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**FIELD CROPS NEWSLETTER**  
**Winter 2019**

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**EXTENSION AGENT-FIELD CROPS**

### **Happy New Year**

Happy New Year to all of you. I hope 2019 will bring great success on the farm and most importantly good weather. Speaking of weather, we went from one extreme to the other. Most of our growing season was dry and we all wished for rain. "Be careful what you wish for." Unfortunately we got what most of us wished for and we are still getting it. I hope you were able to get your crops out of the field. I have heard from a few who still have soybeans in the field. We did see a decline in soybean seed quality due to not being able to harvest the early maturing beans on time. Overall, with the exception of flooded fields and damage from the hurricanes, we were seeing average yields in Davie county for corn and soybeans.

### **Corn Hybrid Test Plot Results**

A corn hybrid test plot was grown in Davie county during the 2018 growing season. This plot was planted on April 22, 2018. The corn was planted on 30 inch rows at a population of 28,700 seeds/ac. From May 11th until mid July this upland plot only received approximately a half inch of rain. I find this information very useful to show how these hybrids perform in a drought like situation. This study was also replicated in Caldwell and Wilkes counties. These locations received more rainfall than the Davie location which explains the differences in yields among counties. If you want more information about these hybrids or other hybrids you are interested in, please visit the OVT crop yield data website. <https://officialvarietytesting.ces.ncsu.edu>

I would like to thank Brent Barnes of Barnes Family Ag, LLC for hosting this test plot on his farm and for making extra time in his busy schedule to plant, manage and harvest this trial. Please see the attached sheet for yield results from this trial.

### **Soybean Variety Trial Results**

A soybean variety trial test plot was grown in Davie county during the 2018 growing season. This plot was planted on May 10, 2018. The planting population was 134,000 seeds/ac. Ten varieties were chosen for this trial. Maturity groups ranged from 4.8-5.8. Please see the attached sheet for yield results from this study. I would like to thank Zeb Saunders of Nutrien Ag for supplying the seed and helping with harvesting this plot. I would also like to thank Robin Mason and Ray Crofts for hosting this test plot on their farm and taking time out of their busy schedule to plant and harvest.



### **Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers**

Though we only have a few flue-cured tobacco growers left in Davie county, I would like to pass along that a referendum will be held on **Wednesday, January 30, 2019** in each flue-cured producing county in North Carolina. Farmers who were engaged in flue-cured tobacco production during the 2018 crop season and who share directly in the risk of production of the tobacco crop or in the proceeds of sale of tobacco grown in North Carolina are eligible to vote.

The referendum will include the question of continuance of the authorization of annual assessments not to exceed 1/5th of one cent per pound. If you are eligible to vote please visit the Davie county cooperative extension office on January 30, 2019.

### **Industrial Hemp Update**

I have received several phone calls regarding the status of producing industrial hemp now that it has achieved full federal legalization in the United States. When the farm bill was signed into law on December 20, 2018 industrial hemp was moved out of the controlled substance act, which was regulated by the Drug Enforcement Agency, and is now under the supervision of the US Department of Agriculture. Due to misinformation and assumptions, I wanted to clarify what we know as of now. Growers still need to be licensed in 2019 and the rules to the NC program still apply unless we are told otherwise. You still have to be a bonafide farmer to apply for the license. The USDA will have to create new regulations for the federal program and that may take some time to get in place. Testing for THC content still needs to be done and must remain at 0.3% or less. If you have any specific questions regarding industrial hemp, please give me a call.

### **Auxin Stewardship Training**

Auxin stewardship training will begin around the state for 2019. This training will fulfill the requirement mandated by federal and 24(c) labels of dicamba containing products registered for over-the-top use on dicamba tolerant soybeans. A few changes have been made and I wanted to make sure you are aware.

1. Only certified applicators may apply dicamba over the top. Those working under the supervision of a certified applicator can **NO LONGER** make applications.
2. Prohibit over-the-top application of dicamba on soybeans 45 days after planting
3. Applications will be allowed only from 1 hour after sunrise to 2 hours before sunset
4. In counties where endangered species may exist, the downwind buffer will remain at 110 feet and there will be a **new 57-foot buffer** around the other sides of the field (the 110-foot downwind buffer applies to all applications, not just in counties where endangered species may exist)
5. Enhanced tank clean out instructions for the entire system
6. Enhanced label to improve applicator awareness on the impact of low pH's on the potential volatility of dicamba
7. Label clean up and consistency to improve compliance and enforceability

Please make sure you attend one of these trainings if you want to apply these products. **There will be a training held at 1:30 PM on February 18, 2019 at the Yadkin County Extension Center in Yadkinville.**

### **Test Plots**

If you are interested in hosting test plot on your farm, please let me know. I think having this local information for Davie county benefits all of us. I know it can be a bit time consuming to plant and harvest but we will make sure we work according to what is convenient for you. Please call me if you would like to help.

### **Calendar of Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Training Type</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>January 23</b>	<b>9AM-12</b>	<b>Yadkin Tobacco GAP Training *Pesticide credits available*</b>	<b>Yadkin County Extension Center <u>Call 336-705-3506 to register</u></b>
<b>February 6</b>	<b>9AM-11</b>	<b>Yadkin County V Credit Training *Pesticide credits available*</b>	<b>Yadkin County Extension Center <u>Call 336-753-6100 to register</u></b>
<b>February 13</b>	<b>10AM-12</b>	<b>Area Grain Meeting *Pesticide credits available*</b>	<b>Forsyth County Extension Center <u>Call 336-705-3506 to register</u></b>
<b>February 18</b>	<b>1:30PM</b>	<b>Auxin Stewardship Training *Pesticide credits available*</b>	<b>Yadkin County Extension Center <u>Call 336-705-3506 to register</u></b>
<b>February 20</b>	<b>9AM-11</b>	<b>Davie County V Credit Training *Pesticide credits available*</b>	<b>Davie County Extension Center <u>Call 336-753-6100 to register</u></b>