WEEKLY CROP UPDATE



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Volume 31, Issue 29

Announcements

Delaware Agriculture Week

Monday, January 8-Thursday, January 11, 2024 Delaware State Fairgrounds Harrington, DE

Delaware Agriculture Week will be held at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington from January 8-11, 2024! Delaware "Ag Week" is an ongoing collaboration between University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State University Cooperative Extension and the Delaware Department of Agriculture.

Delaware Ag Week provides useful and timely information to the agricultural community and industry through educational meetings and events. In addition, it is a great time for networking and fellowship with old and new acquaintances.

The associated trade show will take place in the Dover Building from Monday afternoon, January 8 to Thursday January 11.

Delaware and Maryland pesticide and nutrient management credits and CCA credits will be available.

We are busy planning sessions and agendas, but please keep an eye on the Ag Week website for information and updates. https://sites.udel.edu/delawareagweek/ November 17, 2023

Tentative Session Schedule

Monday, Jan. 8 Poultry Beef Fruit Tuesday, Jan.9 General Vegetables Fresh Market Hay and Pasture Small Ruminant Specialty Crop Block Grant Workshop **Road Safety** Wednesday, Jan. 10 **Processing Vegetables** Irrigation/Drainage **Risk Management** Small Flock Poultry Beekeeper Soil Health Thursday, Jan. 11 Agronomy/Soybean Urban Farm and Food

Fruit and Vegetable Meeting Agendas for Ag Week

Agendas are set for the four Ag Week sessions organized by the Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware and Delaware Cooperative Extension. Talk titles and times are included in the information below. Information on continuing education credits will be available sometime in December. In addition to our local experts, we will have several invited speakers from outside of Delaware. Read a little bit about them at the end of this announcement.

Fruit Session | Exhibit Hall Board Room Monday, January 8, 2024, 1:00-3:20 p.m. Moderator: Drew Harris, Kent Co. Ag Agent

1:00-1:30 p.m.

Key Insect Pests to Monitor in Fruit Dr. David Owens, Extension Entomologist, University of Delaware

1:30-2:00 p.m.

Anthracnose in Strawberries Dr. Mengjun Hu, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture, University of Maryland

2:00-2:30 p.m.

Indoor Strawberry Production in a Retrofitted Poultry House

Dr. Gordon Johnson, retired Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist, University of Delaware and Bill Owens, Owens Premium Produce

2:30-2:50 p.m.

Identification and Management of Two Recently Identified Strawberry Pathogens: Neopestalotiopsis and Phytopythium Jill Pollok, Plant Diagnostician, University of Delaware

2:50-3:20 p.m.

First Impressions from the Carvel Fruit Demo Plot with a Focus on Bramble Varieties Dr. Emmalea Ernest, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist, University of Delaware

General Vegetable Session | Exhibit Hall

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Moderator: Drew Harris, Kent Co. Ag Agent

9:00-9:05 a.m. Welcome Shane Marvel, FVGAD President

9:05-9:20 a.m. Update on Produce Food Safety Regulations

Justin Grimminger, Delaware Department of Agriculture

9:20-9:50 a.m. Update on Produce Food Safety Research and

Outbreaks

Kyle McCaughan, Graduate Student, University of Delaware

9:50-10:05 a.m. NRCS Farm Bill Funding Opportunities TBA

10:05-10:50 a.m. Maintaining and Building Soil Organic Matter

Dr. Sjoerd Duiker, Professor of Soil Management & Applied Soil Physics, Penn State

10:50-11:30 a.m. Willing to Change: Farming in South Texas

Kent Schwartz

Fresh Market Vegetable Session | Exhibit Hall Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Moderator: Nick Adams, New Castle Co. Ag Agent

1:00-1:30 p.m. What Happened to the Insect Pests in 2023?

Dr. David Owens, Extension Entomologist, University of Delaware

1:30-1:50 p.m. Marketing Expense Calculator Nate Bruce, Farm Business Management Specialist, University of Delaware

1:50-2:20 p.m. Managing Bacterial Disease in Vegetables Dr. Alyssa Koehler, Extension Field Crops Pathologist, University of Delaware

2:20-2:30 p.m. Presentation of FVGAD Farm Family Award

2:30-3:00 p.m.

Update on Weed Science Research and a Refresher on Reading Labels Dr. Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Science Specialist, University of Delaware

3:00-3:30 p.m. Dealing with High Salts in High Tunnels Dr. Elsa Sanchez, Professor of Horticultural Systems Management, Penn State

3:30-4:00 p.m.

