

December 23, 2019

To: Pasquotank Producers

From: Alton E. Wood, Jr. 
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Re: **Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday and a Prosperous 2020!!**
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Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday and a Prosperous 2020!!
Looking Ahead

2019 was a challenge to say the least and probably as a whole it was just an average year in terms of yield. This is one of those years that you just want to pay out, remember those things that you can change or improve on in the future and forget the rest. It has truly been a pleasure to work with you all in 2019 and I look forward to working with you in 2020. I do hope that you all **have a HAPPY HOLIDAY AND A PROSPEROUS 2020.**

With the extra demands put on producers to stay profitable because of higher input costs and a potentially volatile grain market, it is necessary to be armed with the information and tools to stay profitable. **The questions that we must ask ourselves are three-fold. First, what can I do different or better to improve my profits and to make my farming operation run smoother. Second, what are the challenges that I will be faced with this coming year that I need to take in consideration or start addressing now. Third, am I doing the best that I can do in marketing my crops as well as managing my risk as good as I should.**

To help producers get answers to these questions, the Pasquotank County Center has put together a slate of meetings that are included in this newsletter. I hope that each of you will take advantage of these information filled programs. **In addition, some of these meetings have pesticide recertification credits associated with them for both the private pesticide applicator and many categories for commercial pesticide applicators as well as Certified Crop Advisor Credits.** If you plan to attend any of these meetings, please call 338-3954 and register at least a day in advance.

31st Annual Joint Commodities Conference

The **31st annual joint commodities conference will be on January 8 - 10, 2020** at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about issues affecting the crops you grow such as corn, soybean, cotton, and wheat. For more information as well as to register, you can go to <http://nccommoditiesconference.com/>.

NC Soybean Festival

Plans are underway for the NC Soybean Festival. **It will be on Tuesday, January 21st at the K.E. White Building on ECSU campus. The doors will open at 5:30pm for the public to view exhibits and the program will start at 6:00pm.** As usual, we will be recognizing soybean yield contest and poster contest winners of the fourth-grade students from Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, and Perquimans. If you plan to attend, please contact the Pasquotank County Center at 252-338-3954.

Auxin Label Changes

Changes were made to the auxin herbicide labels for 2019 and will apply in 2020. Among those are the following:

For people applying dicamba over the top in dicamba tolerant crops, the label says:

- **Only certified applicators can spray**
- **Must take auxin stewardship training (which are provided by Extension, winter meeting list)**

With the dicamba label, this will require two things. First, if the person that operates the sprayer does not have a private (farmer) pesticide applicator license, then that person will have to get one. Second, in addition to getting the license, they will have to attend the auxin stewardship training. If you do not have the license, then you have to have your license before the auxin training or within 60 days of taking the auxin training.

For people applying 2,4-D over the top in 2,4-D tolerant crops:

- **Applicators do not have to be a certified applicator to spray (can spray under the supervision of a certified applicator)**

- Must take the auxin stewardship training

With the 2,4-D label, this will require the person spraying to be supervised by a certified applicators' license as well as get auxin steward training.

In preparation for the testing, there will be a review session on Monday, January 27th at the Pasquotank County Center from 10:00am to 12:00 noon with a break from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm. At 1:00pm testing will begin. There is a fee of \$10 for taking the test so come prepared to pay.

A slate of auxin stewardship trainings located across the state will be conducted in the coming months. There will be two in northeast North Carolina. **For Camden, Currituck, and Perquimans counties it will be on Tuesday, February 4th from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at the Currituck Co. Ext. Center, 120 Community Way, Barco, NC. The other one for Chowan, Gates, and Perquimans will be on Tuesday, January 21st from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Leon Nixon's Catering, 749 Virginia Rd., Edenton, NC.**

For additional information on this topic including the other label changes, you can go to the following link:

<https://cotton.ces.ncsu.edu/2019/12/2020-schedule-auxin-herbicides-best-management-practices/>.

If you have questions, please contact us at 252-338-3954.

Farmworkers Worker Protection Standard Training

One of the changes made to worker protection standard in the last couple of years is the requirement for workers (not including family members) on farms to comply with worker protection standards training for chemical handlers (involved with the application of the pesticide) and workers (others that work on the farm not involving pesticides) to obtain the training prior to working on the farm as well as the training required annually. **This requirement is something that growers have the responsibility to make certain their workers have (unless they have already had it in the current year) and if they do not have it, to provide it. In addition, the growers must have documentation that each worker has had the training.** This is something that the NCDA&CS Pesticide Inspectors will check for among other things.

