Personal Note: Hurricane Irene caused tremendous structural and crop damage. At the time of writing, a few areas in Craven County still do not have electricity. The following newsletter is a short attempt to provide some crop management and disaster relief information. More detailed information can be found on the websites or phone numbers listed. Also visit http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster.

General Disaster Relief and Comments

Personal home or crop damage should be reported to your insurance provider. If you take immediate steps to clean up or fix damaged property, make sure you document your time and money spent. It is also highly recommended to take pictures to document the damage.

FEMA hotlines are now open to file claims not covered by insurance. For agricultural claims, call 1-866-506-6222. For all other claims, call 1-800-621-3362. We will post additional information on our web page (craven.ces.ncsu.edu) as we obtain it.

If you have damaged fertilizer, seeds, pesticides or other potentially hazardous waste, if possible, store in a container for free disposal provided by the Coastal Environmental Partnership later in October (See details provided later in this letter). At the time of writing, there is no immediate means of disposal for many of these items other than through private industry. If this changes, we will provide the information on our web page.

Even though communication means are limited, we have been contacted by NCSU Extension Specialists seeking reports as well as providing advice. Additionally, all offices within Craven County Agricultural Building, Craven County Management, Emergency Management Services, and NCDA & CS Agronomist were communicating by Sunday morning. Survey of damage as well as requested assistance was completed by late Sunday.

Producers who do not have crop insurance or NAP coverage or those seeking debris removal assistance should contact the Farm Service Agency at 637-3567

FYI: For those of you that are “tech savvy”, North Dakota State University has a smartphone application that will allow you to document damage by text, images and voice. More information about this documentation log can be found at the website, http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/apps

Distributed in furtherance of the acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. NCSU & NCA&T commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation.

North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, US Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.
TOBACCO

Tobacco suffered severe damage. Remaining harvest, if any, will likely need to be performed by hand. Standing plants upright to allow for machine harvest is an option but abundant sunshine, heat and rainfall may cause leaves to wilt and decay rapidly. Tobacco buyer contractual obligations should also be considered. If the contract buyer will not purchase the tobacco, either another buyer will need to be found or there is no need to harvest. Lastly, do not assume that power will be sufficiently available without interruption. It is not uncommon to experience short periods of power outages as repairmen restore service. Make sure to monitor barns closely.

PEANUT DISEASES MANAGEMENT

Heavy rain from Irene, wet vines, and the recent cool nights make ideal conditions for Sclerotinia blight. As of August 31st, all reporting weather stations in North Carolina are advising sprays and indicating high to very high risk of Sclerotinia blight. Conditions will remain highly favorable for Sclerotinia blight for at least the next 5-7 days.

Late leaf spot thrives when leaves are wet and night temperatures drop a bit. Late leaf spot is more difficult to control than early leaf spot. It will be very important to stay on top of late leaf spot control for the next couple of weeks or longer if you expect a delayed harvest. Be particularly watchful on highly susceptible cultivars like Gregory and Perry. Web blotch is not normally a problem but outbreaks often occur after a tropical storm. Web blotch is recognized as large (1/2-inch) dark patches or blotches with faint or irregular margins. The varieties NC-V11 and VA 98R are highly susceptible to web blotch.

Headline will give excellent protection against late leaf spot and web blotch at 9-12 oz/acre. Most other foliar fungicides also perform well against these diseases. (Avoid using tebuconazole since it is very weak against late leaf spot). Use a multi-site fungicide such as Bravo (chlorothalonil) for the last spray of the season. This will help to reduce the risk of developing pathogen populations that are resistant to other fungicides.

Lastly, peanut rust is rare in North Carolina, but sometimes shows up after a storm. Peanut rust is NOT the same rust that infects soybeans, but in some ways it is similar. Like soybean rust, peanut rust does not survive our winters. It is a sporadic problem in the southern-most peanut production areas of the US and is common in Central American and Caribbean countries. As with soybean rust, spores of peanut rust can be transported over long distances by hurricanes and other storms. Considering the path that Hurricane Irene took, it is possible that we will see scattered outbreaks of peanut rust.

For specific recommendation for your field conditions, row spacing, spraying schedule, and weather pattern, visit the North Carolina State University Peanut Leaf Spot and Spray Advisory found at http://www.peanuts.ncsu.edu/.

SOYBEAN RUST UPDATE

Asiatic Soybean Rust was detected on soybean in the continental U.S. for the first time in 2011 earlier this week. One leaf out of 100 was found infected in a sentinel plot in Gadsden County Florida, which is located in the panhandle of Florida. The mid group V variety planted on April 11 was at stage R6 (full sized pods in the top of the plant), and grown under irrigation in 10-inch rows. Rust had been detected on kudzu less than 1 mile away on July 12.

