

NC STATE

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TEST: Agricultural News From Craven County Extension

1 message

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To: Mike Carroll <cmcarro2@ncsu.edu>

NC STATE

EXTENSION

NC Cooperative Extension, Craven Center

Agricultural Update



June 2024

In this Newsletter.....*Upcoming Events**Peanut Disease Management**Livestock Show Seeks Sponsors**Dealing with Drought....And Rain!**H2A Worker Hourly Guarantee Relief**Beans Gone Wild!**Podcast*

Important Note: Registration deadline for events listed below will vary from as few as 24 hours prior the event to as much as 3-4 days prior the event so please register as much in advance as possible. Also, while attendance is open to anyone, meals, when served, will only be provided for those that register in advance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: Most events provide NCDA & CS pesticide credits as well as CCA credits. Check details of the events at the [NCSU Field Days Calendar](#) or local NC Cooperative Extension webpages

2024 Tobacco Day - Review and discuss ongoing research with NCSU faculty, NCDA & CS

faculty and industry from 9 am - 1 pm at the Cunningham Research Station, [200 Cunningham Rd, Kinston, NC 2850](#). Registration required for meal the noon meal. Register [HERE](#).

Pamlico Farm Tour - This year's event will take place on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, starting at Anderson Family Farms in Olympia, [NC \(2030 Olympia Rd., New Bern, NC 28560\)](#). Topics of discussion and speakers will include:

- Dr. Ron Heiniger NCSU - Corn Biologicals and Growth Enhancement
- Dr. Chad Poole NCSU - Irrigation Scheduling & Soil Moisture Sensing Technology
- Mike Carroll Craven Extension - Plant Science Initiative Cover Crop Biomass Assessment
- Daniel Simpson Pamlico Extension - Soybean Growth Habit Trial Determinate vs. Indeterminate

This program will end with lunch provided at Brantley's Restaurant in Oriental, NC ([900 Broad St., Oriental, NC 28571](#)). The Pamlico County Farm Tour has been applied for 1.0 hour (N,O,D,X) of pesticide renewal credits. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED** via Eventbrite [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) for the complete Tour Map. If you have any questions, dietary restrictions, or need to make an accommodation request related to a disability, please contact Erin Richey (email: Erin_Richey@ncsu.edu) or (252) 745-4121.

Blackland Farm Managers Tour - This tour will be held August 7th, 2024 at the Tidewater Research Station, [207 Research Station Rd, Plymouth, NC](#). Registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. and the wagons will depart from the station at 8:30 a.m. A sponsored breakfast and lunch will be provided. NC State Extension Specialists will speak on the latest research in corn and soybean production, as well as insect, disease, weed, and water management. Pesticide and CCA Credits will be available. A full agenda is available [HERE](#). Registration is found [HERE](#)

NCDA & CS Pesticide Division Pesticide Exams Near Us

Exams provided by the NCDA & CS Pesticide Division relatively near us are listed below. To register, visit their [webpage](#) or call 919-733-3556.

- August 6, 2024 in New Bern, at the Craven Co Agricultural Bldg. 300 Industrial Dr.

For those wishing to take the NC Pesticide School prior to the exam, information for dates, location and fees for these classes is found at the [NCDA & CS Pesticide Division's website](#).

For individuals wishing immediate testing, [online exams](#) are an option.

If you desire other meetings or similar meetings in other counties, all meetings, field days, commodity events, etc. within the state are listed [HERE](#)

- If you would rather obtain NCDA & CS pesticide credits online, click [HERE](#)



Peanut Disease Management

While we can often think that rainfall is directly related to leaf spot development, temperature and relative humidity in the peanut canopy are drivers for epidemics of leaf spot disease in peanut. Even under drought conditions, we may have temperatures and dew points high enough to result in a disease. Use the Peanut Disease Advisory to help take out some of the guess work. Dr. LeAnn Lux began the leaf spot advisory in July 2024. If you are not already on the subscription list, reach out to LeAnn (lr lux@ncsu.edu). Or, if preferred, visit the [NC Peanut Disease Information](#) directly.

Livestock Show Seeks Sponsors

The Jones, Craven, Pamlico Livestock Show is seeking sponsors to cover expense needed for youth to show and compete in the upcoming August livestock show. If you are interested, please contact the Jones County Extension office at 252-448-9621.

For more information regarding the show or sponsorship, read the article, [Jones, Craven, Pamlico Livestock Show](#).

Dealing with Drought.....and Rain!

