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TEST: Agricultural News From Craven County Extension

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EXTENSION

NC Cooperative Extension, Craven Center

Agricultural Update



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Important Note: *Registration deadline for events listed below will vary from as few as 24 hours prior the event to as much as 3-4 days prior the event so please register as much in advance as possible. Also, while attendance is open to anyone, meals, when served, will only be provided for those that register in advance.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: Most events provide NCDA & CS pesticide credits as well as CCA credits. Check details of the events at the [NCSU Field Days Calendar](#) or local NC Cooperative Extension webpages

Local Sesame Seed Plot & Corn Variety Plot Tour – On August 29, 2023 beginning at 6:30 pm at [1004 Washington Post Road, New Bern, NC](#), we will review a small plot planted to sesame seed for those that wish to examine this plant's growth and yield potential. We will then travel to 524 Willis Road, Cove City to review a similar but smaller plot planted about 3 weeks later than the first plot. At this second site, we will also review a corn variety trail. One hour of pesticide credit is offered for categories N, O, D & X for those attending both sites. Drinks and refreshments will be provided for those registering in advance by calling our office at 252-633-1477 or emailing me directly at: mike_carroll@ncsu.edu. Full details are found at our home webpage in the [Event Section](#)

2023 NC Cotton Field Day – This event is scheduled for Thursday, September 14th, 2023, at the Upper Coastal Plains Research Station in Rocky Mount ([2811 Nobles Mill Pond Rd, Rocky Mount NC 27801](#)). This event is sponsored by the NC Cotton Producers Association, NC State University, N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and several industry partners. Registration begins at 11 a.m. followed by lunch, which will include several guest speakers, with field tours beginning at 1:15 p.m. Multiple tours will be offered from the NC State Extension Cotton Team, showcasing the latest research to address needs of NC cotton farmers. The tours will conclude at 4:30 p.m. with ice cream social.

Private Pesticide Applicator Safety Training – This class will provide 2 hours of Safety Training, Category V, from 1-3 pm at the Carteret Extension office (3rd floor of the Center for Marine Sciences & Technology, [303 College Circle, Morehead City, NC](#)). Register via [Eventbrite](#) (Note: We will most likely offer an additional class offering 2 hours of additional category credits following this meeting for those that need all four hours to recertify in 2023. Check the [NCDA & CS web page](#) for additional information)

2023 NC OVT Small Grains Data Webinar - On August 22nd at 9am, Dr. Ryan Heiniger will host this webinar to discuss wheat data from our 2022-23 OVT testing to highlight varieties that performed well in both single-year, multiple-year, and regional data. He will also highlight any specific variety fits based on criteria from the audience. If interested, register for the webinar at the link below:
<https://ncsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rcO2trjovH9GpE36U0S5OtdqxkEKfnkEU>

Prescribed Fire Webinar – On August 30, 2023 from 1-2:30 pm, this webinar will provide forest owners with an overview of prescribed fire as it relates to management of their land. Topics covered will include description of a prescribed fire, why is it used as a land management tool, who conducts prescribed burns and how to proceed. To register for this webinar, click [here](#). Additional details on this webinar and other workshops can be found in the Events section of www.recforestry.org

NCDA & CS Pesticide Exams - Exam dates and locations near us for 2023 are below. If you miss these dates, the nearest exam location will be Raleigh, NC. The exam is offered at least once a month in Raleigh. To register for the exam, call 919-733-3556

- 9/13/2023 in Jacksonville, NC beginning at 1:00 PM at the N.C. Cooperative Extension Center, [234 Corridor Blvd](#)
- 12/6/2023 in Greenville, NC beginning at 1:00 PM at the N.C. Cooperative Extension Center, [403 Government Circle](#)

For those wishing to take the NC Pesticide School prior to the exam, information for dates, location and fees for these classes is found at the [NCDA & CS Pesticide Division's website](#).

For individuals wishing immediate testing, [online exams](#) are an option.

If you desire other meetings or similar meetings in other counties, all meetings, field days, commodity events, etc. within the state are listed [HERE](#)

- If you would rather obtain NCDA & CS pesticide credits online, click [HERE](#)

Corn News

- As a reminder, Dr. Ron Heiniger has begun a new, weekly podcast: "NC Corn Kernels". You can tune in every week by going to the website nccorngrowers.com and clicking on the "Tools" button on the top bar.
- Once again corn yield varies according to rainfall, planting date, and variety chosen yet generally should be better than average. In fact, Dr Heiniger relayed to us Agents that the projected NC state average will be above 140 bu/ac, higher than any other season.
- Expect prices to continue to fall as we approach harvest. They always do! However, note that many are predicting an extremely volatile market. Simply put, the drought/heat has impacted much of the US corn production, China has reduced recent purchases, the USDA has not projected the anticipated lower US yield and the livestock industry continues to produce less meat than in years past. In sharp contrast, some economist note that it would take almost perfect world production 1-2 years for us to reach desired reserves/carryover stocks of corn. So, pricing may be wild over the next few months.
 - Harvest early! All long-term climate prediction favor more tropical systems and a wetter than normal fall.
- Based on request for assistance the three major problems that resulted in poor corn growth in this area (other than weather related issues) were:
 - o Nematodes that damaged early season growth
 - o Improper soil pH (too low)
 - o Restricted root growth due to soil hard pans/compaction

