Wheat

Spring N Application
This year’s wheat crop has been a particularly difficult to “figure out”; with torrential rain and snow (in Onslow County!). With our uncertain weather, here are some considerations for N application to your wheat this spring.

First off, decide if you are going to keep your field or abandon it for full-season soybeans. If your field is irregular with lots of bare spots and thin wheat stands, then it would be easiest to let that field go. Randy Weisz (NCSU Small Grains Specialist) likes to see about 30 tillers per square foot this time of year. Ron Heiniger (NCSU Extension Specialist) thinks 15 tillers per square foot may be enough to carry forward. These are just numbers to take into consideration.

If you’ve decided to keep your wheat crop, then have you already made an early split N application? The ideal approach would have been to apply an “early” split of N, then come back at GS-30 and get a tissue test. Although with this weather, that may not have been possible.

So what do you do if the wheat is thin because the rains continued into late February and an early split application of N has not been made? If the wheat is thin and the weather continues to make getting into the field problematic, you have two choices: abandon the field or get all the N on in one application the first chance the soil is dry enough to drive on. If you are able to make the one application around GS-30, then a tissue test can be taken and used to guide that single application. If you make the application prior to GS-30, forget about the tissue test and make the best guess and go with it. Remember it takes a well-developed tiller to make a grain head!
**Hessian Fly**
If you look hard enough for Hessian fly you will almost ALWAYS find some. At this time, the Hessian fly is in the pupal (resting) stage. The pupa is a dark brown case that resembles flax seed. If present, the pupa will be found between the sheath and the stem near the base of the wheat plant. You should be scouting your fields now to determine whether or not your wheat field is infested.

The suggested pupa threshold is 10% infested plants when there are “friendly conditions” OR 20% infested plants when there are no “friendly conditions.” “Friendly conditions” include 1 or more of the following: A Hessian fly susceptible wheat variety, no Gaucho or Cruiser seed treatment, wheat/wheat rotation (especially no-till), wheat emerged before November, and wheat fields planted near last year’s wheat fields.

If a spring infestation of Hessian fly is present in your wheat field, tillering will be poor, plants will look yellow and unthrift, have small heads, will be noticeably shorter, and lodging will be evident. If any of these symptoms are present and you have gone out and found Hessian fly pupa or larvae, it might benefit you to apply an insecticide. In the spring, apply an insecticide as the pupa hatch and flies emerge. If using Warrior, the recommended application rate is 2.6 to 3.8 ounces per acre. If using Karate Z, the recommended application rate is 1.9 ounces per acre. Use the high rate for heavy infestation. Flies typically emerge when temperatures warm in mid-to-late March.

The 2-winged fly is small, long-legged, and looks like a small mosquito. The fly is a weak flyer and lives only about 2-3 days. Flies will deposit yellow-orange eggs singly or end to end between the veins on the upper surfaces of young wheat leaves. The eggs will hatch within a few days and the tiny maggots will migrate to stem joints where they feed for 4-6 weeks. The maggot is about ¼-inch long when fully grown. Maggot feeding usually results in weakened stems and small, poorly filled grain heads with low-quality kernels. Weakened stems may result in lodging of your wheat plant.

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**CORN**

**PLANTING TIPS**
Corn planting time is rapidly approaching. The things that you do at planting will, to a large extent, determine the yield potential of the crop.

**Plant on Time**
Corn should be planted when soil temperatures reach 55 degrees at a 2-inch depth and the weather forecast shows a good chance of warm temperatures over the next few days. In the NC Coastal Plain soils, temperatures normally exceed 55 degrees for at least 24 hours between the dates of March 20th-25th.

**Plant the Appropriate Population**
Appropriate plant populations vary by soil type and by hybrid selection. Plant populations have a strong influence on corn yields. Research has shown that optimum final plant stands for our area are around 30,000 plants per acre. Be sure to match your population to your
soil type and hybrid. If you have productive soils, then consider at least adding an increase of 10 to 15% to your current population in a field or two and see what kind of results you get. The following table shows plant spacing for various populations on both 30 and 38 inch rows. It is likely that you will gain greater benefits from the higher populations on narrower row spacing. However, there are also yield benefits on wide rows. Please consider increasing your plant populations for 2009.