While our weather conditions in North Carolina would be considered favorable for rust growth and development, it is still considered too hot in Florida for rust to thrive, so it is not likely that this new find will increase the threat to North Carolina’s soybean crop appreciably.

The current status of soybean rust in the U.S. can be found at http://sbr.ipmpipe.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi.
COTTON MANAGEMENT

Tangled cotton with bolls lodged in wet soil can rapidly lead to boll rot. It is not likely that the damaged plants will recover enough to develop and mature new bolls. Thus, defoliation as early as harvestable bolls are mature is the best management. The real issues will include 1) whether the plant has recovered enough to accept defoliant materials (plants need to be actively growing); 2) whether we can get into fields without continued rains and/or cloudy weather and 3) whether or not the defoliant application will actually reach all the leaves on a plant. It is also noteworthy to mention that in a normal year, plants can regrow leaves. This situation is very likely given the tangled stems and even more likely if more than 80 lbs/ac of nitrogen was applied. A defoliant material that controls regrowth is strongly advised. In fact, defoliation reported by growers after past storm events reveals that a combination of herbicidal and hormonal material often provides better defoliation. For specific combination of materials under different temperature scenarios, refer to the 2011 Cotton Information (found online at NCSU website, http://ipm.ncsu.edu/cotton/insectcorner/)

NOTE: Finish Pro 6 cotton defoliant is in short supply. Bayer is making and shipping 5000 gallons per day. Due to labeling issues, the compatibility agent added to the formulation in years past is not added in this formulation. Thus, you will need to add a compatibility agent or surfactant when you use this product in 2011. Contact your supplier for more information.

CORN HARVEST

Under severe drought conditions, especially followed by heavy rainfall, damage from fungal infections in corn is common. There is nothing we can do other than harvest as soon as possible and aim to separate heavily infested loads from those with a smaller level of infection. These infections often result in mycotoxins that severely effect livestock when used as feed. At least one buyer has expressed concern. Consequently, at least this company intends to test each load of corn purchased for the presence of aflatoxin. Corn with aflatoxin levels below 20 ppb will be purchased. Corn with levels above 20 ppb but below 200 ppb will be purchased at a discount (starting at $0.75/bu). Levels above 200 ppb will not be purchased. Due to this concern, take care to examine each load of corn to ensure that heavily infested fields do not contaminate otherwise “good” loads of corn. Also, delays at buying stations can be anticipated.

In years past, the NCDA & CS offered a relatively inexpensive testing at centers across this region. At this time, we have not been informed of such service. However, if desired, corn can be tested by contacting our local NCDA & CS Regional Agronomist, Dianne Farrer at (252) 830-1718 or email dianne.farrer@ncagr.gov.

FOREST AREAS AND RIPARIAN BUFFER CLEAN-UP

Forested areas and riparian buffer clean up regulations, permits and exemptions have been modified to allow for clean-up of areas, especially areas within the Streamside Management Zone or Riparian Buffers. According to a DWQ document, “DWQ will interpret these exemptions broadly to allow foresters, municipalities, homeowners and their contractors to quickly complete cleanup of hurricane debris in the impacted areas”. Additionally, the Army Corp of Engineers has elevated to “Emergency Permitting Procedure”. Thus, it is anticipated that removal of debris within these areas will be allowed if established guidelines are followed. In some cases a permit may still be required but we have been told that permits and/or decisions will be made within 24-48 hours of each request. The details, as well as coordinating efforts of DWQ, NC Forest Service and Army Corp of Engineers are too lengthy for this newsletter. (We will aim to post these documents on our website. Also check with the Craven County Soil & Water/NRCS office for updates).

Any impacts to wetlands and streams beyond the scope of the Neuse or Tar-Pamlico Riparian Buffer Rules,
including the use of heavy equipment in wetlands, may require coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps’ Regulatory Field Offices can be reached at:

- Corps’ Raleigh Regulatory Field Office: 919-554-4884
- Corps’ Washington Regulatory Field Office: 910-251-4555
- Corps’ Wilmington Regulatory Field Office: 910-251-633

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS AND FARM PESTICIDE DISPOSAL

There has been no information available regarding disposal of HHW, damaged fertilizer or pesticides other than through normal means. However, if you have large quantities or can safely store these items, the Coastal Environmental Partnership will host a collection day for HHW, electronics, paints, farm pesticide, gasoline, battery and other items at the Craven Community College in New Bern from 9 am – Noon on October 15th. For more information, visit the website, [http://www.coastalenvironmentalpartnership.com/hazardous-waste.html](http://www.coastalenvironmentalpartnership.com/hazardous-waste.html) or contact Bobbi Waters at 633-1564. If you cannot store these items or have difficulty with disposal, please contact our office.

If we can be of any assistance, please contact our office at 633-1477

Mike Carroll
Extension Agent
Agriculture
mike_carroll@ncsu.edu