MARYLAND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK•EASTERN SHORE

NEWSLETTER

Wicomico County Agriculture

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

MAY 2008

It has been a great pleasure serving and meeting the needs of the Lower shore farming community. I have met a great number of farmers in the past 10 years and have made a number of life long friends.

I chose not to seek tenure in the University of Maryland system, but I feel my tenure here has provided many lasting impacts. I provided the University 60 days notice but searching for my replacement can not begin until my last day (May 9, 2008).

At this writing, I am unsure of my next place of employment, but there will be one somewhere for me. Sonja and I wish to relax, travel and enjoy our 4 grandchildren this summer. I wish each one of you a bountiful harvest with great prices.

Custom Work Charges

One question I get over and over all year long is "How much do I charge my neighbor for plowing, or disking a piece of land". (Custom work charges) The complete 2008 guide, of custom rates is available at the National Agricultural Statistics Service Web site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa then click on Pennsylvania publications OR Call 717.787.3904

Pest Net

TO SUBSCRIBE TO PEST NET: Send an email to listserv@listserv.umd.edu The body of the email should contain the line: subscribe pestnet-information 'your name' Replace 'your name' with the appropriate information and send the message from the email address to which you want the information sent.
To unsubscribe to Pest Net: send an email to listserv@listserv.umd.edu the body of the email should contain only: 'unsubscribe pestnet-information' *If you have any difficult subscribing or unsubscribing to the list,* please send email to alwilson@umd.edu .

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 if Human Resources Management, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 10th **Eastern Shore Spring Show**
Location: Queen Anne's County 4-H park - Centerville, MD 9:00 a.m.

May 14th **Small Landowner Forestry and Conservation Field Tour 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
Location: Bus will depart from Wicomico County Extension Office
Please wear comfortable clothing/shoes for walking outdoors.
Cost $5.00 - Includes Lunch, packet materials and transportation.
For more information you may contact Berran Rogers at (410)651-6693
Or the Somerset County extension office at (410)651-1350

May 21st **Small Grains and Strawberry Twilight Meeting (Rain or Shine)**
Location: Wye Research education Center 6:00 p.m.
Call Debbie Dant for more information - 410-827-8056 x 115
Light refreshments served after the meeting.

May 22nd **Organic No-Till Field Day**
Location: Bill Masons Farm - Queen Anne, MD 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
RSVP 410-758-0166 Dinner will be included @ 5:00 p.m.

June 20th and 21st **Delmarva Chicken Festival**
Location: The Centre at Salisbury, Salisbury, MD
For more information call
DPI at 800-878-2449 or 302-856-9037, email: dpichicken.org
Or
The Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce - 410-749-0144

Our chair this year is Jeff Middletown and I am Co-chair of the Children's Games.

I need help on both days manning a booth and running the children's games. The games will feature a corn box, bean bag toss, needle in a haystack and "more".

It had to happen!

Johnsongrass resists roundup! In Southeast Arkansas and in Clarksdale, Mississippi, Johnsongrass has been found resistant to the roundup herbicide, it has become the 13th weed in the world to be classified as resistant when it was found in Argentina.

Implement Best management Practices to avoid a future big problem!

1. Reduce the spread of resistant populations by reducing seed dispersal by farm machinery, (seeds and root tubers)
2. Start field clean with another herbicide or include tillage as a control measure
   a. Fall tillage and leave roots on top to freeze may help
   b. Work field early in spring and rework when grass becomes 3 inches tall
3. Apply the correct herbicide at the proper rate and timing

Agtrader

The University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center (EFC) located at the National Center for Smart Growth, announces the launch of a new agriculture products exchange website located at http://www.agtrader.org/ . The first of its kind in Maryland, agtrader.org is a free exchange for farmers and others to buy, sell, and trade manure, compost, hay, fodder crops, fruits and vegetables, organics, equipment, livestock, and much more.

All trades are made strictly between buyer and seller. The new website is intended to compliment state-run manure transport programs and provide a free, user-friendly marketplace where farmers and other interested parties can buy and sell agricultural products and services. Added features of the site include a directory for business and a resource section showing a calendar of events and important news for the Chesapeake Bay agriculture community.

Since the website will act as a marketplace, all transactions are the responsibility of the buyer and seller. The website is dynamic and allows traders to quickly register and then post anytime without filling out any forms. Pricing and delivery are left up to buyer and seller to work out on their own. This is a secured website that will be monitored and maintained by the EFC staff. All information is kept private. For haulers, brokers, farms, associations, and other businesses wishing to be listed in the directory, a minimal charge of $15 per year will be requested. Advertisements are available for $20 per month. These charges will be applied towards the yearly server fees and a student intern. **Post your trade today.** For any questions regarding www.agtrader.org, please contact Joanne Throwe at 301/405-5036.

