

# Row Crop News

Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service  
P.O. Box 6896 - Pine Bluff, AR 71611 – Phone: 870-534-1033

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## **MAILING LIST UPDATE**

Federal regulations require the Cooperative Extension Service to update our mailing lists annually. If you would like to continue receiving Jefferson County Extension newsletters, please fill out the enclosed card and send it back to us. You may also give us a call at **870-534-1033** and let one of our agents or clerical staff take the information by phone. Please include your email address, in case we need to make a quick announcement concerning pest management alerts like Asian Soybean Rust.

Persons who do not respond by **February 10** will be dropped from our row crop mailing list(s). Those wishing to enroll or re-enroll for a mailing list may also call the county Extension office to provide information over the phone or email Don Plunkett at [dplunkett@uaex.edu](mailto:dplunkett@uaex.edu) to sign up for mailing lists.

## **AREA AGRI CONFERENCE - January 16 – 17**

Join us at 8:00 a.m. (for registering) on January 16 and 17 for the 2-day Area Agri Conference to be held at the Waterfront Facility of Regional Park in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. On **Wednesday**, the 16<sup>th</sup>, program topics will center a little on cotton updates but mostly on corn, wheat and grain sorghum production tips along with farm economics.

**Thursday**, the program will center mostly on soybean production along with Integrated Pest Management information for weeds, disease and insect control.

**FYI:** A condensed version of the Area Agri Conference program is located on the back of this newsletter.

## **PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING - FEBRUARY 26**

The Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service will conduct a Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) session on **February 26 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Extension office at 500 Idaho Street in Pine Bluff. Call the Extension office for details or information at 870-534-1033. Persons needing to certify or re-certify to receive a Private Applicator license for 2008 and beyond should plan to attend.

The session costs **\$10** and starts promptly at 1:15 p.m. (after a 15 minute registration process starting at 1:00 p.m.).

## SOYBEANS

**-Seed Supply Issues:** Reports are coming in from farmers, farm stores and industry representatives of seed intended for planting seed going instead to the oil mills due to lower than expected quality issues. This translates into lower amounts of planting seed than companies had wanted; there are some really strong varieties that have lost major tons of seed. Factor this information into your farm plans for 2008. With the huge number of wheat acres planted, soybean double crop seed could be scarce.

**Make the first planting count in 2008.** Be sure to calculate your seed requests closely, calibrate planters

accurately and monitor seedbed conditions when you head to the fields so that you make maximum use of the seed supply you do receive. There may be no “do-overs” in 2008 soybean planting situations!

### **-Soybean Update**

The “**2007 Soybean Update**” is now on the internet at [www.arkansasvarietytesting.org](http://www.arkansasvarietytesting.org) Click on Soybeans and choose either Yields/2007 or Reports/2007. The report contains disease and agronomic information and is much more detailed than the Yield data. Hard copies of the Soybean Update are at the printers and should be available from the county Extension office very soon.

## COTTON

### **2007 Jefferson County Cotton Variety Demo- Final Results/Quality**

Jefferson County

Jason Young– Cooperator

Don Plunkett & Eric Howard – Agent

Planting Date:5/28/07 Harvest Date:10/9/07

Replications:3 Soil Series: Silt Loam

Irrigation: Furrow Fertility: Chicken litter/urea

Management: Roundup Ready FLEX BMPs

Variety	Lint Yield	Turn out	Micro-naire	Length	Strength	Net Loan	Total Value
	lb/A			In”	g/tex	¢/lb	\$/A
DPL117B2RF	1459.50	0.43	4.47	1.19	31.97	0.48	701.90
PHY485WRF	1425.40	0.45	4.70	1.18	31.20	0.48	684.72
DP164B2RF	1403.57	0.43	4.60	1.22	30.57	0.48	674.68
ST4554B2RF	1402.13	0.42	4.53	1.17	30.90	0.48	672.54
ST4427B2RF	1311.40	0.42	4.50	1.16	31.40	0.48	628.62
FM9063B2RF	1172.47	0.41	4.63	1.24	33.63	0.48	563.96
CG4020B2RF	1171.93	0.40	4.23	1.17	30.10	0.48	564.56
FM1880B2RF	1153.47	0.42	4.40	1.20	31.33	0.47	552.72
Mean	1312.50	0.42	4.51	1.19	31.39	0.48	630.46
LSD (0.05)	173.58	0.043	0.596	0.051	4.371	0.002	83.918
CV (%)	7.55	5.80	7.55	2.45	7.95	0.24	7.60

### **Arkansas Cotton Situation- 2007**

*(Tom Barber, Extension Agronomist-Cotton)*

The landscape across the delta of Arkansas looked much different in 2007. Although Arkansas reduced cotton acres by 29 percent from 2006, the reduction in acres from the 10-year average was only 12 percent. Corn was planted on the majority of acres that were rotated out of

cotton followed by grain sorghum and soybeans. For some of these fields, this was the first time that a crop, other than cotton, was planted since records were taken back in the 1800s.

