

NC STATE

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Agricultural News From Craven County ExtensionMike Carroll <mike_carroll@ncsu.edu>
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NC STATE EXTENSION

NC Cooperative Extension, Craven Center



Agricultural Update

June 2025

In this Newsletter.....**Upcoming Events****Swine, Poultry & Dairy Manure Study****Understanding the Carbon Market- Interview with Growers****Choosing a Soybean Variety for Late Planting****Dealing With Excessive Rainfall****Failed Plantings****NC Farm Helpline**

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

2025 Tobacco Field Day - On July 22, 2025 from 9am - 1pm, NC State University will present an overview of research and current tobacco production at the Oxford Research Station, 901 Hillsboro St, Oxford, NC. The trams will leave the main station at 9am for the field and return for lunch onsite. Please register at: <https://forms.gle/B7jJWT1kZRvDnFtj6>. Additional information or any updates will be provided at the NC State Extension Tobacco Web Portal.

2025 Blackland Farm Managers Tour will begin with a sponsored breakfast at 7:00 a.m. with opening remarks at 8:30 a.m. on August 6, 2025. Wagons depart for field tours at 8:45 a.m. North Carolina State Extension specialists will cover the latest corn and soybean production information. The field day concludes with a sponsored lunch. Pesticide and CCA credits will be available. More information is found at <https://blacklandnc.org/>

NOTE: Renovation and upgrades are scheduled for the Craven County Agricultural Building from September - December 2025. Thus, no meetings will be scheduled in the auditorium during this time.

Swine, Poultry & Dairy Manure Study

A recent research project of NC State will focus on how manure is marketed in North Carolina and explore ways to better connect livestock and poultry producers with purchasers or service providers who can assist with manure transport and management. The study will also aim to improve crop budgets to more accurately reflect the value and costs associated with using manure.

To make this project successful, NC State University needs your help. Throughout the summer, several interns will conduct about a 30 minute interview (either in person or by phone) with

volunteers. They are looking for

- Swine, poultry, and dairy producers
- Row crop and hay farmers
- Service providers such as agronomists, consultants, third-party haulers, and others involved in manure management
- Producers who do not use manure on their farms (their perspectives are also very important!)

The goal is to interview 200 participants this summer. If you are willing to serve as a volunteer for this short interview, please email or contact me at: mike_carroll@ncsu.edu or 252-633-1477. (Sorry, but we must have permission to provide your personal information and please note that your information and answers to the interview will only be used for the purpose of this research).

Understanding Carbon Market - Interview with Growers

Dr. Austin Menker is our Extension Cover Crop Specialist. He is seeking farmers that have discussed or enrolled in a carbon program. This is a very informal discussion, so we don't need specific details and are just trying to gauge the presence of these carbon programs and how farmers feel about them. If you can help, please contact us so he can call or visit you.

Choosing Soybean Varieties for Late Planting

The following link will lead to varietal selection options created by the NCSU Variety Selection Tool. Criteria used included double-cropped (since we are planting late), 70 bu/ac or greater, Coastal Plain as the region tested, and any maturity group 5.8 or higher. Use this should you need options for late planted soybean varieties (Scroll up and down for varietal traits and left to right for additional variety options)

[NC Variety Selection Tool Results](#)

Dealing with Excessive Rain

The continued rainfall events have resulted in poor, uneven crop growth for most crops. Too, seedling diseases have increased. Lastly, wet soils and frequent rainfall continues to delay planting. Below are some suggestions for dealing with repeated rainfall events.

Corn

As corn reaches reproductive stages, the plant has already taken up about 70% of the nitrogen it will use to make grain. Foliar applied products simply do not provide enough added nutrient to be of value. So for most, we must accept the yield with existing nitrogen rate. On a positive note, and as noted in this year's winter meetings as well as demonstrated over the past two years, modern corn varieties have the capability to produce 150-200 bu/ac with less nitrogen (N). Within our demonstrations 130 lbs/ac of actual N per acre provided 152, 181, and 182 bu/ac in Onslow, Craven and Pamlico, respectively. In fact rates above 150 lbs/ac frequently only resulted in 5-10 bu/ac more. Thus, N is NOT the limited yield factor. So, let' be positive and hope that corn will continue to grow. Simply be realistic and don't expect 200 bu/ac because excessively wet soils have already reduced yield potential. (Read more concerning potential yield with lower N rates in the article, "[How Much Can We Reduce Nitrogen Due to Higher Prices and Short Supply?](#)").

