**Farm Bill Deadlines:**
The deadline for updating crop bases and yields is quickly approaching. This decision is a producer decision. The deadline is February 27, 2015. It is written in stone. If landowners do not update bases and yields, you will keep what you have.

The next deadline is March 31, 2015. You must choose which program you must live with for at the least 5-8 years. You will choose between the ARC-CO, ARC-IND, PLC, and the PLC+SCO. Producers and Landlords must agree which program to choose otherwise as I understand it the PLC will be assigned.

Contact your Cooperative Extension Service or you Farm Service agency for more information concerning these deadlines.

**Irrigation and PAT Meetings:**

Irrigation Expo  
Feb 25  
8:30-4:30  
Grand Prairie Center  
(Expo Registration Deadline is Feb 22 limited to 150)  
Stuttgart, AR

Pesticide Applicator  
Mar 10  
6:30 PM  
Cabot Senior Citizens Center

Pesticide Applicator  
Apr 7  
8:30 AM  
Lonoke Ag Center

**Wheat N*STR:**
N*STR is a new way to look at wheat nitrogen management. This program has the potential to save you nitrogen inputs on wheat planted to silt loam soils in Lonoke County. Just soil sample your wheat ground the same way you take an ordinary soil sample. Split that sample with one pint going to soil analysis, and one pint reserved for N*STR testing. We will send them to a special lab in Fayetteville, AR for testing. This service comes with a fee of $10 per sample, but this technology has the potential to reduce your soil nitrogen by up to 25 lbs./A. The analysis is considered accurate up to three years after sampling. So this year cut your cost the smart way.

**Wheat Spring Fertilization:**
Spring fertilization is upon us. By this time of the year we probably have our Phosphate and Potash down. We need to concentrate on Sulfur and Nitrogen.

If your soil type is course silt loam or sandy you may need SO4 or sulfate-sulfur. Apply 100 lbs. of ammonium sulfate per acre along with your urea in the first application. A good approach is to add 110 lbs. urea to the 100 lbs. ammonium sulfate for the first shot followed by 125 lbs. urea on the second shot. The reason sulfate should be added on light soils is the potential for sulfur deficiency.

If on the other hand you use Wheat N*STR for a N recommendation the producer will still make the same yield, but the rate of N will be less and the N input cost will be reduced in most cases.

Below are the N rates based on soil texture and crop:
Table 1. Fall, late-winter N rate, and season-total N rate recommendations for winter wheat based on soil texture and previous crop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Texture</th>
<th>Previous crop</th>
<th>Fall-N rate lbs. N/acre</th>
<th>Late-winter-N rate lbs. N/acre</th>
<th>Total-N rate lbs. N/acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silt and sandy loams</td>
<td>Fallow</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All other†</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay and Clay loams</td>
<td>Fallow</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All other†</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† all other crops includes corn, cotton, grain sorghum, and soybean.

The changes that have been made include separation of previous crop into three categories and the change in Late-winter N rate and Total N rate for both soil textural classes. Late-winter N rates for wheat produced on silt and sandy loam soils following rice and all other crops (corn, grain sorghum and soybean) have been increased to 120 lbs N/A. Similarly, late-winter N rates for wheat produced on clay and clay loam soils following rice have been increased to 140 lbs N/A. Please feel free to contact us with any questions that you may have.

**Corn Varietal Selection:**
1. Some keys to selecting profitable hybrids for your farm.
2. Select more than one hybrid for your farm that is consistent year to year.
3. Choose hybrid on performance – Remember you have many traits to choose. Below are examples:
   - Herculex
   - Triple Pro, Double Pro
   - SmartStax (8 traits)
   - Viptera
   - Drought Tolerance - ???
4. Choose varieties adapted to the mid-south. These are usually 110-120 day hybrids.
5. Refuge Requirements are real. Protect the longevity of these traits by observing the refuge requirements.

Table 2. Top Yielding Corn Hybrids for SE Arkansas 2-year Averages Rohwer and Stuttgart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early-Mid (107-116RM)</th>
<th>Bu/a</th>
<th>Late (117-120RM)</th>
<th>Bu/a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REV 24BHR93 **</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>REV 28HR20</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REV 26BHR50</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>REV 28R10</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dekalb DKC 66-87</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>Dyna-Gro 57VP51</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer 1319HR</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>Croplan 8621 VT2P</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NK N78S-3111</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>AgriGold A6687VT2P</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REV 25BHR44</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>Dyna-Gro 57VP75</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dekalb DKC 64-69</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>Armor 1880PRO2</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Acres G6611</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>Augusta 7767VT2</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Acres G4598</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>Golden Acres 27V01</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BH 8660VTTP</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>REV 27HR83</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Green Snap Insurance:**
Last year many corn producers planted varieties of corn that were prone to green snap. In a corn verification field the producer had over 60% green snap, but because he had the green snap insurance, it ended up as being one of the most profitable fields.
**Corn Economics:**

December corn (Tuesday, February 3, 2015) was $4.170 on the CBOT. Basis is assumed at a negative $.35/bu. The Break even price can be estimated by subtracting the fixed + variable cost from the gross receipts at the end of the season. Rent is assumed at 25% of total gross receipts from the crop. Rent is subtracted as the very first expense. From the following assumptions a return per acre can be calculated.

\[
\begin{align*}
$4.17/\text{bu} - $.35/\text{bu} \text{ basis} &= $3.82 \\
185\text{bu./A yield} &= $706.70 \text{ Gross} \\
25\% \text{ Rent} &= $176.675 \\
\text{Variable Cost} &= $618.22 \\
\text{Fixed Cost} &= $84.98 \\
\text{Total Profit/A} &= $ - 173.175 \\
\text{Breakeven Yield @ } $3.82 \text{ Corn} &= 230.33 \text{ bu./A} \\
\text{Breakeven Price @ 185 bu./A} &= $4.75/\text{bu.}
\end{align*}
\]

The above analysis doesn’t tell you anything you do not know. As a producer you must maximize yield while becoming more efficient by cutting cost. Select only the most consistent varieties with the traits that are proven to increase profits. Cut your seed cost, and your herbicide program’s by using generics. Soil sample and fertilize only to recommended levels.

Use the PIPE software to save on your irrigation cost. Cut the trips across the field to cultivate, spray, fertilize, aerial apply pesticides, and spray fungicides. Plant in an early time window to avoid diseases and other pest. Cut your pesticide bill.

Use revenue insurance wisely, and see if you can, develop a more profitable marketing strategy. Basically the producers this year will have to be frugal to develop a positive bottom line.

**Corn Production Systems:**

Producers in general and corn producers in particular should look and plan a production system where each system interacts in specific manners to achieve profitable yields. Remember it is not how much corn you produce, but it is how much you take to the bank as profit that counts.

Below is a check list to make sure you are on the right track:

**System 1**: Picking the appropriate farm bill tools, i.e. the ARC, PRC, PRC+SCO, etc.

**System 2**: Picking the appropriate crop insurance tools, including, but not limited to green snap insurance, revenue insurance, fire and hail insurance.


**System 4**: This is the integration of the entire above plus more. The timing has to be spot on to achieve the best, most profitable corn crop.

**Farm Bill Workshop’s Points:**

Again the deadline for updating yields and bases is: February 27, 2015. The deadline for choosing a farm program is March 31, 2015. To know how these programs will financially affect you use the Texas A&M decision tool on the [www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu) website. Combine different areas of the programs including upgrading crop insurance. This looks to be an economically challenging year so be frugal. Live to fight another day. If we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to come by or call the Lonoke County Cooperative Extension Service at 501-676-3124.