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IRWIN COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWS - Vol. 9 Fri. Mar. 18, 2022

Phillip Edwards Irwin County Extension Coordinator

In this issue: Recent, Meetings/Events, Thank You Sponsors, UPW Training, Corn and Small Grains Freezing Temps, Freezing Temp on Pecan, Planter Checklist, Better Beef Systems Extravaganza, Cotton Trust Protocol, Cotton Marketing News, Peanut Award Opportunities, Important Links and Info

Recent

I've been looking at many wheat fields waiting until to yesterday to give time to see the impact of the freeze. I will be going back to visit those fields on Monday as well. Ag Day is next week and I would like to say thank you to our farmers. The Ocilla Star will showcase Ag Week. Also, Ag Day for the 5th graders is Thursday. GA Peanut Achievement Club forms are at office – come get yours. We have beautiful tomato plants for sale at our office.



GA Ag Week is March 21-24 – Irwin 5th grade Ag Day is Thu Mar 24th



Wheat heads Thursday – at various exposure to freezing temps



What we would like to see (more info below)



This wheat is just prior to heading



This was at boot or headed prior to freeze

Meetings/Events – Please call if you have any questions and to sign up for these meetings in BOLD – WATCH FOR UPDATES, ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS. All of the times are correct. Pesticide credits for meetings in BOLD.

Meeting/Events	Date	Location
5 th Grade Ag Awareness	Thu Mar 24, 2022 9-12	Gary C. Tankersley Livestock Pavilion
Better Beef Systems Extravaganza	Tue Apr 5, 2022 8:00 am	UGA Animal Science Farm Tifton
Beef Cattle Update	Tue Apr 7, 2022 6:00 pm	Morehead Store
Peanut Cotton Insect Update and UPW	Early - Mid April – To BE Announced	CASE Farm

Thank You to our Meeting Sponsors - Americot, Bayer, Chaney Bush Irrigation, Corteva/Pioneer, D and F Grain, Dixie Peanut, Farmers Quality Peanut, Hudson Pecan, Irwinville Ag Services, Nutrien, Osceola Cotton Co., Morehead Pecan, Plant Food Systems, Savage, Shann Peanut, and South Central Gin. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Using Pesticides Wisely (UPW) Training – GA 2022

The Using Pesticides Wisely training will be offered at the Irwin County Extension office individually so simply call and we will set up a time for you to go through the 1-hour training. We are planning for a Peanut/Cotton Insect/UPW Training in early April so be on the lookout for those details. **IMPORTANT: If you attended the Ext. Weed Management Meeting on Feb. 3 at Morehead Store (116 of you did) then your training obligation has been met for applying Engenia, Tavium, and XtendiMax in 2022. All applicators of Engenia, Tavium, & XtendiMax herbicides must have a private pesticide license; All applicators driving a tractor/sprayer**

applying these herbicides must attend a UPW Training during 2022 prior to using these products. Must be trained by April 15, 2022.

Corn and Small Grains Concern After the Past Weekend Freezing Temperatures

Ethredge

Corn

Corn affected by cold is growing out of it in deep southwest Georgia where we had 4 hours of freezing temperatures 4 days ago with a low of 28.7 degrees F. It was colder as you went north and more hours below freezing.

After the freeze event since the growing point wasn't killed and we've had warm temperatures, we have lots of growth and what I've looked at so far looks ok. We still need to watch how the corn plants unfurl, hopefully they won't get too caught up and have trouble breaking free. This corn was flat on the ground with the tops dead on Monday and now on Thursday its looking much better. Top is still dead but since the growing point survived the leaves have grown and pushed up out of the ground.

If we get to the point of having to decide whether to replant some corn we need to carefully consider the percent of stand affected, the original yield goal, value of inputs already applied, and potential yield loss from a later planting date prior to making any replant decisions.



Small Grains

We may see freeze damage in wheat and oats grown for grain. This is what we're looking for according to the growth stage in the following chart:

Table 1. Freeze injury in wheat.

