

Winter Agriculture Newsletter

January 23, 2017

Dear Producer/ Agricultural Industry Personnel:

Now that the holidays are over and hunting seasons are winding down, it will soon be time to turn our thoughts back to the upcoming cropping season. The St. Francis County Extension Service will be sponsoring several programs to bring you up to date on the latest management techniques for the management of your crops. Please read over the following list of opportunities available for you and make plans to attend.

Crop Production Meetings –

- **February 8th 2017, Marianna Cotton Research Station**

Our Annual Cotton and Feed Grains Production meeting will start at 8:00am and conclude at 3:30. Lunch will be provided by Cajun Express and there will be several giveaway prizes.

8:15-8:30	-Welcome and Introductions – Local Ag Agents
8:30-9:15	-Water Management – Dr. Chris Henry
9:15-10:00	-Fertility Management – Dr. Leo Espinoza
10:00-10:10	-Break
10:10-10:45	-Marketing – Dr. Bobby Coats
10:45-11:30	-Feed Grain Production – Dr. Jason Kelley
11:30-12:15	-Lunch (Cajun Express)
12:15-1:15	-Cotton Production – Dr. Bill Robertson
1:15-2:15	-Weed Control in Cotton & Feed Grain Crops – Dr. Tom Barber
2:15-3:15	-Insect Control in Cotton & Feed Grain Crops – Dr. Gus Lorenz
3:15-3:30	-Evaluation and Adjourn

- **February 22nd 2017, Marianna Cotton Research Station**

Our Annual Rice and Soybean Production meeting will start at 8:00am and conclude at 3:30. Lunch will be provided by Cajun Express and there will be several giveaway prizes.

8:15-8:30	– Welcome and Introductions – Local Ag Agents
8:30-9:00	– Water Management – Mike Hamilton
9:00-10:00	– Soybean Production – Dr. Jeremy Ross
10:00-10:10	– Break
10:10-11:10	– Cover Crops – Dr. Trent Roberts
11:10-12:10	– Rice Production – Dr. Jarrod Hardke
12:10-12:40	– Lunch (Cajun Express)
12:40-1:15	– Marketing – Dr. Bobby Coats
1:15-2:15	– Weed Control in Rice and Soybeans – Dr. Bob Scott
2:15-3:15	– Insect Control in Rice and Soybeans – Dr. Gus Lorenz

Pesticide Applicator Trainings

- February 15th, 2017 – 9:00 am - Woodruff Electric, Forrest City
- March 15th, 2017 – 9:00 am – Woodruff Electric, Forrest City

Be sure to check your pesticide license card to see if your certification expires this year.

PipePlanner Trainings

To help you improve irrigation management, Pipeplanner Trainings will be held on the following dates from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Lunch will not be provided. If you need an account or PipePlanner, we ask that you please email (cgriffin@uaex.edu) or text me (870-565-8872) your email and request an account. PipePlanner is a computer program which designs and evaluates furrow irrigation systems. This program accounts for pipe friction loss, pipe elevations and flow rate, and pressure to calculate the correct hole punch sizes in lay flat tubing. This application can increase your down-row uniformity which means that your rows water out evenly, tail water is reduced, your irrigation efficiency is improved, and water and energy is conserved.

- February 16th – 9:00am – EACC Computer Lab, Forrest City
- March 16th – 9:00am – EACC Computer Lab, Forrest City
- April 20th – 9:00am – EACC Computer Lab, Forrest City
- June 1st – 9:00am – EACC Computer Lab, Forrest City

Sprayer Technology Clinic – March 8th, 2017, Marianna Cotton Research Station

Registration opens at 8:30 am with large group sessions starting at 9:00. Producers and applicators alike are encouraged to attend to gain valuable information on how to be more productive and efficient in the field. The clinics are free and the day will end with a free lunch. Session topics and demonstrations are listed below.

- New herbicide technology update
- Identifying percent wear in nozzles
- Application tips for matching proper nozzles with chemicals
- Avoiding clean-out issues demonstration
- Electronics in applications demonstration
- Multiple spray table nozzle demonstration

As in years past, we will be conducting FREE nozzle tests. Producers should bring a sample of nozzles from their equipment to be analyzed for % wear. This valuable tool has the potential to save producer thousands of dollars in the upcoming spray season.

- **3 hours of CCA credit will be available.**

Pigposium – February 28th, 2017 – Forrest City – East Arkansas Community College

Herbicide resistant pigweed, one of the biggest problems Mid-South farmers are wrestling, takes center stage at Pigposium III, set for Feb 28th at EACC in Forrest City. Resistant pigweed has really challenged us as scientists to find ways to manage this pest as chemical options wane,” said Tom Barber extension weed scientist for the University Of Arkansas System Division Of Agriculture. “During this full day of learning, you’ll hear from weed scientist from across the Mid-South as well as growers discussing the options they’re using and why.”

Pigposium III opens at 9am at EACC’s Fine Arts Center. There is no cost to attend and lunch is included in the program. The 2017 lineup:

9am – Introduction – Current Infestations of PPO-Resistant Palmer Pigweed, Jason Norsworthy, Weed Scientist, Division of Agriculture

9:10 am – Why Should I Proactively Manage for Herbicide Resistance in Pigweed? Bob Scott, Extension Weed Scientist, Division of Agriculture

9:40 am – Expectations for PPO- Resistant Pigweed Control with Pre-emergence and Post emergence Herbicides, Tom Barber, Extension Weed Scientist, Division of Agriculture

10:10 am – Palmer Amaranth Management Software: A New Tool in Our Fight Against Pigweed, Michael Popp, Economist, Division of Agriculture

11 am – Cover Crops & Tillage: Do These Really Help Manage Pigweed? Larry Steckel, Weed Scientist, University of Tennessee

11:30 am – What Does Pigweed Control Look Like Five Years from Now? Jason Norsworthy

1:15 pm – Comparison of Soybean Technologies: Understanding Risk and Reward, Jason Bond, Weed Scientist, Mississippi State

1:45 pm – A Season to Remember: Our Experiences with Off-Site Movement of Dicamba in 2016, Kevin Bradley, Weed Scientist, University of Missouri

2:15 pm – Navigating Dicamba Regulations and Labels: What is Allowed? Ples Spradley, Extension Pesticide Safety Coordinator, Division of Agriculture

2:45 pm – Spray Droplet Considerations: Optimizing Contact and Systemic Herbicides, Application Technologist, Division of Agriculture

3:30 pm – Panel Discussion: What are we doing and why are we doing it?

Narrow-Windrow Burning – Harry Stevens, Producer, Helena

Cover Crops – Adam Chappell, Producer, Cotton Plant

Zero Tolerance – Dane Coomer, Producer, Piggott

I have attached a copy of the 2016 St. Francis County Demo Book. I would like to thank everyone who participated in all of our programs this past year. It is important that producers and industry personnel be involved with the extension service so that we can continue to provide our clients with the many services that extension has to offer.

If you would like to receive email or text updates throughout the growing season please contact me via email (cgriffin@uaex.edu) or phone (870-565-8872) or follow me on twitter (@AgentGriffinSFC)

Sincerely,

Cody Griffin
County Extension Agent
Interim Staff Chair