CONGRATULATIONS!

2007 Corn Yield Contest Winners

2007 Duplin County Corn Contest winners were recognized at the Duplin County Agribusiness Council Annual Membership Meeting. Duplin County Extension, Murphy-Brown, and Nash Johnson & Sons sponsor the annual contest.

The third place winner was David Wallace with a yield of 204.27 bushels/acre. David’s winning entry was non-irrigated and conventional till. He planted Trisler 5338 at a final population of 30,000 plants/acre in 36-inch rows. David received a plaque and a $50 check.

The second place winner was Hank Bond with a yield of 212.96 bushels/acre. Hank’s winning entry was non-irrigated and conventional till. He planted Augusta 5337 at a final population of 30,500 plants/acre in 30-inch rows. Hank received a plaque and a $100 check.

The first place winner was Dail Brothers with a yield of 248.58 bushels/acre. Henry and Edward's winning entry was non-irrigated and conventional till. They planted Pioneer 33M54 at a final population of 34,000 plants/acre in 30-inch rows. Dail Brothers received a plaque and a $200 check. This entry also received 2007 North Carolina Corn Yield Contest first place honors in the Southern Coastal Plain Area.

2008 Tobacco Short Course

Bryan Hunter, Jeremy Hunter, and Stephen Grady, Jr. applied and were selected for January 28 – February 1 Tobacco Short Course attendance. The NC Tobacco Growers Association sponsored the course in cooperation with the NCSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. All short course expenses (except travel to and from Raleigh) were paid by funds provided by the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

TOBACCO

Alternative Fertilization Programs

Since 2005, I have worked with many Duplin County tobacco producers toward alternative fertilization programs. These programs rely on soil test reports, proper soil pH, and 30% nitrogen solution as the primary nitrogen source. 30% nitrogen solution represents a cheaper and easier-to-apply form of nitrogen. University tests have proven similar yields/quality when alternative fertilization programs are compared to traditional fertilization programs.

Most growers I have worked with prefer a 2-step alternative fertilization program. Step 1 is the N-P-K fertilizer. The N-P-K fertilizer should be applied within 10
days after transplanting. The N-P-K fertilizer supplies 26 lbs/acre of nitrogen, 20-30 lbs/acre of phosphate, 120-150 lbs/acre of potash, 17-21 lbs/acre of magnesium, 30+ lbs/acre of sulfur, and <30 lbs/acre of chlorine. All nutrient needs are met with the N-P-K fertilizer except for sidedress nitrogen.

Step 2 is the sidedress nitrogen application, using 30% nitrogen solution. The sidedress application should be made 2-3 weeks after the N-P-K fertilizer application. This application timing provides adequate nitrogen (the N-P-K fertilizer has 26 lbs/acre of nitrogen) and reduces nitrogen leaching potential. Please remember 1 gallon of 30% nitrogen solution contains 3 ¼ pounds of nitrogen.

**Race 1 Black Shank Management**

Most Duplin County tobacco acreage is treated with a multi-purpose fumigant. Prior history black shank fields will likely be planted to a pH gene variety such as CC 27, NC 71, NC 196, NC 297, etc. If the prior history black shank was found in a pH gene variety planted field, that field has race 1 black shank.

Assuming the above, a 1 pint/acre Ridomil Gold soil application is recommended at 1st cultivation.

**RESISTANT PALMER AMARANTH**

While recent conversations focus on energy costs, high commodity prices, high input costs, and short soybean seed supplies, glyphosate/ALS resistant Palmer amaranth has not “gone away”. As you know, *some* glyphosate/ALS resistant Palmer amaranth has been documented in northern Duplin County. Herbicide resistance management has been thoroughly discussed in recent years winter meetings and newsletters. Included in this newsletter is Cotton Information Book Tables 10-9 – 10-12 (Pages 132-136). Dr. Alan York, NCSU Extension Weed Specialist, prepared these tables. Herbicide programs for Palmer amaranth control are shown for cotton, soybeans, corn, and peanuts.

**SOYBEANS**

This newsletter contains NCSU Suggested Populations for May-Planted and June-Planted Soybeans. Based on NCSU on-farm tests, maximum yield and maximum profit were achieved with populations lower than those noted. So there is no benefit exceeding these recommendations (assuming 90% emergence).

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