecticide Drench Trial
- Pecan Budmoth Efficacy and Timing Trial
- Drip vs. Microsprinkler Irrigation Set Up
- Soil Moisture Sensors
- Low-Input Varieties
- Herbicide Options for Young Trees
- Ambrosia Beetle Monitoring/Control

## Sunbelt Expo: North America’s Premier Farm Show is Scheduled for October 19-21, 2021

EXPO IS BACK. THE FUTURE IS NOW <https://sunbeltexpo.com/> The Sunbelt Ag Expo is open Tuesday through Thursday, October 19-21, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm each day except Thursday when the gate closes at 4:00 pm. Admission at the gate is \$10 per person per day. Advanced and discount tickets can be purchased online beginning August 1.



## Establishment of Winter Annual Forages Jeremy Kichler Colquitt County Agent

As fall approaches, cattle growers need to think about winter annual forages. Please establish winter annuals on well-drained, fertile soils when possible. If your pasture or field is poorly drained consider ryegrass as it is a better option than the small grains. Growers should consider treating seed with an approved fungicide before planting. Seedling diseases such as Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia, Pythium, and others reduce stands when planting in the warmer months of September and October, especially in South Georgia. These forages can be seeded in late September to late October in the Coastal Plain region. If late fall and early winter grazing are desired (lower Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions only), plant during the earlier side of the planting window and into a prepared seedbed. During the late fall and early winter, growers should avoid overgrazing these pastures. For best results, maintain at least 2 ½ in. of stubble height of the winter annuals.

If planting into a prepared seedbed, prepare the seedbed two to three weeks before planting, if practical. This will allow the soil to settle and firm, thus improving seed germination and seedling development. Although deep soil preparation is not necessary for the grazing crop, deep tillage may benefit row crops planted in the spring.

Drilling or using a cultipacker seeder allows for more precise seed placement than broadcasting or disking. It is recommended that if you are broadcasting seed, to increase the seeding rate by 25–30% to allow for variable seed placement. The planting depth for rye,

oats, and wheat should be 1 – 1 ½ in. deep in moist soil. It is recommended to not plant ryegrass seed deeper than ½ in. When planting mixtures of ryegrass and small grains, it may be easier to control the seeding depth of these species by broadcasting ryegrass seed and then drilling the other small grains into the seedbed. If grown alone, seeding rates for rye, wheat, oats, and triticale are 90-120 lbs per acre, but in mixtures, seeding rates drop to 60-90 lbs per acre. When grown alone, ryegrass seeding rates range from 20 to 30 pounds per acre, but in mixtures, seeding rates drop to 15-20 pounds per acre. Use higher seeding rates when broadcasting and lower rates when drilling into a prepared seedbed or existing sod (overseeding pasture).

Growers need to split their nitrogen applications to maximize forage growth. Apply 40 – 50 lbs of nitrogen per acre at planting or soon after the plants emerge to promote growth, tillering (stand thickening), and earlier grazing. The second application of 40 – 50 lbs of N per acre should be applied in mid-winter to increase winter and spring forage production. If ryegrass is in the forage program, then a third application of 40 – 50 lbs of N per acre may be needed in early spring. I must emphasize to producers who overseed into perennial pastures the importance of removing excess summer crop growth before seeding winter annuals. Thin stands are usually the result of failing to get over seeded crop seed in contact with soil and plant nutrients. Warm-season perennial forage crops like bermudagrass and bahiagrass provide forage for five to six months. Overseeding these pastures with winter annuals adds 75 to 100 days of high-quality grazing in late winter and spring. Overseeding occurs in the fall after cooler temperatures have slowed the growth of summer grasses.

If you have questions about seeding rates of these winter annuals or variety questions please call the Extension office.

### **Tips for Feeding Baleage**                      **Jeremy Kichler Colquitt County Agent**

Baled silage, or “baleage,” is an excellent way for livestock producers to harvest, storage, and feed forage. Feeding baleage is much different than feeding hay due to the higher moisture content. This higher moisture content makes it much more susceptible to deterioration. Let’s discuss some ways to decrease waste during the feeding of your baleage.

Cattle or forage producers should never leave silage exposed to the air for more than two days during feeding. If the daytime temperature exceeds 60 degrees F, please do not leave it exposed for more than one day. It is critical for producers who use an in-line bale wrapper since this determines the feed-out rate. If you have made baled silage using an in-line bale wrapper, you must have enough animals to feed at least one bale per day in the winter. While using an in-line wrapper, when the producer feeds one bale, the next bale is exposed to air. Individually wrapped bales are usually not subject to exposure before feeding, and thus the feeding schedule is somewhat more flexible.

Here are some additional “rules of thumb” on how to feed silage bales or, in some cases, what not to do.