Growth Stage	Approximate injurious temp. (two hours)	Primary symptoms	Yield effect
Tillering (1-5) ^a	12°F	Leaf chlorosis; burning of leaf tips; silage odor; blue cast to fields	Slight to moderate
Jointing (6-7)	24°F	Death of growing point; leaf yellowing or burning; lesions, splitting, or bending of lower stem; odor	Moderate to severe
Boot (10)	28°F	Floret sterility; spike trapped in boot; damage to lower stem; leaf discoloration; odor	Moderate to severe
Heading (10.1-.5)	30°F	Floret sterility; white awns or white spikes; damage to lower stem; leaf discoloration	Severe
Flowering (10.51-.54)	30°F	Floret sterility; white awns or white spikes; damage to lower stem; leaf discoloration	Severe
Milk (11.1)	28°F	White awns or white spikes; damage to lower stems; leaf discoloration; shrunken, roughened, or discolored kernels	Moderate to severe
Dough (11.2)	28°F	Shriveled, discolored kernels; poor germination	Slight to moderate

^a Numbers in parentheses refer to the Feeke's scale (see Table 2.)

Most of what we have now in Georgia is in the Joint stage. When we cut the stem in half with a knife we will find the small grain head maybe 5 inches high. It will be small and if it's discolored, yellowish, mushy, has a bad smell then the grain head is affected and yield will suffer. See photo below, figure 7. See other things to look for in the above chart.



Figure 7. Plants that appear healthy could have damaged heads. Photo on the left is a healthy head and photo on the right is a freeze-damaged head).



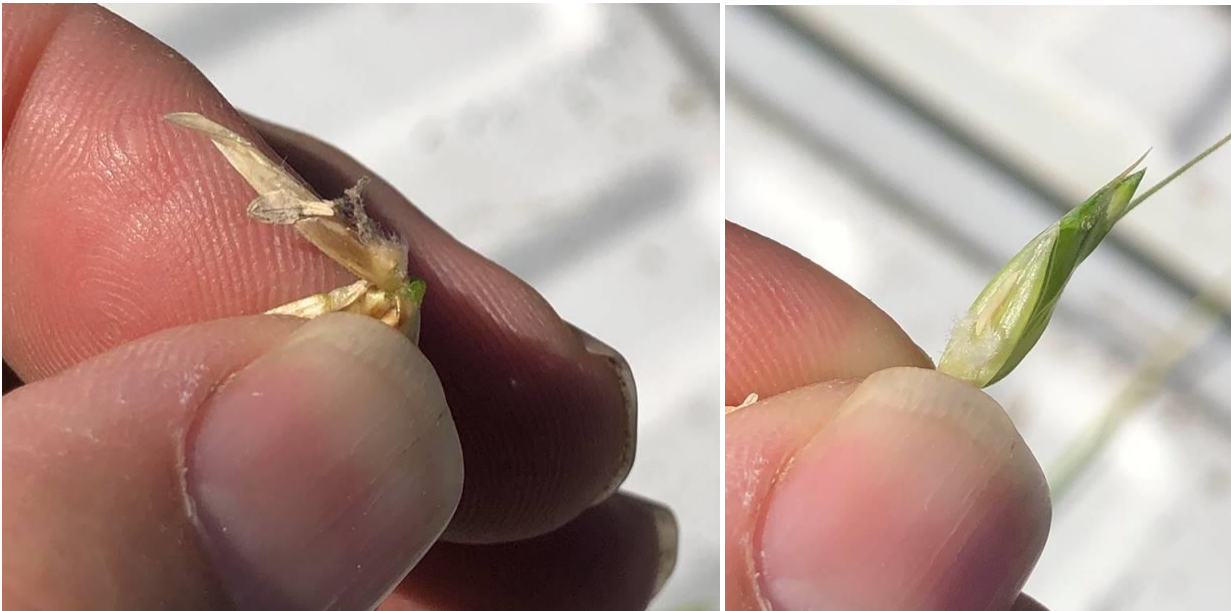
OSU

Figure 9. Freeze during the flowering stage may result in sterility via death of the anthers (male organ) and consequently poor kernel set and grain yield losses.

OSU

The 2 photos below are ones that I took today from a wheat field in Decatur county, Georgia. It is wheat that was planted too early and is more advanced than we would like to have this early in the year.

1st photo below is from a wheat head that was out of the boot stage and exposed to the freeze. The flower parts are dead and it will not make any grain. The second photo is of a healthy head where the plant was in the flag leaf stage so the head was wrapped in the leaf and it looks like it's going to be ok. It was hard to see this before today, day 4 after the freeze.



Thanks to Dewey Lee, State Exec. Dir., Georgia Corn Growers Association, for assistance with the above articles.

