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CHESAPEAKE FARMLINE

October 29, 2009

VIRGINIA PRODUCERS EXPECT GOOD YIELDS IN 2009

Virginia farmers are experiencing better yields in 2009 than they did last year. Based on conditions as of October 1, Virginia corn yields are expected to be 128 bu./acre which is 5 bu./acre greater than last year. If realized, production would be 45.4 million bu. Up 24% from 2008.

Virginia's soybean yields are expected to be 37 bu./acre which is 5 bu./acre greater than last year. Production is estimated at 21.5 million bushels, up 18% from 2008. Harvest acres are at 580,000, up 10,000 acres from last year. Prices remain strong and a bit higher than last year with current prices between \$9-\$10/bu. Range.

Wheat was an exception to the rule. Virginia wheat averaged 58 bu./acre this year compared to the 71 bu./acre bumper crop produced in 2008. Prices for wheat fell dramatically with September 2008 wheat priced at \$7.60 compared with September 2009 wheat at \$3.74. However, fertilizer prices are generally lower this year than last.

Rainfall was the biggest factor in all cases. Too much rain as wheat was maturing actually contributed to some disease problems and lowered yield. However, the rain was good to most corn farmers. Soybeans show promise as we see good pod set in most fields.

Crop	Acres Planted			Acres for Harvest			Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
	Thousand Acres			Thousand Acres			Bushels			Bushels		
Corn for Grain	540	470	480	405	340	355	86	108	128	34,830	36,720	45,440
Soybeans	510	580	590	500	570	580	28	32	37	13,750	18,240	21,460
Winter Wheat	230	310	250	205	280	210	64	71	58	13,120	19,880	12,180

PRIVATE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION CLASSES

Farmers needing to recertify their private pesticide licenses (Category 90) will have an opportunity to attend a class **December 3rd at the Hickory Ruritan Club**. A choice of either a morning class **8:00-11:00 a.m.** or an evening class **6:00-9:00 p.m.**

Farmers can also recertify at the **Southeast Virginia Field Crop Conference February 4, 2010 at the Hickory Ruritan Club from 9:00 -2:30 p.m.** Both dates require no pre-registration. Just show up on time.

NEW CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities, and improving, maintaining and managing existing conservation activities. CSP rewards financially those farmers/landowners that are applying conservation practices and are willing to improve and adopt additional conservation practices.

CSP provides participants with two possible types of payments. An annual payment is available for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities. A supplemental payment may be earned by participants receiving an annual payment who also adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation. Payments are as follows: Cropland - \$12 to \$22 an acre, Nonindustrial Private Forestland (NIPF) - \$6 to \$12 an acre and Pastureland - \$7 - \$14 an acre.

For all contracts entered into, CSP payments to a person or legal entity may not exceed \$40,000 in any fiscal year and \$200,000 during any 5-year period. Contracts cover the eligible land in the entire agricultural operation. Each CSP contract will be limited to \$200,000 over the term of the initial contract period.

Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, Nonindustrial Private Forestland (NIPF), and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe. The sign-up for CSP is continuous.

For more information about the CSP Program please log on to www.nrcs.usda.gov and click on programs or contact your local NRCS office at 757-547-7172 ext 3.

FALL IS BEST TIME TO APPLY LIME

For farmers who have farmland committed for the following year, fall is the best time to lime. Lime requires several months to fully alter the soil pH. Movement of lime into the soil profile during the fall and winter allows the best use of money spent for lime.



Of course, it is best to soil test at least every 3-years. That is the only way to know if you are applying lime and fertilizer at rates needed by crops. Money spent on lime or fertilizer is well spent if it is necessary and improves yields. Soil testing is free to farmers at the VA Tech Soils Lab. Your Extension Office has the soil boxes and forms needed.

ADJUST WHEAT SEEDING RATE DURING PLANTING SEASON

As you get into the wheat planting season, you may need to adjust your seeding rate as the season gets later. Extension recommends increasing the seeding rate as you get into November planting. Use the following drill rate as a guideline for later plantings.

	<u>OPTIMAL PLANTING TIME -OCTOBER 20</u>		
	<u>(seeds/row foot)</u>		
	<u>Timely</u>	<u>Two weeks late</u>	<u>One month late</u>
7-inch rows drilled	20	22	24

2009 Chesapeake Corn Variety Comparison

Cooperators: **Producer:** Russell Temple
Soil Type: **Extension:** Watson Lawrence, Extension Agent
Planting Date: Dragston Fine Sandy Loam
Row Width: May 11, 2009
Population: 24 inches
Fertilizer: Approximately (26,500 seeds/acre)
Crop Protection: Broadcast: 670 lbs./acre 24-12-12
Corn Maturity: Atrazine 2 qt./acre + 1 qt. Crop Oil - Postemergence
Check Hybrid: Mid-season (108-112 Relative Maturity)
Harvest Date: Pioneer 34B94 YGCB
 October 9, 2009