Soybean News

- Soybean size and growth stage varies wildly across the county. Most fields are blooming or have small pod development. Thus, it is impossible to estimate what county yield may be. However, unless climatic conditions improve quickly, yield is not likely to be as good as last season.
- Diligently monitor for insects. The major corn earworm flight has been underway. Stinkbugs can cause severe yield loss if the population is high. Too, over the past years, either soybean loopers or velvetbean caterpillars have arrived in late September or early October reaching threshold levels for 20-30% of our field. Scout regularly and monitor the [black light catches](#).
- If you noticed large areas of fields dying from drought and heat, you are not alone. Such severe drought (most of Craven County is about 6 inches below normal rainfall) and excessive heat is causing soybean death across the state. Regrettably, there is nothing we can do.

Cotton News

- Generally, cotton yield potential is still very good to excellent. One challenge we face is that the early season cooler weather resulted in very low GDD accumulation. As such, many fields did not begin bloom until mid to late July. Thus, crop maturation and harvest will likely be much later than normal.
- Usually, later cotton crops result in more and often longer insect pressure. It is very likely we may need to extend scouting longer than normal and may even need to consider carefully whether we intend to protect bolls set on the plant after August 25th, the typical date that we assume we can fully mature a cotton boll.
- While we need rainfall, sudden onset of rainfall may cause small developing bolls to abort. Should this occur, one will need to examine the plant closely. As a perennial plant, cotton will abort small fruit in order to grow new vegetation and fruiting bodies. However, we do not have a climate that will afford us the ability to consistently mature bolls grown on the plant much after August 25th. As such, should upper bolls abort on or near this date, we may have only the remaining lower bolls as actual harvestable bolls. This is perhaps the “worst case scenario” but worth mentioning. Monitor the crop and aim to discount upper bolls that develop late in the season. If you have questions regarding what might be or not be harvestable bolls, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Craven County Youth & Agriculture

In our last newsletter we mentioned that many of our youth participated in the Southeast District 4-H Achievement Day. Those awarded top honor recently participated in the state competitions and we just learned that some of them were awarded top honors at this state contest. We will get the winners names and provide more details soon!

In addition, Brooke Zeleny, our Livestock Agent, is cooperating to provide youth the opportunity to show livestock at the Jones, Craven, Pamlico Livestock show. Youth will compete by showing heifers, goats, swine and sheep this Friday and Saturday. If you attend, I'll see you there!

Beans Gone Wild!

We are very excited to introduce a new interactive tool, Beans Gone Wild, that will catalog soybean problems arising in the field across North Carolina in a dynamic map. In this tool, background about each problem, conclusions about the problem, educational resources, and high-quality photos are provided. These posts are reviewed and recommendations are provided by the relevant NC State Extension Specialist prior to posting. These problems will also be saved into a library to access in future years for educational purposes. Users can search in the library by the type of problem or by County. This tool will serve as a resource for Extension Agents, farmers, and other agricultural industry professionals to have an understanding of problems arising across the state and associated resources.

Read more about this tool and how to access it in the article, [Introducing Beans Gone Wild!](#)

Water Quality Impacts Pesticide Application: A NCSU Survey of Water Quality

Improper water pH, high carbonates, or hard water can rapidly degrade pesticides, especially most fungicides and some herbicides. As such, NCSU is conducting a survey across the state to evaluate the quality of source water used in pesticide application. Samples collected will be sent to the NCDA & CS Agronomic Solutions lab and fees paid by NCSU.

If interested, please contact our office at 252-633-1477 or email me at mike_carroll@ncsu.edu. Samples can be collected in any triple rinsed plastic bottle 20-30 oz. Ideally, the source water should run for at least 10 minutes prior to collecting the sample. Once collected, the water sample needs to be refrigerated until mailed.

We will be glad to take these sample for you as you fill up tanks or you can take the sample and we will come by to pick it up. If multiple sources are used, then make sure to label each sample with a unique label that you will remember.

Podcast

Two podcast that are released regularly by Extension regarding crop production within this area are listed below:

CropSense: Jacob Morgan, Director of Jones County Extension, produces weekly podcast with NCSU faculty and industry. If you would like to listen to these podcast, visit, <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1780395/12734496> or email him directly to be placed on an email list

Corn Kernels - Dr. Ron Heiniger will post information regularly. See details in this newsletter under the section, "Corn News".

Disclaimer:

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the NC Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any product.

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