CORN

Much of the corn yield within this area has been severely reduced since reproductive stages occurred when we had extreme heat and lack of any soil water. However, not all corn should be abandoned. Dr. Ron Heininger wrote an article relating how to best determine whether potential yield is possible. Read the article, "[*It Is a Drought! When Should I Give Up on My Corn Crop?*](#)"

If the corn crop is a complete failure, limited options are available for any type of salvage. If you know someone with the equipment, it is possible to harvest for silage. Even so, it is probably a good idea to have the corn tested for nitrate concentration since this can cause damage to livestock. Similarly, grazing the stalks may pose the same risks. High nitrate concentrations in the stalk can cause severe damage or death to livestock. Testing is the only means to ensure safety. The forage analysis form and process is now completely online. Visit

<https://apps.ncagr.gov/AgRSysPortalV2/forageanalysisreport>, select "Forage Analysis Report" on the top right and proceed.

For abandoned corn, evaluation regarding the destruction of stalks now or later will need to be considered. If the field has very limited seed development on the cobb, then leaving the plant upright may reduce the number of weeds that grow to produce seeds that will be a problem for future crops. Conversely, if viable corn seeds developed on the cobb, mowing or disking now may cause these corn seeds to germinate now rather than becoming a weed for next season's crop. Having thusly said, one cannot mow or disk green stalk easily. There is not "right" answer. Choose what you feel is best for the field.

SOYBEAN

For most soybean planted, growth is slower than normal and plants are small but the plant still has time to make adequate recovery if ample rainfall occurs for the rest of the season. The exception will be fields planted early with a very early maturing variety. If these early maturing varieties have bloomed and small pods are developing, potential yield is probably mostly determined. Conversely, latter planted or later maturing varieties that have not bloomed or are just beginning to bloom still have time to develop good yield. This is not to say that some yield potential has been lost. It has. However, we still have ample opportunity for outstanding soybean yield provided we continue to receive rainfall.

If fields were not planted by June 30th, report this information to the FSA and your insurance agent. If insurance allows, and you prefer to take a chance on late planted soybeans, then aim for a mid-Group 5 to Group 7 soybean. Data from NCSU shows that these generally perform better than earlier maturity Groups. Having thusly stated, some of the Group 3 and Group 4 soybean planted as late as August have indeed yielded well, but they must have adequate rainfall and not experience extreme heat. If these climatic conditions are forecasted (and when or they not, it's July and August!), avoid the earlier maturing groups.

The extreme drought has also revealed some other issues. The high temperatures along with lack of rainfall has resulted in smaller root systems. These smaller roots simply cannot scavenge for nutrients very well. If fertility levels are marginal, then nutrient deficiency will show. This has been true commonly for potassium and manganese. Fortunately, manganese can be remedied by foliar application of 0.5 lb/ac of actual manganese. The best solution for potassium deficiency is to broadcast adequate amounts of this nutrient to correct the deficiency. As such, this may or may not be possible this year. (Sorry, but foliar products will not supply sufficient potassium to aid the plant). Should you notice adverse growth or color in soybeans that you cannot diagnose, give us a call and we will be glad to assist. It may simply be inadequate fertility.

Corn earworms are projected to be a bit earlier and the population higher than normal. It is tempting to assume that potential yield is too poor to justify the added expense of controlling this pest. However, this is incorrect. When left untreated, corn earworms will eat about the same number of pods whether the yield potential is 20 bu/ac or 60 bu/ac. So, it still merits scouting and treating when the threshold is reached. Too the economic threshold varies according to price and yield to aid in this decisions! Check out the [Corn Earworm Threshold Calculator](#)! Lastly, Dr. Dominc Reisig's article, [Corn Earworms Are Early in Soybeans, Populations Are High, and Moths Are Flying](#), points out that this data as well as effective products to use.



COTTON

Cotton continues to grow in spite of much less than ideal conditions. Most, if not all has begun to bloom. Ideally, we'd like to keep the number of first position blooms and new growth between 4-6 for this time of the year. Decreasing number of fruiting branches between the current bloom and the crop terminal leaf indicates stress and that the plant may cut out, or stop flowering. Should this occur, the plant can and will continue to bloom once rainfall/favorable conditions return but it may take 2 weeks for this new growth to occur. So, for many cotton fields, we will need to monitor the bloom position prior to ANY added product, with the exception of an insecticide.

Dr. Guy Collins & Dr. Keith Edmisten, NCSU Crop & Soil Science wrote an article, [Crop Status Now That Cotton Is Entering the Bloom Period](#) discussing this issue in detail. Essentially, even if the number of positions between bloom and the terminal new leaf is 3, we are still okay as long as we receive periodic rainfall. Each rainfall will encourage new growth and keep the flowering position about three or so. However, once this position is less than 3, it usually means the cotton plant will cease flowering and mature the existing fruit. As stated earlier, if this happen early enough in the season, cotton will begin new growth. If not, cotton will simply fill the existing bolls to maturity and cease for a very early harvest. It is entirely too soon to make any speculation. At the time of writing, scattered showers are evident. It will all depend upon rainfall!