Farm Service Agency

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

ACREAGE REPORTING REMINDER

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Filing an accurate and timely report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs.
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments.
Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by
May 15th –Spring Seeded Vegetables
June 15- Small Grains
July 15 – Corn, Soybeans, Other Crops
FSA staff suggest that producers report full season soybeans and corn after planting and then return to the office to report double crop acres in order to avoid long waits in July. If you have
more than 5 farms, FSA suggests calling ahead for an appointment.

It's Time to Call About the PSNT

Maryland Cooperative Extension Agricultural Nutrient Management Program

The pre-sidedress nitrogen soil test (PSNT) is a management tool that can help you decide if you need to sidedress nitrogen on your corn crop.

The right time to run the PSNT is limited (when corn is 6-12 inches tall) so contact your Nutrient Management Advisor today to request Information on the collection of soil samples for The PSNT and the analysis of those samples.

Where Should You Use the PSNT?

- Only on corn fields with a history of manure or other organic nutrient sources where fields have received no more than 50 pounds per acre of commercial nitrogen fertilizer this season.

What are the Benefits of the PSNT?

- Can save you money by avoiding the application of unnecessary nitrogen
- Allows you to fine-tune nitrogen sidedress applications

For More Information Please Contact:

Nutrient Management Advisors:
Wicomico County Extension Office
28647 Old Quantico Rd.
Salisbury, MD

Steve Dorsey

410-749-6141 x 110

Robin Culver

410-749-6141 x 111

Alas a word of caution adapted from the New York Times: By DIANA B. HENRIQUES

Published: April 22, 2008

But today's crop prices are not just much higher; they also are much more volatile. For example, a widely used measure of volatility showed that traders in March expected wheat prices to swing up or down by more than 72 percent in the coming year, three times the average volatility for that month and the highest level since at least 1980. The price swing expected in March for soy beans was three times its monthly average, and the expected volatility in corn prices was twice its monthly average. Those wild swings in expected prices are damaging the mechanisms - like futures contracts and options - that in the past have cushioned the jolts of farming, turning already-busy farmers into reluctant day traders and part-time lobbyists.

One measure of the farming industry's frustration is the overflow crowd expected at a public forum on Tuesday at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in Washington. Interest is so high that the commission, for the first time ever, will provide a Webcast of the forum, which it says is being held to gather information about whether crucial markets for hedging the price of crops "are properly performing their risk management and price discovery roles." The Webcast link is available on the commission's Web site, <http://www.cftc.gov> www.cftc.gov.

The additional costs that stem from volatility in grain prices - higher crop insurance premiums, for example - are not just a problem for farmers. "Eventually, those costs are going to come out of the pockets of the American consumer," said William P. Jackson, general manager of AGRIServices, a grain-elevator complex on the Missouri River.

Prices of broad commodity indexes have climbed as much as 40 percent in the last year and grain prices have gained even more - about 65 percent for corn, 91 percent for soybeans and more than 100 percent for some types of wheat. This price boom has attracted a torrent of new investment from Wall Street, estimated to be as much as $300 billion.

Whether new investors are causing the market's problems or keeping them from getting worse is in dispute. But there is no question that the grain markets are now experiencing levels of volatility that are running well above the average levels over the last quarter-century.

Mr. XXXX's crop insurance premiums rise with the volatility. So does the cost of trading in options, which is the financial tool he has used to hedge against falling prices. Some grain elevators are coping with the volatility and hedging problems by refusing to buy crops in advance, foreclosing the most common way farmers lock in prices. "The system is really beginning to break down," Mr. XXXX said. "When you see elevators start pulling their bids for your crop, that tells me we've got a real problem."

Until recently, that system had worked well for generations. Since 1959, grain producers have been able to hedge the price of their wheat, corn and soybean crops on the Chicago Board of Trade through the use of futures contracts, which are agreements to buy or sell a specific amount of a commodity for a fixed price on some future date.

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More recently, the exchange has offered another tool: options on those futures contracts, which allow option holders to carry out the futures trade, but do not require that they do so. Trading in options is not as effective a hedge, farmers say, but it does not require them to put up as much cash as is required to trade futures.

These tools have long provided a way to lock in the price of a crop as it is planted, eliminating the risk that prices will drop before it is harvested. With these hedging tools, grain elevators could afford to buy crops from farmers in advance, sometimes a year or more before the harvest.