To help growers fulfill this requirement, the Pasquotank County Center will be providing the training on Friday, January 17th from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. Please call our office at 252-338-3954 to make reservations for your workers to attend. When they complete the training, we will provide the growers with a document that shows who has received the training.

**Pasquotank-Camden-Currituck-Perquimans-Chowan
USDA-FSA Crop Report Deadlines**

Failure to meet deadlines in 2020 for crop reporting will result in late fees being applied. If you have questions or would like to report your planted crops, please contact your local USDA-Farm Service Agency at 338-1070 extension 2 or 426-5802 extension 2 for appointments.

Crop Reporting Deadlines, by 4:30PM on the days listed here:

January 15th – wheat and all fall seeded grain crops

May 15th – spring cabbage and potatoes

July 15th – corn, soybeans, cotton, peanuts, grain sorghum and all other crops

September 15th – fall cabbage

2020 Pesticide License Testing

The Pasquotank County Center is hosting two testings for people desiring to obtain a commercial pesticide or private (farmer) pesticide license. The test will be held on **Wednesday, March 11th, and Wednesday, November 18th**. The testing will take place at the Pasquotank County Center located at **1209 McPherson St, Elizabeth City and will begin at 1:00pm**. Anyone coming for the testing should bring a picture ID and a calculator. Also, if you are taking the test for a government job you should also bring the address for your place of employment since it will be needed when you sign up to take the test. **A review session in preparation for the testing will be held on Tuesday, March 3rd, and Friday November 13th, with both of them being from 9:00am – 12:00 noon at the Pasquotank County Center.** If you plan to attend any of these, please call the Extension Center at 252-338-3954 to register.

Corn, Soybean and Wheat: A Review and What to Consider

2019 ranged from some poor, mostly good to a few excellent yields for corn, soybean, and wheat. **It is some of those challenges in 2019 and anticipation of potential challenges for 2020 that I would like to share with you.**

Wheat

The 2018-2019 wheat crop was reasonably good considering the weather we had for much of the growing season. The best wheat was primarily that planted by the end of October. It had its challenges from basically planting through most of the growing season. We had next to no problem with scab this year (aka fusarium head blight), but is something we need to keep on the radar. One thing that I use to monitor the conditions and potential problems with this disease is the Penn State Fusarium Head Blight Prediction Center found at the following URL: <http://www.wheatcab.psu.edu/>.

With what we saw with the last crop and looking forward to the 2020, consider the following:

- **Take advantage of favorable weather** to do things needed by the crop such as nitrogen management and timely applications of herbicides (don't let annual ryegrass get the best of you and watch out for the occasional field that gets heavy infestations of annual bluegrass (aka wintergrass). **The postemergence herbicides such as Osprey and Axial work best when ryegrass is not too big. Read label on size and number of tillers of the weedy grasses. Although, it's past time to consider, some growers are getting outstanding results from pre-emergence products and it is taking some pressure off the postemergence products to control ryegrass.**
- **Check tiller numbers in January** to get an indication about whether a timely split application of nitrogen is needed (some growers put on 3 or more). Observe your crop in helping you about managing it.
- **Specifically watch for pest** such as insects and take action at the appropriate time.
- **Our higher end yields (not our highest) are running in the 80's and 90 plus bushel per acre yield and to break that barrier there are two things I feel need to be considered.** First thing is drainage. I know with the current grain prices, we cannot afford to do much land shaping or drainage, but one thing we can do is to keep the majority of our acreage on our better drained soils. Second, is our attention to fertility, which includes a refinement of nitrogen application rate and timing as well as closer attention to micronutrients. Also, with tighter emission standards and other factors, we are getting little to no free sulfur and it showed up this year in some wheat. Make certain that you have supplied the sulfur needed by the crop.
- **An additional place that you can keep up with information about the current wheat crop in the county can be found at our Pasquotank Extension Center website, "Reporting from the wheat field in Pasquotank County"**
<https://pasquotank.ces.ncsu.edu/2018/04/reporting-from-the-wheat-field-in-pasquotank-county/>

Corn

With the adverse growing season, we have had this year, I was not expecting a good corn crop. After talking with growers once the crop was in, I had a number of growers say that their crop did better than they were expecting. At best, it was just an average to better than average year. The hot dry weather we had from mid-May to mid-June, the first week in July and later in the grower season resulted in a few fields at 100% crop loss. A timely rain or better soil water management made all the difference this year. Some spots in the area had problems with stink bugs. To help provide what we currently know about stinkbugs, Dr. Dominic Reisig will be conducting a meeting this winter as well as Dr. Heiniger will be sharing his insight as to what will be the best strategy to get maximum profitable yields.

