



NEWSLETTER

Wicomico County Agriculture

WICOMICO COUNTY OFFICE * P.O. BOX 1836 * SALISBURY, MD 21802 * (410) 749-6141 * FAX (410) 548-5126

SEPTEMBER 2007

Somerset County Extension Welcomes New Agricultural Educator

Please join the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension in Somerset County in welcoming our new extension educator in agriculture. Mr. J. Richard Nottingham joined the extension team on August 20, 2007. Mr. Nottingham's education includes a Bachelors degree in biology and a Master's Degree in education from Salisbury University. His past employment experiences consist of nutrient management extension positions in all three lower shore counties, as well as a regional extension specialist.

Please feel free to call Richard at 410-651-1350 if you have any agricultural related questions.

SMALL GRAIN BREAKFAST

There will be a Small Grain Breakfast held September 12, 2007, 7:30a.m. at Dayton's Restaurant.

Joe Bruton - Market Update, Bob Kratochvil - Residual Nitrogen & Small Grains,

Ron Ritter - Fall Weed Control, Jose Costa - Variety Selection,

Ron Mulford & Eddie Johnson - Poultry Litter & Small Grain

Call 410-749-6141 to register.

Pumpkin and Sweet Corn Twilight Meeting

Wednesday, September 26, 2007 - 4:30 PM - Dark

Wye Research and Education Center - Queenstown, Maryland

- University specialists will be speaking about insects and diseases of pumpkin and sweet corn, along with current research on these crops.
- See 15 varieties of pumpkins
- See and taste four late season BT Sweet corn varieties

A light fare will be served. Questions or directions, call Mike Newell 410-827-7388 or Debby Dant 410-827-8056. Pre-registration not required.

Educating People To Help Themselves

Local Governments * U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

The University of Maryland is equal opportunity. The University's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, gender, and disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the Director of Human Resources Management, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742



NEWS RELEASE

USDA Risk Management Agency • Raleigh Regional Office • 4407 Bland Road, Suite 160

Contact:
Wayne Harrifeld (919) 875-4880

FARMERS MUST ACT TO PROTECT CROP INSURANCE PAYMENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) is aware of news reports which suggest crop insurance adjusters have been given the authority to forgo inspecting damaged crops, and will not be conducting on farm inspections of crop losses. These reports are incorrect and resulted from a misinterpretation of a recent clarification of current loss adjustment procedures issued by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. In order for producers to protect the integrity of their claims and to remain eligible for a potential loss payment, RMA is reminding producers of the following:

1. Producers with crop damage due to drought or other causes should contact their crop insurance agent within 72 hours of the discovery of the crop damage.
2. A company loss adjuster will contact the producer to explain any further requirements in regard to field inspections, establishing representative sample areas in the field, and further caring for the crop.
3. In all cases, producers should not destroy their crop, or representative sample areas, without specific instructions from their crop insurance company loss adjuster.

August 15, 2007

UP COMING DATES

CROP INSURANCE DEADLINES

September 30th - Wheat, Barley & Forage production with (MPCI)

November 20th - Apples and peaches

November 30th - Forage production with (GRP)

EASTERN SHORE TREE FARM FILED DAY

September 12th - 8:30 a.m.

Location: Crisfield Road - Marion Station

Contact: Cindy Mason, 410-632-0305 - \$20.00 registration

PUMPKIN & SWEET CORN TWILIGHT TOUR

September 26th - 4:30p.m.

Location: WREC

Contact: Mike Newell, 410-827-7388

AGRICULTURAL THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

November 17, 2007 - 7:00a.m.

Location: Delmar Fire Hall

Tickets will be available at Farmers & Planters and the Wicomico County Extension Office

GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY ANNOUNCES FEDERAL DROUGHT ASSISTANCE TO HELP MARYLAND FARMERS

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Declares Drought Disaster Designation for Entire State

Annapolis, MD (August 22, 2007) - Governor Martin O'Malley confirmed with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today that a drought disaster declaration for the entire state of Maryland would be formally announced later today or early tomorrow morning by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. O'Malley called Secretary Johanns earlier today for an update on Maryland's request for a drought disaster designation.

This designation, in response to Governor O'Malley's July 26, 2007 request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a Secretarial Disaster Designation for all Maryland counties, will help provide assistance and financial relief to Maryland farmers impacted by the severe dry weather and excessive heat from June 1, and continuing through the summer months.

"This is welcome news for Maryland farmers who have been hard-hit by drought conditions this summer," said Governor O'Malley. "Secretary Johanns informed me earlier today that Maryland's request for a drought disaster declaration will be formally announced later today or tomorrow morning. Working with the State Farm Service Agency and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, we estimate that farmers in Maryland have lost between 30 and 60 percent of their crop and we hope this disaster designation will provide some relief to our local farmers, who are a vital part of Maryland's economy. We will continue to work with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and our federal delegation to help our farmers get through this drought. I also want to thank our federal delegation for all of their continued efforts to help and support Maryland farmers."