But that was yesterday. It simply is not working that way today. Futures, for example, are less reliable. They work as a hedge only if they fall due at a price that roughly matches prices in the cash market, where the grain is actually sold. Increasingly - for disputed reasons - grain futures are expiring at prices well above the cash-market price. When that happens, farmers or elevator owners wind up owing more on their futures hedge than the crops are worth in the cash market. Such anomalies create uncertainty about which price accurately reflects supply and demand - a critical issue, since the C.B.O.T. futures price is the benchmark for grain prices around the world.

"I can't honestly sit here and tell you who is determining the price of grain," said Christopher Hausman, a farmer in Pesotum, Ill. "I've lost confidence in the Chicago Board of Trade."

Eddie's Summary: Someone is going to get caught with high input prices, and low market prices. Keep your options open when you forward contract. Learn to use some of the options like puts and calls. It is an election year so anything can happen. Be Ready , Be Prepared, and Be Careful. Input cost and marginal land. It cost too much now to risk tending land that is marginal or risky. Be Careful!

MDA Nutrient Management Regulations Annual Implementation Report Filing Status as of April 28, 2008

Wicomico 68% compliant Worcester 62% compliant Somerset 65% compliant

The state average is 70% compliant as of March 31, 2008 and MDA is sending out warning letters. In order to avoid penalties and qualify for cost share funds you must submit an AIR (Annual Implementation Report). Avoid the fine; get your report in ASAP.

MDE Water Appropriation Regulations: Do NOT let your permit expire! What agriculture has recently witnessed regarding public hearings and well permits may become the norm rather than the exception. Keep all permits current, MDA Pesticide and Nutrient Management and MDE water permits.

MDE Nutrient Management Plans

The jury is still out on the CAFO plans but sooner or later manure piled outside within sight of a neighbor will NOT be allowed. Today's Society smells with their eyes. Use of shelter belts will become more and more important as time goes on. There is cost share for shelter belts but you must be compliant with MDA nutrient management regulations to be eligible.

MARYLAND FIELD CROP PATHOLOGY NEWS 21 APRIL 2008

Now is the time to think about Foliar Fungicides on small grains. For those of you too impatient to get through the background stuff, you may want to skip to the recommendation section for a quick summary. But I advise reading the rest later to better understand my conclusions.

Crop Development

Wheat in the central shore area of Maryland is generally at the flag leaf development stage (Feekes GS 8-9). Some early varieties and early-planted wheat may be starting the boot stage (Feekes GS 10), where the head is increasing in size in the uppermost leaf sheath but has not yet emerged. Southern Maryland and lower eastern shore stands may also be at boot, and more northern areas are typically just starting the flag leaf development stage. Barley develops earlier so central shore fields are mostly at boot and possibly head emergence with the same variation depending on planting date, variety and geography.

Diseases Observed

The only diseases that have been active this spring have been powdery mildew and the soil-borne viruses. Where they have appeared, the soil-borne viruses have continued to develop and are producing symptoms as far up the plant as the flag leaf because we have had only a few periods where temperatures have exceeded 65 F. These cool weather viruses are only a problem in susceptible varieties when cool temperatures persist throughout the vegetative stages of growth of the plant. Unfortunately some fields are hurting and there is nothing that can be done about it as this stage of the game. Fungicides have no effect on the pathogens and using them for plant response effects might make for an interesting experiment but would be economically a very risky one as yield potentials are lower and response not known. For those who are interested I have attached an older Plant Pathology Information sheet that has a little more detail on these diseases.

Powdery mildew may be present and increasing in susceptible varieties where the stands are dense, and are well fertilized. However, the only case that I am aware of with enough mildew to warrant fungicides is in my own fungicide trials planted to an old, highly susceptible variety. Even other older known susceptible varieties don't necessarily have much mildew in them. Scout fields now to determine if powdery mildew is even an issue in your fields. Based on resistance ratings, and lack of reports of a significant race shift leading to a breakdown in effectiveness of resistance, I suspect there are few if any fields that need a fungicide application for powdery mildew in wheat. I have had more inquiries for powdery mildew on barley than on wheat this season. However, in all cases that I have seen or have had discussions on, the mildew is very low in the canopy and in the case of Thoroughbred barley should slow down because of the type of resistance and increasing temperatures. Bottom line is if its not on the leaf just below the flag leaf by now, the only way it will be severe enough for losses to occur is if we stay cloudy, overcast and below 75 F for the next 2-3 weeks.