With all that is going on in the grain markets such as tariffs, and negotiations on trade agreements, no one really knows what the future holds in terms of grain prices. Also, with so much uncertainty of what kind of crop we have in the US with corn and to some degree soybeans, it may be a while before we get an idea of the ending stocks, which can have a major impact on grain prices. **The main thing I would say is to look at your cost of production for**

soybean and corn as well as your yield potential for each and then decide what you think would be your best mix of crop acreages for 2020. **A workshop is planned for this winter where growers can learn about crop budgets and get information on the grain market outlook for 2020.**

Soybean

The 2019 soybean crop was challenging and the biggest issue with the early planted, early maturing soybean was being able to harvest the crop in a timely manner to avoid damage as well as some fields staying green and not shedding leaves. Stink bugs are coming into soybean fields in large numbers at R6 (late grain fill) or slightly later, which is when we think we can quit scouting, but some fields are getting hammered with stink bug damage.

So, what can we take from this crop in preparation for the 2020 crop.

- From what I am seeing, **growers are developing strategies to get higher soybean yields.** Continue on the quest for improvement.
- **The issue of plants staying green and not dropping leaves then subsequent delayed harvest soybeans cannot** be ignored. This is occurring more frequently with MG4 and 5 varieties planted early. Researchers are becoming increasingly convinced many green stem issues observed across the state can be attributed to some environmental limiting factors for pod and seed development, which results in excess photosynthate in the stem with nowhere to go. Please see this article from NC State Extension Specialists to learn more about green stem: <https://soybeans.ces.ncsu.edu/2019/11/soybean-green-stem/>
- Despite some green stem issues, **we still had some excellent yields with the MG 3's and 4's this year. I would not recommend planting more than 10 – 15% of my soybean acreage to an early maturing variety at an early planting date unless you have had lots of experience with it as well as have taken into consideration other factors (such as timely harvest, arrangements with local elevator, driers and grain bins, etc.).** One thing that growers may look at with the early maturing varieties is early planting dates on productive well drained soils in locations with the least likelihood of a late-spring frost and/or freeze. Deciding how early of a planting date is going to be critical. We may also be able to consider some later maturing varieties with the early planting dates. Let's see what Dr. Vann's study of maturity group x planting date x seeding rate test shows at the January 14th meeting.

2019 NC Soybean Official Variety Testing Results

The 2019 NC Soybean Official Variety Test results is available. Although the results are no longer published as a hardcopy green book, it can be obtained online at <http://www.ncovt.com/>. Pasquotank County had a soybean OVT with Charles Gray and Son's and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Respirator Fit Test/Medical Clearance Clinic

Of the major changes in Worker Protection Standards (WPS) in the last several years, one of those deals with personal protective equipment. The change in personal protective equipment will be consistent with Department of Labor's - Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards for ensuring respirators are effective, including fit test, medical evaluation and training.

Any pesticide that requires a respirator, including the N95, which is a two-strap filtering particulate respirator, the person using the respirator must have a medical evaluation and fit test as well as training on how to use and maintain the respirator. To assist people in being in-compliance, a respirator fit test/medical clearance clinic is being hosted by the Extension Centers of Camden, Currituck and Pasquotank.

The clinic will be conducted on **Monday, February 10th from 10:00am to 12:00 noon at Henderson & Associates, Inc. located at 330 Camden Causeway, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.** Those coming must **bring the respirator they will be using on the farm** for the fit test to be done. Both the fit test and medical clearance will be done, but you must first have the medical clearance to be fit tested. **Although there is no charge for the fit test, the medical clearance cost \$40 so bring money.**

Changes in Paraquat Labels

(Note: Paraquat is sold by various Trade Names)

All pesticide products containing paraquat-dichloride ("paraquat") are restricted-use pesticides. Trade names include, but may not be limited to the following – Gramoxone, Para-SHOT, Parazone, Quick-Quat, Firestorm, or Helmquat.

