SOYBEANS

May and June Suggested Plant Populations
Attached to this newsletter is the 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 to exceeding these recommendations (assuming 90% emergence).

Soybeans Behind Soybeans
Droughty soil types, commodity prices, and high input costs have caused more growers to consider planting soybeans behind soybeans. Please consider the following points as you make final cropping decisions.

Based on numerous NCSU on-farm tests, soybeans following soybeans will decrease yield by 3-5 bushels per acre less than soybeans following corn.

With soybeans behind soybeans, a pest problem will arise sooner or later (it might not appear for a year or two). That pest problem may potentially be glyphosate-resistant palmer amaranth (using the same weed management strategy year after year).

Another pest problem that may arise is nematodes, particularly cyst nematode on sandy soils. Cyst nematode can cause severe yield loss. While there are several high-yielding commercially available cyst nematode resistant varieties, they may not offer resistance to the race(s) present in your field.
A 1995-1997 North Carolina Soybean Cyst Nematode survey conducted by Dr. Steve Koenning, NCSU Extension Plant Pathology Specialist, revealed 62% of cyst nematodes found were races 2 or 4. Cyst nematode race 1 represented 2%. Cyst nematode races 3 and 14 were not found. However, most commercially available cyst nematode resistant soybean varieties offer resistance to races 3 and/or 14.

COTTON

Planting Dates
Planting date has a significant influence on cotton yields. Results from planting date trials indicate that optimum yields are obtained when cotton is planted before May 5. Yields decline approximately 12 pounds of lint per acre per day after this May 5th date. However, when cotton is planted between May 5, and May 20, yield reduction are not as drastic as reductions when planting occurs from mid to late May. Planting cotton after May 20 should be avoided if at all possible.

While planting date is important, soil temperatures are also critical for germination and early growth of cotton seedlings. Temperatures below 50 degrees during germination can result in decreased emergence and slower early season growth.

Cotton planting should begin when the following conditions are met:
1.) After April 15.
2.) The soil has reached 65 degrees by 10 a.m. at a 3-inch depth in a moist seedbed.
3.) Warm, dry weather is predicted for the next 5 to 7 days. Avoid planting cotton if the air temperature is predicted to be below 50 degrees F within 48 hours.

WHEAT

Early Assessment of Wheat
To make an early wheat yield assessment of this year’s wheat crops, follow these simple steps:
1.) Determine the average number of healthy heads per square foot
2.) Rub heads between your fingers and determine how many kernels are forming in the head.
3.) Determine the average number the average number of kernels per head.
4.) Now apply these averages to the following chart.
CORN

Sulfur Deficiency in Emerging Corn
Due to the extended rain period of frequent and intense rainfall events, sulfur (a water soluble, mobile nutrient) in the upper soil profile (top 2 to 4 inches) has been leached into the lower rooting zone. Sulfur deficiencies are usually associated with sandy soils, such as ours in Onslow County.

Sulfur deficiency is characterized by a yellowing of the younger or “new” leaves of the corn plant. When the corn plant is small, mild sulfur deficiency symptoms show up as interveinal chlorosis of the leaves emerging from the whorl. As the plant ages and the deficiency becomes more pronounced, the entire leaf turns yellow with slightly greener veins. Typically, sulfur deficiency symptoms are not uniform across the field. Many times it is common to find plant symptoms in the lower spots in the field. Caution: Other nutrient deficiencies can show similar patterns and symptoms like those displayed by sulfur. Therefore, plant tissue analysis should always be used to confirm visual symptoms of deficiencies and to detect unseen deficiencies.

If the deficiency is mild and is corrected before growing point differentiation (21 to 30 days after emergence) by either the root growing into higher sulfur concentrations below the top soil profile or through additional sulfur application, then there will be little to no effect on yield. However, if the deficiency is moderate to severe and lasts beyond 21 days after emergence there could be significant effects on yield. Generally, for each day that sulfur is deficient past the first 21 days after emergence there is a loss of 1 to 2 bushels per acre. It is critical that these early deficiency symptoms be rectified quickly by applying sulfur. The good news is that the plant readily takes up sulfur and that plants will respond quickly to applied sulfur. For information on how much sulfur to apply and in what form, please feel free to contact the Extension office.

UPCOMING EVENTS
NCCE-Small Grain Field Days
Tuesday May 11 4:00pm to 6:30pm
Lumberton, NC
For more information contact Georgia Love 910-737-2884

Thursday May 13 4:00pm to 6:30pm
Washington, NC
For more information contact Gaylon Ambrose 252-946-0111
**I am planning to go to this field day if you would like to ride with me please let me know**

Tuesday May 18 4:00pm to 7:00pm
Monroe, NC
For more information contact Andrew Gardner 704-283-3801

Precision Farming Demo Day
Wednesday May 12 8:00am – 3:00pm
Clinton, NC
www.benchmarksupply.com
**I am planning to go to this Demo Day, if you would like to ride with me please let me know**
4-H Summer Avenues of Interest 2010

The 4-H motto is:
“To Make the Best Better”, so make the best better by enrolling now to learn something new and meet new people. The 4-H office along with those giving leadership to the activities hope you have an enjoyable summer and invite youth age 5 - 19 to take advantage of the many opportunities offered in the Avenues of Interest Summer Program.

We invite you to join us for an exciting summer!!! Any youth in Onslow County may enroll in one or more workshops, you do not have to be a 4-H'er to register, just come by the 4-H office at 4024 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville. Call us at 455-5873 or you can also check our web site to see what classes we offer and if they are full. (http://onslow.ces.state.nc.us/) All programs have a registration fee, which must be paid when you register. Registration will not be held at the workshop or activity.

All monies collected are used for supplies and or instructor fees. Again, do not miss out on an exciting summer of 4-H activities.