Diseases that could still be a threat

Diseases that could still be a threat and could respond to fungicide applications are the rusts and scab. We have found leaf rust in some research plots very early this spring. That infestation has died out. The infection probably occurred in fall and could only be found on leaves that were at ground level. Once greenup occurred and the plants started to grow actively, these leaves died taking the pathogen (an obligate parasite) with it. It was too cool for leaf rust, a warm weather rust, to generate new spores and infect the new rapidly developing leaves. Leaf rust and stripe rust then can only be a problem this production season if they blow in from the south and west. To date there are no places in the US reporting any significant levels of leaf rust or stripe rust. They do exist but for enough spores to be blown in over long distances the odds are we will only see them very late in the season if at all. In which case they appear to be not yield threatening.

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The only disease risk that is still not clear is for scab. We have plenty of wheat and barley planted no-till or minimum till into corn stubble. This is high risk from the standpoint that the fungus should be in the corn stubble right in the small grain field and would not require spread from an outside source. The only question is environment. Disease risk is dependent on weather (mainly rainfall and temperature) the week before flowering and then from flowering on. If it is wet and relatively warm the week before flowering then the fungal spores are produced in quantity and are ready for release. Then once flowering occurs the more frequently it rains and stays warm the more times infections occur and disease can develop. As I have explained at winter meetings, there is a website that maps the pre-flowering weather conditions and is designed as a forecast tool for scab. All you need is an estimated flowering date. I will be using that tool and providing commentary on that site for Maryland, as well as in these e-mailed updates. I can use your professional opinions on flowering dates to make sure I don't miss something.

Summary Recommendations

There are no current disease problems in wheat or barley that clearly call for a fungicide application. It is highly advisable to check fields now for powdery mildew as some individual cases may be the exception to this generalization. Obviously this is a busy time of year and with commodity prices being higher many feel that they will have the money for an insurance application, in other words if I spray now then I wont have to worry about it or puzzle over it later. This would be an excellent strategy if scab was not a potential issue and there was some threat of mildew or rusts. Scab can only be reduced with an application of the fungicide Proline at flowering. If you spray now or even as late at heading, you will get no protection against scab. If you spray now and no mildew or rusts develop (and they don't appear to be a threat) then you are simply betting on getting some disease protection from late developing mildew or rust and are hoping for a plant growth response. You might get the growth response from products like Headline or Quadris, but it is not guaranteed. I would only consider a spray decision now in the absence of any significant disease pressure if you also sell straw. In that case you should benefit from the fact that you will end up with brighter, cleaner straw. Otherwise you can still wait to make the decision if things change by heading.

One last note about fungicides for scab. Headline, Quadris and to a lesser extent Quilt and Stratego all have as an active ingredient a strobilurin fungicide. In some trials the concentrations of the toxin DON (a.k.a. vomitoxin) that is produced in scab-infected seed is actually higher when this class of fungicide is used. This doesn't happen all the time but it has happened often enough that they are not recommended. The only class of fungicides that have not had this increase in toxins is the triazole class. The only registered triazoles for wheat and barley in Maryland are Tilt and Proline. We have had a much higher rate of success at suppressing scab with Proline than with Tilt. There will be others soon and some unregistered combinations have been somewhat better but for now the only product that is recommended is Proline.

Educating People to Help Themselves
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Wheat Yellow Mosaic and Soilborne Wheat Mosaic ~ ppm #66 (rev. 7/01)

Growing Well with Pain

The **American Chronic Pain Association** and the
Delaware-Maryland AgrAbility Project will be
Presenting a chronic pain seminar entitled……

Growing Well with Pain

DATE: June 9, 2008

TIME: 9-12 noon

PLACE: Richard A. Henson Conference Center
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD

RESERVATION REQUIRED: The seminar is free if you register by June 4, 2008. Otherwise, the cost is $10.00 per person (payable at the door. Checks can be made payable to Easter Seals). RSVP to Sally VanSchsik at 1-877-204-3276.

There will be vendors on hand to provide you with informational and health care materials.

Lunch will be provided

Penny Cowan, founder and Executive Director of the American Chronic pain Association, will lead this workshop aimed at helping agricultural workers, their families, and health care community to better understand chronic pain and cope with the challenges it presents.

Chronic pain that lasts more than three months can make life challenging. What happens when chronic pain enters your life and prevents you from doing the simplest of tasks?

"Growing Well With Pain" will explore ways for you to regain control of your pain by taking an active role in the recovery process.

It is possible to improve the quality of your life and reduce your sense of suffering in spite of the pain as you move from *living in pain to having the victory over the pain.*

2008 PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES

WICOMICO COUNTY - SALISBURY

LOCATION	DATES	TIME
WICOMICO COUNTY LANDFILL on BRICK KILN ROAD	June 27	9:00 - 3:00
	July 25	9:00 - 3:00
	August 22	9:00 - 3:00
	September 26	9:00 - 3:00

Eddie Johnson, Extension Educator, Agric. Sc.

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