Freezing Temperatures Damage Pecan Trees Wells

An early budbreak just prior to last weekend's freezing temperatures has caused damage to the developing buds of early pecan varieties. Below are some photos of budbreak on Cape Fear pecans taken in Crisp County on Friday afternoon. Elliott buds in the same orchard were also open. Budbreak occurs from the bottom up, so most of the budbreak on trees that had broken bud was occurring on the lowest limbs.



Temperatures at this site reached 23 degrees on Saturday. Any exposed green tissue or buds that had reached outer scale split were susceptible to injury from these temperatures. I checked these trees again yesterday morning and this is what I found:



Exposed/elongating buds which were at outer scale split stage or later were damaged. Again, most of the open buds were primarily on lower limbs. It is not likely that we will see pistillate flowers produced on damaged buds or the secondary buds that re-grow at these nodes. This will likely result in some crop loss, although the extent of loss is not clear. Often buds further down the shoot or higher in the tree, which are not as far along in development (no outer scale split) can develop properly and still produce pistillate flowers, which is the hope in this situation.

I also cut open some buds from these trees that were still closed tightly and had not undergone outer scale split. A small number did show dead tissue inside (sorry for poor quality of the photo but I think you can tell).



However, most of the buds that were still tightly closed were still bright green inside, indicating no damage. These buds should produce pistillate flowers.



I am also concerned with the potential effect of this freeze on young (newly planted-3 yr old) pecan trees. Often when this occurs, the cambium on the south or southwest side of the tree (usually at the base) is damaged by abrupt fluctuations in temperature while the sap is flowing. Young and/or thin-barked trees are most susceptible to this type of injury. Injury may not even be apparent early in the season as the remaining undamaged cambium is able to keep up with the tree's water demand. As May/June arrives, the water demand increases with the rising temperatures and the trees crash when the remaining cambium can no longer support them. I hope I am wrong but I expect to get a number of calls on this issue around that time.

Most of the damage I have seen/heard about to date has been from Cordele, North to Ft. Valley. Areas further south did not reach temperatures quite as low as 23 degrees and budbreak does not appear to have been as far along. It is likely that trees in middle Georgia received a few more chill hours, which would then require fewer heat units to trigger budbreak. For this reason, I do not anticipate the same level of damage south of Cordele.

Unfortunately, we still have a ways to go before all danger of freezing temps has passed and we could still face more of this. I expect to see budbreak progress further and more uniformly within the state by late next week and we have about a month to go before Easter, which means we are not out of the woods yet.

12-Point Checklist to Ensure Your Planter is Ready for the Field

Virk, Porter



With the 2022 planting season officially underway, we will start seeing more row-crop planters rolling in the fields in next few weeks. For growers to have a successful and stress-free planting season, it is important to make sure that planters are well maintained and ready to go before heading to the field. When it comes to planting, preparation is the key as any breakdowns in the field due to planter malfunction or planting mistakes can cost growers both valuable time and money. We all know that timely and uniform stand establishment is important to maximize yield potential early in the season and one of the main factors that can affect crop stand is planter setup and operation as it influences where and how uniformly seeds are placed in the soil. Spending time on planter setup and preparation to get it field ready goes long way for growers as it not only helps minimize downtime in the field but a successful crop stand also sets the stage for rest of the season.

Before heading to the field, here is a 12-point checklist for growers to consider to make sure that your planter is well maintained and dialed in for peak performance during planting.