New labeling of these products (appearing as soon as this month, December 2019) requires that any person who intends to use paraquat must be a certified private applicator (or licensed in an appropriate category), and is required to successfully complete the "How to Safely Use and Handle Paraquat-Containing Pesticides" training. "Use" includes mixing and loading the pesticide; applying the pesticide; and other pesticide-related activities, such as transporting or storing opened pesticide containers, cleaning equipment, and disposing of excess pesticides, pesticide containers, and other paraquat-containing materials. The paraquat training certificate is not required for purchasing the product, but an RUP certificate or pesticide license is.

****Noncertified persons** working under the supervision of a certified applicator are **prohibited** from using paraquat including any of the "use" activities mentioned above.**

The online training is being revised by the National Pesticide Safety Education Center (NPSEC) and is expected to be available early-January 2020. Spanish versions of the online training (both Mexican Spanish and Puerto Rican Spanish) are expected to follow the English version. **However, applicators don't have to wait until early January to complete the training;**

the current training is available and still valid. Access it online at www.usparaquattraining.com.

New labels will include a link to the online training. Once the certified applicator successfully completes the training, a certificate will be automatically generated. Per the new labeling, applicators are required to retain certificates of training completion. The training must be retaken every **three years**.

☐ **EPA is allowing the sale of paraquat that is already in the channels of trade, so some paraquat available for purchase may NOT have the new training requirement on the label.**

☐ **Growers that currently have a supply of paraquat that DOES NOT have the new labeling listing the required training ARE NOT required to complete the training.**

For a complete overview of the requirements see: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applicators>.

Social Media: Twitter

One of the things that the NC Cooperative Extension Pasquotank County Center strives to do is to provide information via a variety of avenues. They include meetings, newsletters, phonevite, and newspaper articles. One that I have started using in the last year is Twitter. I primarily use it to keep people aware of what Extension is doing in the county/region, but also, I will sometimes put information about things I see in the field that would be of interest to growers. If you have a Twitter account or would be interested in starting a Twitter account, **you can follow me with @aewood73.**

2020 Pasquotank Producer Winter Meeting Schedule

Date/Time	Location	Topic	Speaker	Pesticide/Certified Crop Advisor Credits
Wednesday – Friday January 8 - 10, 2020	Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Durham, NC	31 st Annual Joint Commodities Conference	You can register online for the conference and pay online at	None
Tuesday, January 14, 2020 6:00pm – 8:30pm Meal - Topside	Pasquotank Extension Center	Maximizing Profitable Soybean Yields; Utilizing Poultry Litter;	Dr. Rachel Vann, Soybean Extension Specialist; Dr. Steph Kulesza, Soil Extension Specialist; Dr. Luciano Gatiboni, Extension Soil Specialist	Private Applicator: 2 hours X Commercial Applicator: 2 hours D, N, O Certified Crop Advisor: 1 credit Nutrient Management & Crop Management
Friday, January 17, 2020 8:30am – 12:00 noon	Pasquotank Extension Center	Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification: Pest Resistance Management	Al Wood, Extension Agent, Agriculture	Private Applicator: 3.5 hours of X Commercial Applicator: 3.5 hours of A, B, D, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, and T
Friday, January 17, 2020 2:00pm – 3:00pm	Pasquotank Extension Center	Farmworkers Worker Protection Standard Training (annual training required under WPS)	Al Wood, Extension Agent, Agriculture	Documentation for farmers verifying their workers have had training
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 Exhibits – 5:30pm Program – 6:00pm Meal - Topside	Kermit E. White Center, ECSU	NC Soybean Festival		None