PEANUTS, TOBACCO & SWEET POTATO

Tobacco, sweet potatoes and peanuts are more tolerant of the longer, hot & dry conditions than other crops. With rainfall, they will rapidly progress. Simply monitor for pest and apply pesticides as needed. For all of these crops, one may notice temporary nutrient deficiencies if this rapid new growth occurs. This is not uncommon since these plants may have a smaller, limited root system that may at least temporarily be unable to support such rapid growth.

Peanuts, in spite of the smaller plant size, are progressing and should recover rapidly if rainfall continues. Ensure that pegs are forming small pods. It is not uncommon for pegs to fail on very hot, coarse sands during extreme drought. If the pegs do not form small pods, this will limit yield to pods set only on the primary root. As with other crops, the return of frequent rainfall can make a dramatic difference in yield. So, it is not yet time to abandon this crop.

H2A Worker Hourly Guarantee Relief

For those with H2A workers that have not been able to provide the guaranteed hours of a contract, a few options are available. The following is an email (verbatim) sent to us.

NC SWA is writing in regards to the weather/drought conditions in NC, and the impacts on H2A farm labor.

There are numerous calls being made to outreach staff with reports of a number of workers stating that they are not able to work due to weather/drought conditions. The workers are, in many cases, saying that they are not being paid while they are not working, and some are not able to purchase food and other necessities.

As the employer is obligated, under 20 CFR 655.122(i), to pay three-fourths wages (see policy citation listed in full below) to the workers, NC SWA thought it was important to provide information on options for H2A labor during this troubling time for the farmers in NC.

We realize that the crop damage/loss from the drought is a tremendously detrimental situation, and will likely get worse through the summer: For this reason, we are sharing options for how Employer/FLC/Growers can handle the labor situation surrounding the drought and resulting crop damage.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), the federal policy that governs the H2A program, gives direction on how to handle situations when the workers will not be needed for the entire contract period, or the Employer/FLC/Grower will need a reduction in the number of workers needed; specifically, Contract Impossibility.

Below we have included the policy found in 20 CFR for both Contract Impossibility and Three-Fourths Guarantee, as well as what the New Final Rule-published 11/14/2022, says about requesting reductions in the quantity of workers needed (highlighted in the past paragraph).

If the Employer/FLC/Grower is not able to fulfill the contract for H2A workers due to the weather

conditions in NC, please read through the policy listed below to consider requesting Contract Impossibility through TLC.Chicago@dol.gov. The Certifying Officer (CO) will make the final determination, but NC SWA will do what we can to help expedite your request. We are here to help in any way we can. The H2A Team has compiled a number of articles and graphs to substantiate the claims that agriculture in NC is being severely impacted by the weather/drought conditions. We will provide that information to CNPC on your behalf, if needed.

If you are requesting Contract Impossibility, please include NC SWA in your correspondence to TLC.

[20 CFR 655.122\(o\) Contract Impossibility:](#)

(o) Contract impossibility. If, before the expiration date specified in the work contract, the services of the worker are no longer required for reasons beyond the control of the employer due to fire, weather, or other Act of God that makes the fulfillment of the contract impossible, the employer may terminate the work contract. Whether such an event constitutes a contract impossibility will be determined by the CO. In the event of such termination of a contract, the employer must fulfill a three-fourths guarantee for the time that has elapsed from the start of the work contract to the time of its termination, as described in [paragraph \(i\)\(1\)](#) of this section. The employer must make efforts to transfer the worker to other comparable employment acceptable to the worker, consistent with existing immigration law, as applicable. If such transfer is not affected, the employer must:

- (1) Return the worker, at the employer's expense, to the place from which the worker (disregarding intervening employment) came to work for the employer, or transport the worker to the worker's next certified H-2A employer, whichever the worker prefers;
- (2) Reimburse the worker the full amount of any deductions made from the worker's pay by the employer for transportation and subsistence expenses to the place of employment; and
- (3) Pay the worker for any costs incurred by the worker for transportation and daily subsistence to that employer's place of employment. Daily subsistence must be computed as set forth in [paragraph \(h\)](#) of this section. The amount of the transportation payment must not be less (and is not required to be more) than the most economical and reasonable common carrier transportation charges for the distances involved.

[20 CFR 655.122\(i\) Three-Fourths Guarantee:](#)

(1) Offer to worker. The employer must guarantee to offer the worker employment for a total number of work hours equal to at least three-fourths of the workdays of the total period beginning with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment or the advertised contractual first date of need, whichever is later, and ending on the expiration date specified in the work contract or in its extensions, if any.