"I want to thank Governor O'Malley for moving quickly to help Maryland farmers impacted by the drought," said Roger Richardson, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. "We hope this will have some financial benefit to our producers to help them continue their operations into the future."

This designation makes Maryland farm operators eligible to apply for low-interest emergency loans from the USDA Farm Service Agency. Affected farmers should contact their local Farm Service Agency for more information. Contact information, including the applicable Farm Loan Manager, is available online at www.fsa.usda.gov <<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>> , click on "State Offices" and then "County Offices."

Since the spring of 2007, all of Maryland's counties have received rainfall amounts that are well below average. Most of this shortfall has occurred during the past three months, the most critical time for the development of most summer field crops. While the Mid and Lower Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland appear to be the driest regions, data analysis from the National Drought Mitigation Center shows 97 percent of the State in at least abnormally dry conditions. Currently, 55 percent is in a severe drought while only 4 percent appears normal.

To support Maryland farmers during this time of need, the Maryland Department of Agriculture continues to offer free testing of grain for the presence of aflatoxins and other toxins, which can be present under drought conditions and are poisonous to livestock.

VEGETATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL BUFFERS

Whether called vegetative buffers or poultry windbreaks, the planting of trees and shrubs around poultry houses is gaining acceptance as a best management practice for broiler farms. Have you considered planting a vegetative buffer on your farm?

WHAT IS A VEGETATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL Buffer?

A Vegetative Environmental Buffer, or VEB, is a *multiple-row* planting of *suitable trees and shrubs* around poultry houses and any related structures (e.g., manure/composting structures) that is *installed and maintained* to *accomplish four objectives*:

- (1) To foster good neighbor relations;
- (2) To maximize environmental stewardship;
- (3) To support biosecurity on the farm;
- (4) To enhance the aesthetic value of the property.

PLANNING FOR A VEB

To be effective, a vegetative buffer must be more than an afterthought. The best results come from careful planning.

Since every farm will present unique needs and limitations, a “one-plan-fits-all” approach is not possible. You are strongly encouraged to seek guidance in designing your buffer plan and selecting the best plants for you buffer.

INSTALLATION & CARE

You may install a VEB yourself, but it is important that you have the proper knowledge and time to complete the job in a satisfactory manner. For most growers, professional installation is the best option.

Irrigation and weed control will be the two most important care requirements for your buffer. Using driplines and emitters for irrigation and black plastic or landscape fabric for weed control is strongly recommended.

CAN I AFFORD A VEB?

A vegetative buffer is a long-term investment that might seem costly at first glance. However, the benefits more than justify the expense, if your buffer is properly installed and managed. Funding opportunities such as EQIP or state and conservation district programs may be available to help off-set costs.

If you are still unsure about installing a buffer, consider this; can you afford not to? Neighbor complaints, future environmental regulation, and less than optimal biosecurity may be very costly consequences of not installing a VEB.

RESOURCES

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. is committed to helping poultry growers across Delmarva install vegetative buffers. Available resources include:

- Education on VEB practices
- Design consultation
- Advice on plant selection and care
- Facilitating VEB installation
- Identification of funding options

Additional help can be found in the *VEB TOOL-KIT*. This one-stop resource provides greater detail on installing and maintaining a buffer, along with a listing of suitable plants and helpful resources.

Please contact DPI for more information. Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.

16686 County Seat Highway

Georgetown, DE 19947

(302) 856-9037

www.dpichicken.org

Soybean Rust and Us - August 29, 2007

The onset of soybean rust in commercial soybeans in the gulf states was delayed somewhat by two factors. The first was the Easter period frost that knocked back kudzu growth. Kudzu is the primary alternative host for soybean rust in the US and is the live host on which the soybean rust pathogen survives winters. Frost knocked back the population of the fungus so that reinfection of kudzu and introduction into soybean fields was delayed. The second factor has been the drought which has been very significant throughout the soybean production areas of the US. The soybean rust pathogen needs moisture to survive transport, cause infection on new hosts and reproduce. The drought also changed the planting of soybeans so that many full-season soybean acres in the south were planted late and there was also a significant increase in double-crop soybeans after wheat. The result of this change in planting pattern was that many of the commercial acres in the south came into peak susceptibility later in the season.

Once soybeans reached the peak susceptible period, reproductive growth stages, the overriding factor has been rainfall. The center of activity this season has been Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. This region experienced several periods of extended and heavy rainfall when even the Florida and Georgia region only got a few scattered showers. With the center of soybean rust activity being further west, the primary concern has been of a direct and relatively early hit in states with large soybean acreage just due north. The only reason this has not happened has been the lack of rain. There is still no sign of rust in Kansas, Missouri or even Central Arkansas. Even Northern Oklahoma has only a few sites with very low levels of infection.