Date/Time	Location	Topic	Speaker	Pesticide/Certified Crop Advisor Credits
<p>Thursday, January 23, 2020 6:00pm – 8:30pm</p> <p>Meal - Topside</p>	<p>Pasquotank Extension Center</p>	<p>Maximizing Profitable Corn Yield;</p> <p>Grain Market Outlook</p>	<p>Al Wood, Extension Agent, Agriculture</p> <p>Dr. Ron Heiniger, Cropping Systems Specialist NCSU;</p> <p>Nick Lassiter, NCDA&CS, Grain Marketing Specialist</p>	<p>Private Applicator: 2 hours X</p> <p>Commercial Applicator: 2 hours of D, N, O</p> <p>Certified Crop Advisor: 2 hours Crop Management</p>
<p>Friday, January 24, 2020 8:00am – 12:00 noon</p> <p>8:00am – 10:00am (V)</p> <p>10:00am – 12:00 noon Commercial and X</p>	<p>Pasquotank Extension Center</p>	<p>Private Pesticide Applicator V&X Recertification Class</p>	<p>Al Wood, Extension Agent, Agriculture</p> <p>Clay Hudson, NCDA, Pesticide Inspector</p>	<p>Private Applicator: 2 hours of V & X</p> <p>Commercial Applicator: 2 hours of A, B, D, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, T</p>
<p>Monday, January 27, 2020 10:00am – 12:00 noon review</p> <p>1:00pm – 3:00pm - testing</p>	<p>Pasquotank Extension Center</p>	<p>Review for Testing and Testing for Private Pesticide Applicator License (to help people that apply dicamba and paraquat to meet requirement of label)</p>	<p>Al Wood, Extension Agent, Agriculture</p> <p>Austin Brown, Extension Agent, Agriculture</p> <p>Chris Hassell, NCDA&CS, Pesticide Section, Pesticide Inspector,</p> <p>Paul Ward, NCDA&CS, Pesticide Section</p>	
<p>Tuesday, February 4, 2020 3:00pm – 5:00pm</p>	<p>Currituck Extension Center 120 Community Way, Barco, NC</p>	<p>Auxin Herbicide Technologies (required training for person operator the sprayer when applying auxin herbicides)</p>	<p>NCSU Weed Control Extension Specialist</p>	<p>Private Applicator: 2 hours X</p> <p>Commercial Applicator: 2 hours of D, N, O</p>

Date/Time	Location	Topic	Speaker	Pesticide/Certified Crop Advisor Credits
Monday, February 10, 2020 10:00am – 12:00 noon	Henderson & Associates, Inc. 330 Camden Causeway, Elizabeth City	Respirator Fit Test/Medical Clearance Clinic		None
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 8:00am – 12:00 noon 8:00am – 10:00am (V) 10:00am – 12:00 noon Commercial and X	Pasquotank Extension Center	Private Pesticide Applicator V&X Recertification Class	Al Wood, Extension Agent, Agriculture Clay Hudson, NCDA, Pesticide Inspector	Private Applicator: 2 hours of V & X Commercial Applicator: 2 hours of A, B, D, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, T
Friday, February 14, 2020 9:00am – 11:00am	Pasquotank County Center	Risk Management: Crop Insurance; USDA FSA Programs: Which is best for me, ARC-Co or PLC?	Representative, USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA): Jaimie Grissom, Flatland Insurance; Dr. Rod Rejesus, NCSU Agricultural and Resource Economics, Extension Specialist	None
Wednesday, February 19, 2020 9:00am – 10:00am Registration & Trade Show 10:00am – 12:00 noon Presentations 12:00 noon Sponsored Lunch	Gates County, Lynn Hobbs, 208 Spivey Road, Hobbsville, NC 27946	NE AG Expo Small Grain Field Day	Extension Specialist	Private Applicator: X Commercial Applicator: N, O, D Certified Crop Advisor: 1 hour Integrated Pest Management, and 1 hour Crop Management

Date/Time	Location	Topic	Speaker	Pesticide/Certified Crop Advisor Credits
Friday, February 21, 2020 9:00am – 11:00am	Pasquotank County Center	Marketing Basics: Basis and other Tools for Marketing as well as USDA Reports	Mike Barber, Perdue Agribusiness, Senior Merchandiser; Robert Thompson, NC State University, Agriculture and Resource Economics, PhD Student,	None
Tuesday, February 25, 2020 6:00pm – 8:30pm Meal - Topside	Pasquotank Extension Center	Stinkbug Management in Corn and Soybeans Disease Management in Corn and Soybeans	Dr. Dominic Reisig Associate Professor & Extension Specialist, NCSU Dr. Lindsey Thiessen Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, NCSU	Private Applicator: 2 hours of X Commercial Applicator: 2 hours of D, N, O Certified Crop Advisor: 2 hours Integrated Pest Management
Friday, February 28, 2020 9:00am – 11:00am	Pasquotank County Center	Knowing What it Cost To Grow It: Crop Budgets and Other Tools	Taylor Cowan, Grain Elevator Manager, Smithfield Grain; Derek Washburn, NC Farm School Program Associate, NCSU; Antoine Moore, AgCarolina, Loan Officer	None