October 15, 2007

WHEAT

Budget

A budget guide can be found at http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/extension.htm. Click on Enterprise Budgets. Wheat/soybeans, corn, cotton, peanuts, and tobacco can be found at this website.

Variety Selection

2007 Wheat Variety Recommendations by Randy Weisz, NCSU Extension Small Grain Specialist, was included in a July 13, 2007 newsletter. This small grains fact sheet can be found at http://www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu. Randy suggests five rules for wheat variety selection. In some instances, I have added comments specific to Duplin County.


Rule 2: Pick High Yielding Varieties

Rule 3: Plan For Spring Freeze – 2007 freeze damage data illustrates late heading varieties received approximately 2-18% freeze damage, while early heading varieties received 58-63% freeze damage. Heading date is the best indicator of how susceptible a variety is to Spring freeze.

Rule 4: Minimize Risk, Maximize Yield – Plant at least 3 varieties. To avoid freeze damage, at least 1 should be late heading.

Rule 5: Fine-Tune Your Selections - Fine-tune your variety selections for specific pests. Powdery mildew is a disease threat in Duplin County. Select high yielding varieties that are rated resistant or moderately resistant to powdery mildew. A second disease yield robber is Soilborne Wheat Mosaic. Consider selecting at least 1 variety rated resistant or moderately resistant to this virus.

Planting Dates

For upper half Duplin County, the recommended wheat planting period is October 20-November 8. For lower half Duplin County, the recommended wheat planting period is October 26-November 14. Planting earlier than recommended promotes powdery mildew, Hessian fly, barley yellow dwarf, and freeze damage.

Plant early heading varieties near the end of the recommended planting period. If litter is preplant incorporated and used as the wheat/soybean fertilizer, plant near
the end of the recommended planting period.

**Seeding Rate**

If planting in a timely manner with 90% or better germination seed using a 7-inch drill spacing, 20 seeds per row foot should be planted. If planting 2 weeks late with 90% or better germination seed using a 7-inch drill spacing, 26 seeds per row foot should be planted.

**No-Till Considerations**

Tillering and fall growth are often slower in no-till wheat. Most no-till producers achieve higher yields if they plant slightly ahead or at the onset of the recommended planting period. Consider a 10% higher seeding rate than that recommended for conventional tillage.

**Planting Depth**

Newer wheat varieties have semidwarf genes that reduce overall plant height. These genes also reduce seedling emergence if seeds are placed too deep. Wheat seeds should be planted 1-1 ½ inches deep when soil moisture is adequate, and slightly deeper if moisture is deficient.

**pH & Fertilization**

NCDA&CS Soil Test wheat lime recommendations are designed to raise the soil pH to 6.0 for mineral soils, 5.5 for mineral-organic soils, and 5.0 for organic soils. If soil pH is too high, micronutrients such as manganese can become unavailable. Soil test recommendations should be followed for phosphorus, potassium, and micronutrient applications. If a soil test is not available, preplant broadcast apply 30 pounds/acre of phosphate and 60 pounds/acre of potash.

If planting during the recommended period, 20 pounds/acre of preplant nitrogen is adequate to promote maximum growth and tillering. Preplant nitrogen is not recommended for plantings made before or after the recommended planting period.

**Disease & Insect Management**

Most growers should have a goal of achieving good disease and insect control without the expense of a seed treatment and/or a foliar fungicide whenever possible. Resistant varieties and recommended production practices represent the best approaches for low-cost disease and insect management.

**Annual (Italian) Ryegrass Control**

Hoelon, Axial XL, and Osprey are labeled for ryegrass control in wheat. For best results, applications should be made when air daytime temperatures are above 50 degrees F and nighttime temperatures are above freezing.

Hoelon is most effective when applied postemergence. Best control is obtained when treating 1-3 leaf ryegrass (about 2-3 inches tall). *Ryegrass should be in this growth stage prior to Christmas.*

Hoelon should not be applied postemergence with nitrogen.