1. **Parallel Linkages** – Stand behind the row unit and wiggle it up and down and left and right to check for any play in the parallel arms, and adjust or replace linkages and bushings to make sure row units are secured nice and tight on the planter.
2. **Drive System** – Check all chains, idlers, sprockets and bushings, and replace any parts that are too worn. Make sure all drive chains are snug and do not have any unnecessary jump or vibration when operating. Lubricate all chains and sprockets before begin planting and regularly in the season. Additionally, check all drive system parts including flex drives, hydraulic drives and lines, and electrical drive systems including connectors and wires.
3. **Tire Pressure** – Check and maintain proper air pressure in the tires as recommended by the manufacturer based on the weight of the planter and planting conditions in the field. Independent of drive system, improper tire pressure can have negative effects on seed placement due to improper levelling of the planter toolbar.
4. **Double Disc Openers** – Check that the double disc openers are still sharp and within the diameter tolerance outlined by the manufacturer. Replace if they are dull or worn more than half an inch of their original diameter. Perform a quick check using a business card to ensure adequate contact (1.75 to 2 inches) between the disc openers at the 4 o'clock position.
5. **Gauge Wheels** – Inspect the gauge wheels for any cracks or wear. Adjust the gauge wheels so that they run tight against the disc openers but just enough so they can easily be turned by hand with slight pressure. Gauge wheels should also move freely up and down without sticking in any position.
6. **Row Cleaners** – Check row-cleaners for any wear and replace any bearings if they are not turning freely. Floating type row cleaners should also travel up and down to effectively clear soil/crop residue out of the way.
7. **Seed Meters** – Inspect each seed meter thoroughly for any wear or damaged parts including vacuum seals, brushes, scrapers, and doubles eliminator. Ensure that the correct crop kit (for newer meters) is installed in the meter. If not utilizing a seed monitor (capable of by-row feedback) during planting, it is also recommended to run the seed meters on a test stand to check performance and make any necessary adjustments.
8. **Seed Tube** – Check seed tubes for any cracks and wear at the bottom. Seed tubes should also be cleaned properly to clear any debris or obstructions (seed, cobweb, etc.). Make sure that the seed sensor is secured properly to the tube and working as intended.
9. **Closing Wheels** – Check that closing wheels are centered directly over the center of the row. Inspect closing wheels for any wear or play in the arms and replace parts or adjust as needed.
10. **Vacuum** – Inspect the whole vacuum system including hydraulic motor, fan and hoses for any wear, leaks or loose fittings. Check that vacuum hoses are attached properly to the manifold and to the seed meters on each row unit.
11. **Downforce** – For mechanical (spring type) systems, check all the components thoroughly and make sure different downforce adjustments can be made easily. For pneumatic or hydraulic systems, inspect all air or hydraulic connections carefully and perform a static diagnostic test to verify that the downforce system is functioning properly. This includes the compressor for air systems, in some cases it stays in the cab and can be neglected.
12. **Technology** – Check that the GPS receiver and planter display have the most recent firmware upgrades installed and are functioning properly. Check if the GPS correction subscription services and any other display unlocks for advanced planting features are activated and paid for rest of the season. Perform a thorough inspection of all technology components including sensors, harnesses, ECU's and connections to ensure everything is connected and functioning properly. Also, make sure to back up planting data from the previous season on a computer or an external storage device before start recording this year's data.

Keep in mind that once in the field, growers should get out of the tractor and check seed depth, placement and seed-to-soil contact during the first pass, and adjust planter settings as needed to optimize planter performance within each field. Also, check all these parameters anytime field conditions change drastically, and especially when changing crops.

Preplant Burndown Update Prostko

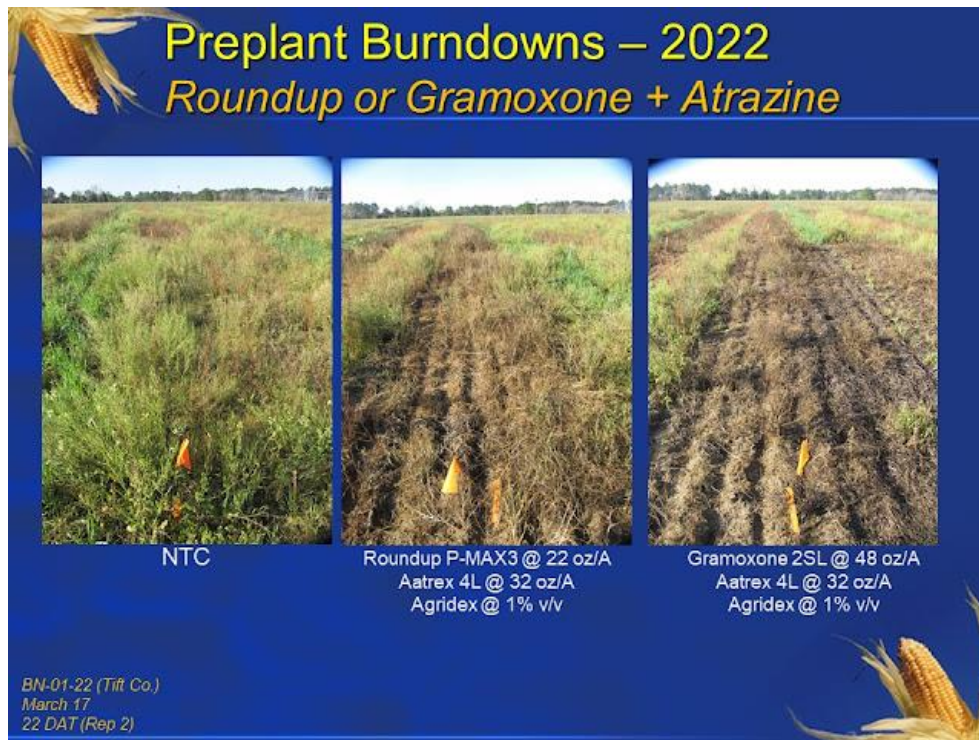
Some responses to a few common questions this week about preplant burndowns:

1) What is the plant-back restriction for field corn following an application of 2,4-D?

Plant-back restrictions for field corn after a burndown application of 2,4-D are 7 days (16 oz/A) or 10-14 days (>16 oz/A)

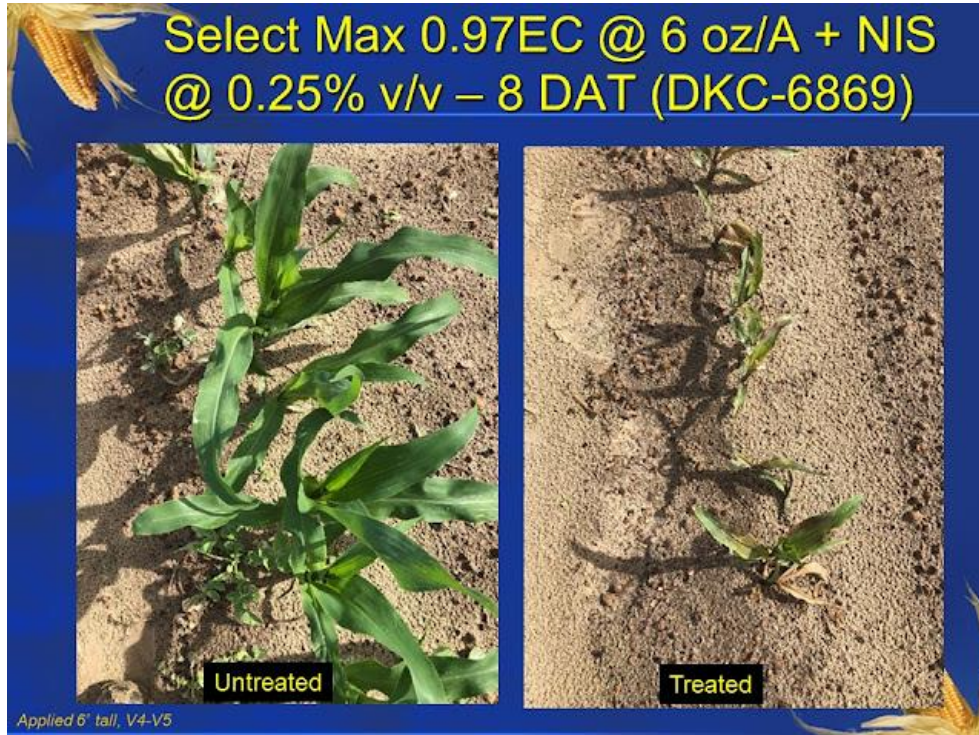
2) If a grower cannot wait to plant field corn in 7-14 days after an application of 2,4-D, what other burndown options are available?

Roundup (glyphosate) or Gramoxone** (paraquat) + Atrazine 4L (32 oz/A) is my first choice. There are no field corn plant-back restriction for these treatments. Check out the following picture from my burndown plots yesterday in a Tift Co. growers' field (*many thanks to Justin H. and Regan V.*).



3) What's the best option for controlling a failed stand of field corn?

It has been my experience that the best option for controlling a failed stand of field corn is to use Select Max 0.97EC (*or other equivalent formulations*) @ 6 oz/A + NIS. But, there is a for real **6 day** plant-back restriction (field corn) for this treatment. Since many of our current field corn hybrids have tolerance to both Roundup and Liberty, neither of these are great options. Gramoxone has been too inconsistent for me to have much confidence. FYI, it takes about 10-14 days before you really start to observe the full effects of Select Max.



4) What is our current recommended preplant burndown program for peanut?