(i) For purposes of this [paragraph \(i\)\(1\)](#), a workday means the number of hours in a workday as stated in the job order and excludes the worker's Sabbath and Federal holidays. The employer must offer a total number of hours to ensure the provision of sufficient work to reach the three-fourths guarantee. The work hours must be offered during the work period specified in the work

contract.

(ii) In the event the worker begins working later than the specified beginning date of the contract, the guarantee period begins with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment, and continues until the last day during which the work contract and all extensions thereof are in effect.

(iii) Therefore, if, for example, a work contract is for a 10-week period, during which a normal workweek is specified as 6 days a week, 8 hours per day, the worker would have to be guaranteed employment for at least 360 hours ($10 \text{ weeks} \times 48 \text{ hours/week} = 480 \text{ hours} \times 75 \text{ percent} = 360$). If a Federal holiday occurred during the 10-week span, the 8 hours would be deducted from the total hours for the work contract, before the guarantee is calculated.

Continuing with the above example, the worker would have to be guaranteed employment for 354 hours ($10 \text{ weeks} \times 48 \text{ hours/week} = (480 \text{ hours} - 8 \text{ hours (Federal holiday)}) \times 75 \text{ percent} = 354 \text{ hours}$).

(iv) A worker may be offered more than the specified hours of work on a single workday. For purposes of meeting the guarantee, however, the worker will not be required to work for more than the number of hours specified in the job order for a workday, or on the worker's Sabbath or Federal holidays. However, all hours of work actually performed may be counted by the employer in calculating whether the period of guaranteed employment has been met. If during the total work contract period the employer affords the U.S. or H-2A worker less employment than that required under this paragraph (i)(1), the employer must pay such worker the amount the worker would have earned had the worker, in fact, worked for the guaranteed number of days. An employer will not be considered to have met the work guarantee if the employer has merely offered work on three-fourths of the workdays if each workday did not consist of a full number of hours of work time as specified in the job order.

New Final Rule

61801-61802:

(o) Contract impossibility. If, before the expiration date specified in the work contract, the services of the worker are no longer required for reasons beyond the control of the employer due to fire, weather, or other Act of God that makes the fulfillment of the contract impossible, the employer may terminate the work contract. Whether such an event constitutes a contract impossibility will be determined by the CO.

In the event of such termination of a contract, the employer must fulfill a three-fourths guarantee for the time that has elapsed from the start of the work contract to the time of its termination, as described in paragraph (i)(1) of this section. The employer must make efforts to transfer the worker to other comparable employment acceptable to the worker, consistent with existing immigration law, as applicable.

If such transfer is not affected, the employer must:

(1) Return the worker, at the employer's expense, to the place from which the worker (disregarding intervening employment) came to work for the employer, or transport the worker

to the worker's next certified H- 2A employer, whichever the worker prefers;

(2) Reimburse the worker the full amount of any deductions made from the worker's pay by the employer for transportation and subsistence expenses to the place of employment; and

(3) Pay the worker for any costs incurred by the worker for transportation and daily subsistence to that employer's place of employment. Daily subsistence must be computed as set forth in paragraph (h) of this section. The amount of the transportation payment must not be less (and is not required to be more) than the most economical and reasonable common carrier transportation charges for the distances involved.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our H2A inbox at SVC_DWS_H2A.JobOrders.

We wanted to be proactive with this message and ensure our farmers and farmworkers know that we are here to help them anyway we can in this difficult growing season.



Beans Gone Wild!

As a reminder, Beans Gone Wild, is a website provided by NC State University that allows images of soybean problems diagnosed across the state (reviewed and confirmed by NCSU faculty prior to release) for all to view. This allows anyone to examine the images for comparison of similar observation in nearby fields as well as a means to document whether specific insects or disease problems are indeed migrating through the state. View these images at [Beans Gone Wild](https://www.ncsu.edu/beansgonewild/). Two recent post include spider mites and Fusarium Wilt in soybeans.

[Bean Binoculars](https://www.ncsu.edu/binoculars/) is a similar site recently launched as a collaborative effort with the goal of documenting and displaying soybean production issues from across the country.

Podcast

Two podcast that are released regularly by Extension regarding crop production within this area are listed below:

CropSense: Jacob Morgan, Director of Jones County Extension, produces weekly podcast with NCSU faculty and industry. If you would like to listen to these podcast, visit, <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1780395/12734496> or email him directly.

Corn Kernels - Dr. Ron Heiniger will post information regularly. See details in this newsletter under the section, "[Corn News](#)".

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Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the NC Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any product.

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<https://diversity.ncsu.edu/report-a-concern/>*

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