Axial XL can be applied postemergence to wheat anytime from the 2-leaf stage to the pre-boot stage. For best results, ryegrass should be in the 1 to 5-leaf stage on the main stem and prior to emergence of the 3rd tiller. *Ryegrass...*
should be in these growth stages prior to Christmas. Axial XL may be mixed in a spray solution containing up to 50% liquid nitrogen. In other words, Axial XL cannot be applied with “straight” 30% nitrogen solution. Water dilution (at least 50%) is required. Axial XL does not require an adjuvant. Axial XL is rainfast 30 minutes after application.

Osprey can be applied postemergence to wheat anytime from emergence to the jointing stage. For best results, ryegrass should be in the 1-leaf to 2nd tiller stage. *Ryegrass should be in these growth stages prior to Christmas.* Osprey should not be applied postemergence with nitrogen. Osprey requires an adjuvant. The adjuvant should be 1 of the following: 1) a methylated seed oil (MSO) adjuvant (not a blend), or 2) a non-ionic surfactant and 30% nitrogen solution, or 3) a non-ionic surfactant and ammonium sulfate. Osprey is rainfast 4 hours after application. Do not apply topdress nitrogen within 14 days of Osprey application.

**EQIP SIGN UP**

Farmers desiring participation in the 2008 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) must return their applications by November 1, 2007 for the 1st batching period or February 15, 2008 for the 2nd and final batching period. EQIP is NRCS’s largest program and it provides cost-share funds for the installation of natural resource conservation practices. Typical local practices include no-till, buffers, waste storage structures, fencing to keep livestock from streams, incinerators, and composters. There is also a special EQIP initiative for beginning and small/limited resource farmers. For additional information, contact the USDA National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at 910-296-2120.

**2008 YOUNG LEADER PROGRAM**

This program focuses on leadership training for farm couples. It is sponsored by The American Soybean Association and Pioneer Hi-Bred International. The program is presented in 2 phases: 1) February 26-March 1, 2008 Nashville, Tennessee and 2) December 2008 Johnston, Iowa Pioneer Headquarters. Selected participants are required to have a current NC Soybean Association/ASA membership. Applicants cannot be current NC Soybean Association board members. Applicants should be interested in pursuing a leadership role within the soybean industry. The application deadline is December 7. Apply at the following website: http://www.so ygrowers.com/dyl.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**NCSU Open House**
Saturday, Oct. 20  9:30 am – 1:00 pm
NCSU Campus

Faculty, staff, and students representing each of the academic colleges will be available to address NCSU educational opportunities. Pre-register at http://www.ncsu.edu/openhouse/.

**Farmland Preservation Workshop**
Wed. Nov. 7  9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Mt. Olive College

Workshop topics include agricultural districts, farmland protection plans, state/federal forest/farmland preservation programs and funding sources,
conservation easements and agricultural agreements, farm transition, agricultural development programs, and the ADFP Trust Fund application process. Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, contact Lindsay Balance with NCDA&CS at 919-733-7125 ext. 251, or lindsay.ballance@ncmail.net. For more information, visit http://www.ncadfp.org.

Sustainable Agriculture Conference
November 9-11
Durham Marriott - Civic Center

This conference is Carolina Farm Stewardship Association’s annual event. This conference has been a catalyst for the development of a local organic food community. The 2007 Conference theme is The Changing Face Of Local Food. For additional information, visit http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org.

Crop Protection School
Tuesday, Dec. 11 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
NCSU McKimmon Center, Raleigh

This event is the NC Crop Protection Association annual meeting plus crop updates. Register online at http://ContinuingEducation.ncsu.edu or call 919-515-2261.

Southeast Vegetable & Fruit Expo
December 12-13
Myrtle Beach Convention Center

Topics include specialty crop opportunities, food safety issues, vine crop & watermelon production, organic vegetable production, high tunnel production, crucifer production, tomato production, and marketing opportunities. For additional information, contact

Cathy Price at cathyprice@bellsouth.net or 919-334-0099.

Beltwide Cotton Conferences
January 8-11
Opreyland Hotel – Nashville, Tenn.

For conference information, visit http://beltwide.cotton.org.

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