Roundup or Gramoxone** + Valor @ 2 oz/A + 2,4-D (1 pt/A). An additional 2 oz/A of Valor can be applied at planting. Peanuts can be planted anytime.

Preplant Burndowns – 2022

Roundup or Gramoxone + Valor + 2,4-D



NTC



Roundup P-MAX3 @ 22 oz/A
Valor EZ 4SC @ 2 oz/A
2,4-D 3.8SL @ 16 oz/A
Agridex @ 1% v/v



Gramoxone 2SL @ 48 oz/A
Valor EZ 4SC @ 2 oz/A
2,4-D 3.8SL @ 16 oz/A
Agridex @ 1% v/v

BN-01-22 (Tift Co.)
March 17
22 DAT (Rep 2)

****When using Gramoxone on small grain cover crops, applications need to be made when seedheads are present.**

Better Beef Systems Extravaganza "A Beef and Forage Field Day"

Sponsored by the Georgia Commodity Commission for Beef

Event Date: Tuesday, April 5th, 2022 @ 8:00 a.m.

Location: UGA Animal Science Farm, Tifton



Online Registration at https://estore.uga.edu/C27063_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=487&SINGLESTORE=true

Topics Covered

- Sustainability in Beef Production Systems
- Feeding cattle in Georgia
- Alfalfa in the South
- Precision Agriculture in Hay Fields
- Bull Development
- Management Strategies
- And more!

Better Beef Systems Extravaganza

"A Beef and Forage Field Day"



SHOWCASING:

#BetterBeef #BetterGrazing #BetterBurps

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.

UGA Tifton Animal Science Farm

Cotton Trust Protocol

Please see the attachment to this email or go to <https://trustuscotton.org/> to find out more.



Trust in a Smarter Cotton Future

The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol® sets a new standard for more sustainably grown cotton.

It brings quantifiable and verifiable goals and measurement to sustainable cotton production and drives continuous improvement in key sustainability metrics.

[Join Now >](#)



Cotton Marketing News Shurley



Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.

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

COTTON MARKETING NEWS

Volume 20, No. 3 March 14, 2022

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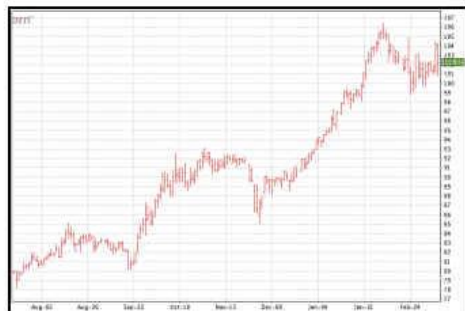


Prices Continue Seesaw Action Leaving Growers Concerned and Frustrated

"Profit" = (Price x Yield) – Costs. Price is always an important part of the equation. A good year production-wise can be offset by low price. And, higher than expected costs also.

Costs for 2022 will be extremely high. Also, farmers will be doing what they can to trim inputs and costs in hopes that yield can still be maintained. Weather is also a concern as usual but input management now creates a degree of added uncertainty.

A high price is needed for 2022 production. Pricing low can be costly financially. But in markets, we don't know what's low and what's high until after the fact. Case in point, some growers priced a portion of expected 2021 production at 85 to 95 cents and felt good about it—but then watched price go to \$1.20. For this reason, growers are reluctant to jump in too early this year for fear of making the mistake again. They know price is going to be especially important because any profit margin is going to be slim.



New crop Dec futures has thus far made a run to \$1.06 before retreating back to the \$1.00 area. Dec presently stands about \$1.02. Some producers have already priced a portion of expected 2022 production. I sense those who have not are waiting on another run and if already priced, uncomfortable doing more.

University of Georgia Extension estimates are used to compare costs this season to last season. The estimates show the increases for seed, fertilizers and lime, chemicals, and fuel. Assuming a generous 2-bale (1,000 lbs) average yield, these cost increases alone add an extra 17.7 cents per lb to the price needed for cotton.