From increasing fertility levels to building productivity of soils, crop rotation provides countless benefits to producers. Rotation can also benefit the control of many

pest problems such as nematodes and resistant weeds. However, crop rotation can also bring complications.

The main complication in Arkansas, with respect to the heavy corn rotation, was tarnished plant bug control. Fields that bordered corn were especially affected by the tarnished plant bug this past season. Adult populations were so heavy and flushed so often that thresholds were reached in two to three days. In some cases, edges of fields directly beside corn were stripped completely from plant bug damage. In future seasons, this should be taken into account when decisions are made on field selection and planting strategy with a heavy cotton and corn rotation. Arkansas cotton acreage in 2008 will most likely decrease another 10-15 percent due mainly to wheat plantings and excellent prices for soybeans. Although acreage has decreased, yields remain high, and Arkansas will harvest the second highest yield on record at an estimated 1,056 pounds of lint per acre.

### **WHEAT**

It is January and time to start scouting fields for insects, diseases and weeds! Scout the oldest and most “growthy” wheat for aphids soon. Scout fields for signs of rust—leaf or stripe—for the next couple of months. Scout fields for weed pressure while the weeds are still small and treat if warranted.

**-Fertilizer:** It is time to check field growth progress for fertilizer needs and timing of applications. Young crops that have not tillered well may need early Nitrogen. Crops that are on schedule may need N applied between February 15 and March 1. But fields that are older and have excess growth may need a delay in timing of N application. With the high cost of fertilizer, make every pound count for you. In some cases, a single application of urea may be the most cost effective; however, most fields will require a 2-shot application timing.

### **CHICKEN LITTER**

No doubt the high cost of commercial fertilizers has caused many farmers to contemplate use of chicken

litter. If you have not booked litter, better consider doing it very soon. The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service has a litter nutrient analysis program (for a modest fee) that can provide you a close approximation of the nutrient value of the product you buy.

If you choose to find out what you are really getting in the way of nutrient analysis, be sure to sample the litter as you would a soil analysis—random probing all over the load of litter. Please package the material in a double layer or more of plastic “Ziploc” bags, so as not to offend the noses of our clerical and professional staff when you bring the litter in for testing.

### **CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**

**It’s the Law!!!** You may have already gotten your copy of the “**2008 Census of Agriculture**” form to complete. Please fill it out completely and return per the requested date shown in the document.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**January 16 and 17** - Area Agri Conference - Waterfront Facility at Regional Park - Pine Bluff

**January Jan. 22** - 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Arkansas Soybean Association Business Session and Seminar  
Convention Center in Brinkley - Registration 8:30 a.m.  
- Program at 9:00 a.m. It will conclude after lunch.

**February 16** - Jefferson County Lawn and Garden Seminar and Show - 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Pine Bluff Convention Center - Call the Extension office for details or check our website at [www.uaex.edu/jefferson](http://www.uaex.edu/jefferson)

**March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3** - Master Gardener Training - Jefferson County CES office  
8:15 a.m. each day ‘til 4:15 p.m.

**2008 AREA AGRI CONFERENCE**  
**Waterfront Facility of Regional Park**  
**February 16-17, 2008**  
**Pine Bluff, AR 71601**

**-Lunch - Courtesy of:**  
**Pine Bluff National Bank**  
**- Catered by: Dorey's Catering**

**January 16**

8:15-8:30 - REGISTRATION

-Welcome/Introductions.....Eric Howard  
County Extension Agent-Agriculture

-Weed Control and Weed Issues in  
Jefferson County .....Dr. Ken Smith

-Insects in Row Crops..... Dr. Gus Lorenz

-Management of Nematodes in Cotton  
and Corn.....Dr. Scott Monfort

-Irrigation Considerations.....Mr. Phil Tacker

-Better Returns on Corn  
Nitrogen Investments ..... Dr. Morteza Mozaffari

**-Lunch - Courtesy of:**  
**Simmons First National Bank**  
**- Catered by: King Kat**

-Cotton Variety Selection  
and Agronomic Issues.....Dr. Tom Barber

-Corn, Grain Sorghum, and  
Wheat Production..... Dr. Jason Kelley

-Adjourn

**February 17**

8:00-8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION

-Introductions.....Eric Howard

- Economics of  
Row Crop Production.....Dr. Terry Griffin

-Soybean Update.....Mr. Dwayne Beaty

- Full Season Control  
of Soybean Pests.....Dr. Scott Akin

- Herbicide Resistance Update.....Dr. Bob  
Scott

- Soybean Disease Update.....Mr. Cliff  
Coker

-Soil Fertility Update..... Dr. Leo Espinoza

- USDA and Jefferson County Extension updates

-Adjourn

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