We are now in a situation where all soybeans that are still green in the US are susceptible. Soybean rust has increased to sufficiently high levels especially in the Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana region so that there is a greater chance of longer distance transport with survival in greater numbers. And to complete the disease triangle, we are also heading into a period when cooler and wetter conditions are to be expected. We are basically looking at the exponential phase of the epidemic to get started.

What does this mean for us in Maryland?

Up until last week we had zero risk of soybean rust due to the drought. Even if spores landed here conditions were not suitable for infection. But there also wasn't a large enough source of spores close to us to really produce a threat to our area. The source is now large enough, but without a hurricane or some other major storm system it is unlikely that we would see any significant volume of spores moving our way in the immediate future. Soybean rust still has to develop a little further north to be a more direct threat. A second avenue for infection could come from the Southeastern states. Soybean rust is increasing in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and once that gets into enough commercial acreage the coastal route that brought soybean rust to our doorstep last year will be a potential avenue this season as well. I estimate that most full-season soybeans will hit R7 in a month if not less. Some early maturing early planted soybeans are already at R7 or the equivalent due to drought stress.

In any case the window for infection and for any fungicide response is only about a month. Without a hurricane, if soybeans in the central Midwest become infected in the next two weeks then we could still see soybean rust in full-season beans within this window. With a hurricane the chances go up, but for now there is nothing developing in the Atlantic. Double-crop soybeans have a longer window and thus have a greater chance of getting soybean rust. The big problem will be deciding whether or not there is enough of a yield potential to warrant fungicides if that threat develops. Kansas State University has done an quick economic analysis as their crop is poor and they are at much greater risk of getting soybean rust this season. They estimate that there should be a 15-20 bu/A yield potential to warrant protection with fungicides.

Soybean Rust and Us cont.

Tools

You should all be aware of the national website, www.sbrusa.net, where soybean rust finds are reported and forecasts are published. What you may not be aware of is some additional tools that are available at this website. When you first open this website the main map that is shown has the counties displayed that have positive identifications of soybean rust. There is also a state update map that you access by clicking on the small map on the right side that has blue colored states. Clicking on Maryland on this state update map gives you access to my commentary and recommendations. I have updated and uploaded the most recent list of fungicides that are registered for soybean rust management in Maryland. There are also files with directions for sampling and sending soybean rust suspected samples and fungicide decision making recommendations.

The tools you may not be aware of are the links on the lower right side of the website under the Management Toolbox heading. The GFP and Insurance Docs links explain and help you or a grower document actions for crop insurance purposes. The GFP (Good Farming Practices tool) will automatically load my latest recommendations (within 15 days) into the form to help document what the recommendations were at that time as proof that a growers management decisions were sound.

Keep looking. Soybean rust may still make an appearance in our area this season, and the decision to use fungicides has to be made based on risk of appearance rather than reacting to an infection in the field. If one waits until their field is infected it is very difficult to get a return on their fungicide costs.

Arvydas (Arv) Grybauskas

Associate Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist

University of Maryland

FORESTRY WORKSHOP

The Lower Shore Land Trust and Worcester County have received funds from Maryland Coastal Bays Program and the Worcester Forestry Board to present a Free Forestry Workshop in September.

Modeled after the University of MD Extension Service Coverts program, this workshop can help educate landowners about their forests, how to better manage their forests, enjoy greater economical benefits, and manage their forests for enhanced habitat and personal enjoyment. Healthy and sustainable forests are vital to the Eastern Shore. Register for the workshop today!

Space is limited and Worcester landowners will receive priority, but we will make every attempt to include all interested persons!

Please call if you have any questions, and feel free to pass the information along to others.

Thanks you!

Kate Patton

Lower Shore Land Trust

9931 Old Ocean City Blvd.

Berlin, MD 21811

Phone: 410-641-4467

Cell: 410-713-2443

Fax: 410-629-1059

lslt@intercom.net

<http://www.lowershorelandtrust.org>

Pesticide Recertification and Nutrient Management Voucher Training

It will be a joint meeting this year with Pesticide recertification first, immediately followed by Nutrient Management Voucher Training. All meetings start at 6pm. It makes sense to you as a grower to do both same time and reduce the number of meetings you have to attend to maintain certifications.

**PESTICIDE & NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT VOUCHER
TRAINING DATES**

October 10th - Worcester County Library - 6-10p.m.
Register, 410-632-1972

November 7th - Wicomico County Extension Office - 6-10p.m.
Register, 410-749-6141

November 20th - Somerset County Extension Office - 6-10p.m.
Register, 410-651-1350

NEW PESTICIDE TRAINING

December 5th, - Wicomico County Extension Office - 6-8p.m.
Training
December 12th, 6p.m.
Test
Register, 410-749-6141



Eddie Johnson, Extension Educator, Agric. Sc.

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