Selected Cost Comparisons, Cotton ¹				
	2021	2022	Increase	
	\$ Per Acre ²			
Seed	94	100	6.4%	
Fertilizer and Lime	97	202	108.2%	
Chemicals	87	131	50.6%	
Fuel ³	22	44	100.0%	

1/ SOURCE: *Crop Comparison Tool*, University of Georgia

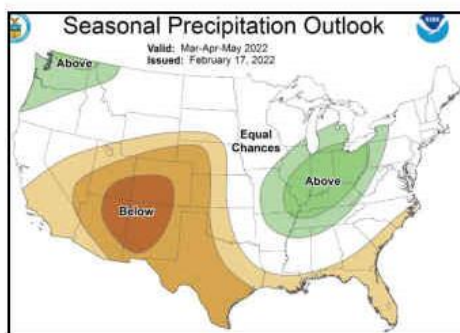
2/ Conventional tillage; average of irrigated and non-irrigated production

3/ Excludes irrigation application

Events of the Russia-Ukraine situation seem to often override other factors in the market. It is not at all clear, however, if these events are positive or negative for cotton and for what reason. Using Feb 23rd (before the Russia invasion began) as the baseline, corn and wheat have increased. Cotton and soybeans have not.

Prices Pre Russia Ukraine Invasion on Feb 24 to Present Mar 14					
	Futures	Feb 23	Mar 14	High	Low
Corn	May	6.81	7.48	7.62	6.56
Cotton	May	121.80	118.77	122.75	116.42
Soybeans	May	16.71	16.71	16.90	15.84
Wheat	May	8.85	10.96	12.86	8.60

USDA's March supply/demand numbers last week were mostly bullish. This market continues to ride on the expectation of strong demand continuing for the 2022 crop and underlying uncertainty in US production due to expected continued dry conditions.



Don Shurley

Don Shurley

Cotton Economist-Retired/Professor Emeritus of Cotton Economics



Peanut Award Opportunities

Georgia Peanut Achievement Club, TM Hobbs High Yield Peanut Award

Applications for the Georgia Peanut achievement Club have arrived. Please look over your results for 2021 and consider entering. All entries are appreciated and will be forwarded to Dr. Monfort. So, in Irwin we have two awards the TM Hobbs Irwin County High Yield Peanut Award and the Georgia Peanut Achievement Club Award and our peanut farmers are encouraged to apply. From these award applications we will also recognize the high winner in the county and they will be named the TM Hobbs High Yield Peanut Award winner. There is no acre requirement for the TM Hobbs Award. You will need to have a copy of the FSA 578 form showing all your peanut acres and also bring all of your weight tickets. Call ahead and come to our office and we will assist you with this application. Fifteen winners will be chosen for the GA Peanut Achievement Club. One statewide winner in each of the three acreage categories (100-299.9 acres), 300-699.9 acres), and (700 or more acres). There will also be one district winner from each of the four districts in each of these categories (100-299.9 acres), 300-699.9 acres), and (700 or more acres). In the first two categories, you need to average 4000 pounds per acre or more. If you are in the third category (700 acres and above) you will need to average 3500 pounds per acre or more. Take a look at your total acres, yield, and please consider applying. We have had numerous winners from Irwin County in years past. Our most recent winners of this award were Chip Dorminy and Bucky Tyler.



Farm Press Peanut Efficiency Award

We have this application on hand here at our office. Peanut growers who consistently produce high-yielding, high-quality crops are deserving of special recognition. Farm Press, in cooperation with the Southern Peanut Growers Conference, has established the Peanut Efficiency Award. Farm Press will present Peanut Efficiency Awards to growers in three major U.S. peanut producing regions. Awards will be based on production efficiency, honoring those growers who produce the highest yields at the lowest cost per acre. Four regional winners are honored and if you're interested you will be in the Lower Southeast Region. Armond Morris was the regional recipient of this award in 2021. The Southern Peanut Growers Conference is set for July 21-23, 2022.

Important Links and Information

- **2022 UGA Corn Production Guide (NEW)** <https://grains.caes.uga.edu/content/dam/caes-subsite/grains/docs/corn/2022-Corn-Production-Guide.pdf>
- See link for 2022 crop budget information - <https://agecon.uga.edu/extension/budgets.html>
- UGA Statewide Variety Trial Link <https://swvt.uga.edu/>
- UGA Irwin County Extension Webpage <https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/irwin.html>
- Irwin County Extension Agriculture Newsletters – you can find all of our past newsletters by clicking on the link below. <https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/irwin/agriculture-and-natural-resources/newsletters.html>
- Check your Georgia Private and Commercial Pesticide License credits here <https://agr.georgia.gov/pesticides.aspx>
- Georgia Forages YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL6DgfaB8V2DRnGxZEBxU3w>

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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The University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating, The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or protected veteran status." An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.