

From: Jonathan Wall, Field Crops Agent

FIELD CROPS Newsletter May, 2016

Randolph County Center

112 West Walker Avenue
Asheboro, NC 27203
Telephone: (336) 318-6000
Fax: (336) 318-6011
URL: <http://randolph.ces.ncsu.edu/>

I'm Jonathan Wall, the field crops agent for Randolph County. Commodity funding has been provided allowing you to submit plant samples through NC Cooperative Extension for diagnosis. The crops funded are corn, soybean, cotton, tobacco, and small grains. The diagnosis is free of charge through Randolph County Cooperative Extension. If you are having an issue and wish to submit a sample, please contact me at the Randolph County Extension office at 336-318-6000 or email jhwall2@ncsu.edu.



Small Grains

There are several things to be on the lookout for in the heading/flowering stage for your wheat. Cool, wet weather below 80 degrees is ideal for powdery mildew. If your field is no-till and has corn residue, be on the lookout for head scab as well, if you are not incorporating a resistant variety. Vomitoxin levels associated with head scab may become too high for marketability. For more information on vomitoxin levels and scab, please view the video on the NCSU Small Grains website site at <http://www.smallgrains.ncsu.edu/crop-alerts.html>

Cereal Leaf Beetle (pictured top-right) has been spotted in the county. The economic threshold for cereal leaf beetle, according to NCSU Department of Entomology is 25 eggs and/or larvae per 100 tillers. Peak egg laying usually occurs in late April to early May. Because egg mortality can be significant, treat when the number of larvae exceeds that of the eggs.

Take-all has been a problem in Randolph County farms in the past. The disease has been present in Randolph County in prior years. Take-all can come from poor crop rotation. (Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.) Crop rotation is a critical component of your IPM and proper rotation is still the most effective means for eliminating disease.



Corn and Soybeans

If you are still working on planting your corn, you are in luck. According to recent NC State publications and research, corn that is planted in mid-May has often produced higher yield than corn planted in April or early May.

Changes in rainfall patterns have resulted in higher probabilities for rainfall in mid to late July. Late-season corn diseases such as southern rust becomes a concern when planting after May 15. The potential for weather damage also becomes greater. There have already been two accounts of hail in the southern part of the county in the past three weeks.

The official variety trials for corn, soybeans, and small grains are available at www.ncovt.com to help you make an informed decision on your seed purchases.

Cooperative Extension is working on a soybean variety demonstration and a soybean fungicide demonstration. The plots will be located off of New Hope road in Denton NC and has an accessible gravel road for parking. You are encouraged to stop by during the growing season and observe the fungicide variety trial. Randolph County Cooperative Extension will provide more information as the plans are finalized for this project.

'Roundup Ready 2 Extend' (RR2X) soybean varieties are becoming available on the market. According to Dr. Jim Dunphy, farmers should be aware of some significant concerns about use of these varieties. These Soybean seeds were not approved for sale in Europe, and unless Europe approves RR2X soybeans by harvest time, you will have to worry about keeping any RR2X soybeans from contaminating their legal commodity soybeans. Add on the reality that these varieties cannot be legally sprayed with any formulation of dicamba, you should also consider surrounding crops, such as tobacco, that could easily be damaged by dicamba drift.



North Carolina State University and North Carolina A & T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. 08/09

Upcoming Changes to Worker Protection Standard

I'm not sure whether many are aware on the new changes that will be going into affect January 2, 2017, but I want to make sure that you are. The website specifying all of the changes is <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard>. You can familiarize yourself with these new changes. Some of the highlights about these changes are: **1)** If you have to train your workers to handle pesticides, that training was required every 5 years, now it will be required each year. While I know that most of the farmers that get their H2A workers through the Grower's Association, this is something to keep in mind, if you have anyone else under your employment. **2)** Anyone under the age of 18 will not be allowed to handle pesticides. **3)** There will be additional paperwork that will have to be made available at your worker notification center. There are a few more changes going into effect, and they are on the website.

This newsletter contains pertinent information that I believe needs to be brought to your attention. It is quite a bit quicker to press send than to send a paper copy. If this newsletter is something that you would be interested in helping us with, please send me an email to jhwall2@ncsu.edu, with your name and which mail lists you are interested in (Field Crops, Corn, Small Grains, Tobacco, Soybeans) or if you think there is a list that I need to add. If you would like to be taken off this mailing list let me know, either by email, or calling our office, at 336-318-6000.

If you have any questions, please let me know