Hybrid	Traits	% Moisture	Test Wt.	Yield	% of Check	Rank
Dynagro 57V70		15.9	55	N/A	N/A	-
Check		15.7	57	137.2		
Pioneer 1184	HR	16.0	57	196.2	123.9%	1
Check		15.7	57	137.2		
Doeblers RPM628	HRQ	15.7	58	165.5	103.8%	7
Check		15.7	58	143.6		
Augusta A06-06	CBLL	15.9	55	175.7	110.9%	5
Check		16.4	58	155.9		
TA Seeds TA 688	CBLL	16.5	55	186.3	117.6%	2
Check		16.2	58	147.1		
Hubner H5555	VT3	16.4	55	181.2	114.4%	4
Check		16.7	58	176.9		
Southern States 647	VT3	16.2	54	162.7	102.7%	8
Check		16.0	57	172.1		
Mid-Atlantic 8150	VP	16.4	55	182.4	115.2%	3
Check		16.2	58	149.7		
Hubner H5462	VT3	15.7	56	127.8	80.2%	12
Check		16.3	59	164.5		
Mycogen 2P686	HXXTRA	16.6	57	147.2	92.9%	11
Check		16.3	58	173.8		
Garst 83X61	3000GT	16.5	55	170.3	107.5%	6
Check		16.6	58	166.4		
Northrup King N68B		16.1	56	157.5	99.4%	9
Check		15.9	58	163.8		
Dekalb DKC 62-54	YGCB	16.5	57	156.9	99.1%	10
Check		16.8	59	169.8		
CHECK AVERAGE:		16.2	58	158.3	100%	

SOYBEAN RUST UPDATE

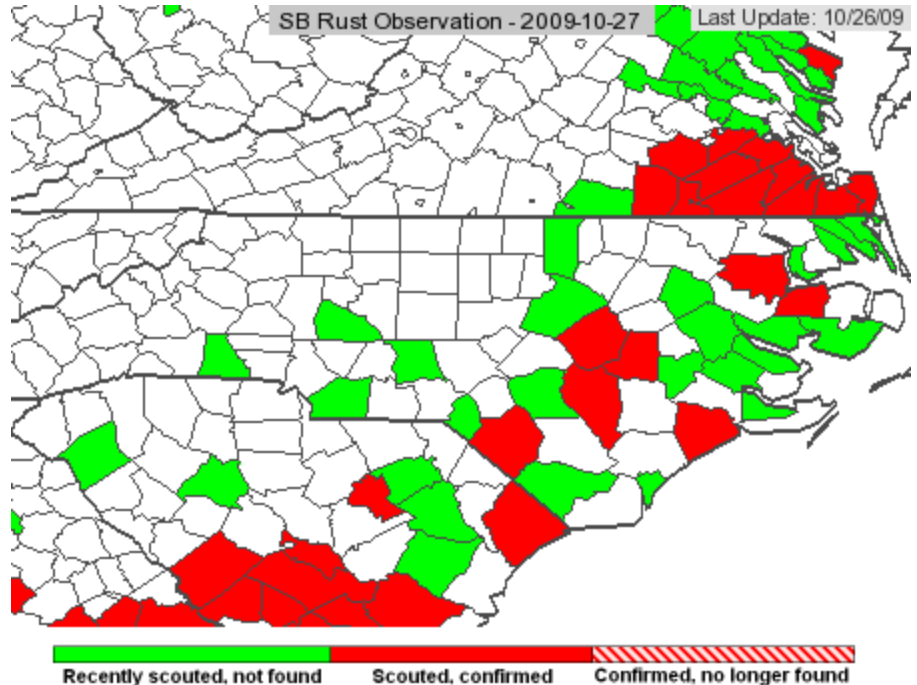
Soybean rust has made its way into Virginia for the 4th consecutive year. Rust was first confirmed at the Research Farm in Suffolk on September 29th. It was confirmed in Chesapeake on October 19th. Rust has now been confirmed in 12 Virginia cities/counties.

Farmers were advised not to spray fungicides because the disease was identified after most fields were in the R6 stage of development (mature pods).

Rust cannot survive winters in Virginia and must overwinter in Florida and rely upon wind currents to spread its spores northward to reach us.

We have been fortunate not to have had the disease until late in the growing season.

The real concern is if and when the spores are carried by wind currents, such as a storm early in the summer and inoculate plants before pod fill is complete. This disease has proven to be devastating because of its rapid defoliation of leaves in the southern hemisphere. For this reason, soybean rust will continue to get much attention so farmers can get advance notice to spray fungicides as a preventive or treatment when the threat warrants.



DATES TO REMEMBER: (contact our office for more information 382-6348)

- December 3 Private Pesticide Recertification - Hickory Ruritan Club – Chesapeake
- January 6-7 Eastern Shore Ag Conference - Moose Lodge, Belle Haven, VA
- February 4 Southeast Virginia Field Crop Conference - Hickory Ruritan Club - Chesapeake
- February 11 Virginia Soybean and Grain Association Annual Conference
- February 18 Virginia Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting - Williamsburg

If you are a person with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services or other accommodations for any Chesapeake Extension event, please discuss your accommodation needs with the Extension staff at (757) 382-6348 at least one week prior to the event.

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Cooperative Extension is implied. If you need additional information, please give us a call.

Sincerely,

M. Watson Lawrence, Jr.
Extension Agent, Agriculture