As for pest management, realize that stinkbugs are emerging in corn. Stinkbugs will be feeding on the base of small corn and near the fruiting structures of corn in reproductive stages. Too, multiple diseases have been noted but these diseases are minor and rarely cause yield loss. So, to manage these two pest, simply scout fields regularly. Consider treating for stinkbug as noted in the article, [Field Corn Insect Pests](#). Unless rust occurs, avoid the fungicide application. (To date, fungicide trials show no advantage to use of corn fungicides as a preventative or as a potential yield enhancement).

To aid in corn disease identification, refer to the key that Dr. Daisy Ahumada, NC State Extension Pathology Specialist created: [Dichotomous Key to Corn Leaf Spot Diseases](#). If

you can answer the simple "yes or no" questions, you can identify the disease! Management and other information for specific corn disease is found at the [Corn Disease Management webpage](#).

Cotton

Less than ideal plant population for cotton is common. Fortunately, cotton can compensate for the lower plant population! Too, it is way too late to replant. Where fields exist with a lower plant population, simply realize that the cotton plant will create more fruiting branches with more lateral fruit on these branches than normal. As such, these fields may require longer to mature.

Immediate management needs are 1) to ensure that thrips do not cause further delays on the smaller cotton; and, 2) monitor for tarnished plant bugs. As for thrip, simply apply an insecticide when a threshold is met unless the variety is a ThrivOn variety. These varieties do not need treatment. They recover on their own. As for the tarnished plant bug, monitor both the insect as well as the plant fruiting retention. If fruiting retention is low AND tarnished plant bugs exceed a threshold, then treatment is warranted. Specific products are recommended by region and dates. Read more in the article, [Insecticide Recommendations for Tarnished Plant Bug](#).

Cotton can withstand continued rains and wet soils once it begins a period of rapid growth. However, it can also grow too rapidly producing more leaves and stalk rather than fruiting structures. As such, some fields should be considered for plant growth regulator application. Rank, excessive growth is frequently associated with plants that receive frequent rainfall. This will especially be true if higher N rates were applied or if field were planted after mid-May. There are two differing methods listed in the *2025 Cotton Information* that use soil conditions, plant height history, date of first square, variety's typical height, square retention and height-to-node ratio. These charts not only aid in the decision process but also provide a recommended rate per acre. Refer to [pages 70-71 of the 2025 Cotton Information](#) publication.

Normally, we stop the discussion with this last statement but given conditions should warn that many early maturing varieties will begin rapid growth about now only to almost cease growth as the plant obtains about a 25-30 inch height. As such, avoid excessive rates or applications to these fields.

Soybeans

Fields with less than optimum plant population can be replanted or one can simply replant small sections of the field. Realize two important points. First, a complete replanting of a field may increase the probability of higher yield but this higher yield may still struggle to provide profit, if at all. The cost of more seed and fuel to plant may be adequate additional cost to negate any potential profit. As such, "touching up" the weaker spots may be a better option. Secondly, anything planted this late or later simply will not have the yield potential of soybeans planted earlier. In other words, even if fields are capable of 60-80 bu/ac when planted prior to early May, they will have much reduced yield simply due to later planting. Note that according to data, fields planted June 30th will only yield about 65% of a varieties full yield potential. Utilize the tools available on the [NC State Soybean Webpage](#) to aid in decisions.

Failed Planting or Prevented Planting

Failed plantings of many crops that we plant usually result in the option of replanting into soybeans. If herbicide used in the previous crop prohibits soybean planting, then there really are not good options. As such, given the current commodity prices and outlook, the best option may be to leave the field idle. If so, at least plan to disk the field or treat with a broad spectrum herbicide at least twice to reduce weeds seeds as well as prevent any perennial weeds from becoming established.



NC Farm Help Line

Tariffs, low economic prices, unpredictable weather, age, labor problems, and many other factors contribute to stress of farming. In fact, whether we like it or not, agriculture has one of , if not the highest, accidental death rates due to equipment use, as

well as the highest suicide rate for occupations. Do consider potential impact of things that can be a negative influence on production but please don't worry about things you cannot change! If you find yourself depressed, well, we can listen! If you are not comfortable discussing issues with us, help is available 24/7, through the Help Line that connects individuals experiencing a crisis or in need of other help with resources including mental health, financial, legal, farm safety/health, Cooperative Extension and more at 844-325-3276 or online at <https://ncfarmstress.org/crisis-and-resource-lines/>. Additionally, for tobacco producers, legal or labor assistance is available free from [GAP Connections](#)

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

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