### In-Row Spacing (inches)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>38” rows</th>
<th>30” rows</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>8.25</td>
<td>10.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>7.50</td>
<td>9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>6.88</td>
<td>8.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>6.35</td>
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<td>28,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>5.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>5.16</td>
<td>6.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>4.86</td>
<td>6.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2010 Corn Hybrid Selection

Ronnie Heiniger  
Cropping Systems Specialist  
North Carolina State University

### Hybrid Recommendations to Consider

1. Rapid early growth and vigor  
2. Standability  
3. Pest and Disease Resistance  
4. Stress Tolerance  
5. Yield

### Hybrid Recommendations

#### Early Hybrids
- Pioneer 34B94 (YGRR2)  
- DeKalb DKC59-64VT3  
- Augusts A5160 (CB)  
- Augusta A-06-04 (HX)  
- AgVenture AV7515 (R2CB)

#### Medium Hybrids
- SC 11VTT45  
- Pioneer 33M53 (RR)  
- Pioneer 1184 HR  
- Terral TV26BR61 (RR/YGCB)  
- Terral TV25BR71 (RR/YGVB)  
- Augusta A08-08VT3  
- NK N77-P5CBL  
- DeKalb DKC61-73  
- AgVenture R8923YB  
- NK68-B8 (CBLL)  
- Trisler T8A02CB

#### Late Hybrids
- DeKalb DKC69-40Vt3  
- DeKalb DKC68-06 (RR2/YG)  
- Pioneer 31G96  
- Pioneer 31G71 (HX/LL/RR2)  
- Pioneer 1615 HR  
- Southern States SS777VT3  
- NK 82V3000GT  
- Augusta A76-64 (CB)  
- DynaGro 58V50

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Cotton Production Meeting  
Thursday, March 4th, 2010  
6:00 p.m.  
Duplin County Extension Office

NCDMV Rules and Regulations  
Upcoming in March  
Onslow County Extension Office  
Look for a postcard in the mail.
**Spotlight for March**

Extension Volunteers Recognized

The annual Onslow County Agricultural Awards Banquet was held on February 9th at the Onslow Multipurpose Complex. Recognition was given to the various groups of volunteers that give of themselves to support and expand the work of the NC Cooperative Extension Service here in Onslow County. During 2009, Onslow County Master Gardeners volunteered over 3,600 hours of service to local citizens.

Special recognition was given to Jim Van Gorder, Marion Goodman and Jean Rebholz for their 500 hours of volunteer time and Leona Lilley and Barbara Walters were also recognized for 1000 hours of volunteer time as Master Gardeners.

Special recognition was also given to Jim and Sally Van Gorder, who were named the 2009 Master Gardener Volunteers of the Year for their devotion to increasing the knowledge level of other master gardeners and the public.

Several local farmers received awards for crop production contests:

Corn Yield Champion (non-irrigated division): **Barry Shepard**, DeKalb 6971 with 205.60 bushels per acre. Runner-Up: Richlands Farms with, Pioneer 31G71 with 199.06 bushels per acre.

Corn Yield Champion (irrigated division): **Donnie & Franklin Riggs**, Pioneer 31M57 with 223.16 bushels per acre.

Wheat Yield Champion: **Richlands Farms, Inc**, USG 3592 with 83.09 bushels per acre. Runner-Up was Winzell Taylor Jr., Coker 9436 with 71.65 bushels per acre.

The Onslow County Agricultural Hall of Fame award was begun in 1984. The nominee can only be inducted to the Agricultural Hall of Fame once, as either a recipient of the Master Farmer Award or the James R. Strickland Service to Agriculture Award. This year’s inductee was for the Master Farmer Award and that inductee was Mr. Ronnie Cox.

On January 19th, 4-H recognized Tina Gill as the 4-H Volunteer Leader of the year. Along with Mrs. Gill all 4-H volunteers were thanked and recognized for the years of service at the annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders Banquet. The theme this year was “4-H..Let it Grow, Let it Grow, Let it Grow”.

The Onslow County Extension and Community Association (ECA) celebrated their 2009 achievements on February 23rd. The speaker for the event was Lisa Whitman Grice, Onslow County Museum Director.

The event started off with a memorial to ECA members that had passed away since the last Achievement Day.

Several members were recognized for special awards. They are as follows:

**Perfect Attendance** - Several members were recognized for attending all of the club’s monthly meetings.

**Reading Certificates** – 6 members were recognized for reading a total of 124 books and submitting book reports of all books read. 3 members were recognized for their reading reports. 1st Place went to Ruth Clifton turning in 49 book reports, 2nd place, Donna Williams
Cofer Leader Program Award – Nancy Goad from the Sneads Ferry Club received this award for a lesson she presented to her club. All clubs voted on a member that had presented information during the year. Judges then picked the overall winner from reports presented to them.

Most Outstanding Club Member – The following members were recognized after being voted on by the club members as the club's outstanding member:

Jean Ross – Harmony; Kathy Cook – Jacksonville; Kathy Maready – Meadow View and Nettie King – Sneads Ferry.

Most Outstanding Club – This award is voted on by judges after seeing all the work done by a club's members. This year's award was presented to the Meadow View Club.

Extension and Community Associate of the Year – This award is given to an outstanding member that goes above and beyond the call of duty. This year's award was presented to Barbara Crossman.

Other awards were given by were not available at the time of this release.

For more information regarding the Extension and Community Association please call Peggie Garner at (910) 455-5873.
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