- Ensure that the storage site does not increase the chances of exposure to air. Some storage sites increase the likelihood of punctures to the plastic wrap. Areas around trees are great places to find dropped limbs, weed stubble, rodents, and other varmint dens. Many of these areas may create punctures that go unnoticed until it is too late.
- Ensure that the forage is between 40-60% moisture before it is wrapped and ensiled. Baling when the crop is too dry is the most common problem for producers. Often the forage may start at the correct moisture and end up being too dry. Dry forage does not provide enough moisture to allow bacteria to provide sufficient fermentation. But, it does allow fungi to grow during storage and feeding that can lead to deterioration and increases the risk of mold formation. However, baling at too much moisture may reduce forage quality and will increase the risk of (undesirable) butyric acid formation.
- Please do not spear into bales after they have been wrapped. Squeeze carriers or handlers are better, but may still stretch, tear, or puncture bales. Any hole in the plastic barrier can lead to small areas or even entire bales that spoil.
- If you are using an in-line wrapper, simply spear into the bale, lift, and pull away. When feeding the bales, producers should cut over the top and peel the plastic off in one large section. To feed an individually wrapped bale, cut a large X at one end of the bale and pull back the flaps. Spear the bale, lift and cut across the top and down the other flat side to peel the plastic off in one piece. Net wrap from the bales should be removed before placing the bale feeding ring around it in the paddock. Waste and refusal are rarely an issue when feeding baled silage unless a bale is being fed to too few animals. If silage remains for a long period, please put out a fresh bale. Forcing animals to eat waste or refused silage can lead to animal health issues. Factors such as the number of animals and the feed-out rate can help determine bale size before harvest season starts.
- The ensiling process usually completes within 4-6 weeks, depending on numerous factors. The feeding rate should still be relatively quick, however, as excessive heating, as well as spoilage, could be significant if exposed for days or even hours. If you have any questions about baleage please contact your local county Extension agent.

### **Grain Sorghum (aka Milo) Update**

Anthraxnose disease is jumping in our later planted Grain Sorghum this week. It’s a disease that is often not too bad but can move quickly and cause yield loss. Some folks reporting that it wasn’t visible at all a week ago but is now in many fields. Certain varieties are more susceptible to it and later in the growing season it is worse. Our UGA plant pathologist, Alfredo Martinez says we can apply

a fungicide to help with this problem but it needs to go out quickly. Labeled fungicides of choice would be Topguard, Priaxor, and Veltyma, among others. Contact us for rates and more information.

If grain is already hard its far enough along that a fungicide won't be needed. Some of the worst affected I've seen is milo planted after corn under a pivot.



White sugarcane aphids have also been a problem this year in milo.

Older crop Milo harvest is going on and here's a link to our UGA Harvest drying, storing brochure

[https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201017\\_2.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201017_2.PDF)

## Cotton Marketing News



**Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.**

REPRESENTING COTTON GROWERS THROUGHOUT ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND VIRGINIA

# COTTON MARKETING NEWS

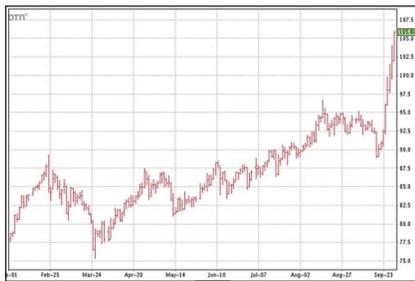
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### The Move Above \$1.00 is Finally Here—But it Makes for Some Really Tough Decisions

Looking back 6 months, the move to 80- 85 was the first pricing action for some growers. It was considered a good price risk management opportunity. Then price (Dec futures) moved further to 90 cents. This was also considered a good opportunity and prompted some growers to add to earlier sales or, for some, to jump in for the first time.



When Dec hit 90 then 95, talk of \$1.00 cotton really started to circulate. Some growers added more to sales; others decided to hold off and see. I imagine there are some growers who, to this day, have done only a little or even nothing in the way of pricing.

My thinking is that most growers have done at least some fair to moderate amount of pricing on their expected production. As is usual, pre-harvest price fixing is tempered by the uncertainties of not yet knowing what crop you truly have.

To try in any way to explain what might be going on, I'm reminded of the basic principle that buying activity (of any type) will tend to pull prices up. Selling (of any type) will tend to push prices down. We should also note that this rapid run to \$1.00 or more was preceded by a drop from 95 to 90 to 91. That decline could have triggered interest in buying starting at that level.

In terms of economic fundamentals impacting the market, exports have been very good including large sales to China destinations. This has provided continued strong optimism for demand/use and support/fuel for prices. Today's export report (for the week ending Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>) showed huge sales of 606,000 bales (USDA statistical equivalent bales)—89% above the average for the prior 4 weeks. Sales to China were 433,000 bales. Shipments were 181,000 bales—8% below the average for the previous 4 weeks.



USDA will release its October supply/demand estimates on October 12<sup>th</sup>. We're likely to see increases in both World Use and US exports. There are crop concerns in some Texas areas (from recent rains that could delay harvest and reduce grade), and in India and China. The recent surge in export buying for China could be evidence of a reduced crop. With continued strong demand, less supply can be a recipe for continued good prices.

With prices strengthening into harvest and now over \$1.00, what are strategies for price and to manage an unknown future? Some growers want to "re-own" cotton sold earlier in the 80's. You can do this with Puts or Calls on March, May, or July futures depending on which way you want to play the market (is it going further up or will it come down?) But this is risky and Options are expensive.

If you will have unsold production, price is already over \$1.00. What do you do? Typically, you might store or sell on-call and price later. But the market is "inverted"—for example, May 2022 futures is currently 2.85 cents less than Dec 2021. This doesn't necessarily mean storing won't work- but you'll have to overcome the big invert plus hope for even further price increase. An alternative would be to sell the cotton and, if you're willing to risk the market is going to continue up, buy Calls.

Some growers might want to price (add to sales) but are unsure of production and don't want to overcommit. To protect from prices possibly moving lower, growers could purchase Puts. If prices continue to increase, the Put will lose value but cotton will gain in value.

Much of the strength in prices recently is thought to be due to speculative buying. This can create a volatile and uncertain situation.

*Don Shurley*  
Don Shurley

Cotton Economist-Retired / Professor Emeritus of Cotton Economics



*As always for more information contact your Irwin County Extension Office.*

*Thank You, God Bless 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.*

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