Heat Stress Management in Lettuce and Bell Peppers; Variety Trial for Snow and Snap Peas; Specialty Pumpkins that are Edible and Ornamental

Dr. Emmalea Ernest, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist, University of Delaware

Processing Vegetable Session | Exhibit Hall Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Moderator: Drew Harris, Kent Co. Ag Agent

9:00-9:05 a.m. **Welcome** Shane Marvel, President FVGAD

9:05-9:35 a.m. **Pythium Management to Maintain Stands and Vigor in Sweet Corn and Snap Beans** *Dr. Alyssa Koehler, Extension Field Crops Pathologist, University of Delaware*

9:35-10:05 a.m. Seedcorn Maggot and Corn Earworm Updates and Outlooks Dr. David Owens, Extension Entomologist, University of Delaware

10:05-10:20 a.m. Presentation of the FVGAD Career Distinguished Service Award

10:20-11:00 a.m. **No-Till Sweet Corn** Dr. Elizabeth Maynard, Clinical Engagement Professor of Horticulture, Purdue University

11:00-11:30 a.m. Snap Bean Variety Trials, Lima Bean Breeding and Research Updates Dr. Emmalea Ernest, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist, University of Delaware

2024 Invited Speakers

Dr. Mengjun Hu is a plant pathologist at University of Maryland with statewide Extension responsibility to address disease management concerns in commercial wine grape and small fruit production. His research has been primarily focused on fungicide resistance and epidemiology, with emphasis on *Botrytis* spp., *Colletotrichum* spp. and other common fungal pathogens associated with fruit rots.

Dr. Sjoerd Duiker is a soil scientist at Penn State University. His research focus is on the effects of soil management practices on soil physical properties and processes. He uses a systems approach to study the effect of notillage and tillage on soil physical properties, how soil compaction affects soil and crops, what effect crop rotation plays in maintaining soil quality, and the benefits and challenges of cover crops.

Mr. Kent Schwartz and his family in south Texas and have produced many different crops over the years. Kent spoke at our FVGAD meeting in 2011 and is returning to share with us about how his farming operation has changed over the past several year.

Dr. Elsa Sanchez is Professor of Horticultural Systems Management at Penn State University. Her research focuses on cultivar evaluation, nutrient management with organic nutrient sources, cultural pest management strategies, reduced tillage, and hydroponics systems management. She conducts trials in field, high tunnel and greenhouse production systems and works with both organic and conventional production systems.

Dr. Liz Maynard is the Clinical Engagement Professor of Horticulture at Purdue University. Her work includes vegetable variety trials and systems focused research on vegetable production, including nutrient management, notill vegetable production, high tunnel production and crop scheduling.

Delaware Grain Marketing Club

Thursday, December 14th, 2023 6:00-8:00 p.m. University of Delaware Carvel Research and Education Center 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE

The fourth quarter Delaware Grain Marketing Club meeting will be on December 14th at the Carvel Research and Education Center from 6:00-8:00 PM. Discussions will consist of the importance of grain discounts, and how to incorporate crop insurance within a grain marketing plan. Light dinner will be provided to registrants. Space is limited.

To register, please contact Karen Adams.

E: adams@udel.edu

P: 302-856-2585 ext 540

Please contact Nate Bruce <u>nsbruce@udel.edu</u> with any questions.

New and Beginning Farmer Finance Program

Monday, December 18th, 2023 6:00-8:00 p.m. University of Delaware Paradee Center 69 Transportation Road, Dover, DE

The financial aspect of starting a farming operation is daunting. This program will consist of quick information sessions from Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware Department of Agriculture, USDA Farm Services Agency, Farm Credit, Fulton Bank, and the Chesapeake Ag Innovation Center about their various new and beginning farmer finance programs. Light dinner will be provided to registrants. Space is limited.

To register, please contact Karen Adams.

E: adams@udel.edu

P: 302-856-2585 ext 540

Please contact Nate Bruce <u>nsbruce@udel.edu</u> with any questions.

Farmland Rental Rate Study Nate Bruce, Farm Business Management Specialist, nsbruce@udel.edu

University of Delaware Cooperative Extension is conducting a farmland rental rate survey. The purpose of this project is to evaluate various farmland rental rates and how they impact a farming operations ability to cash flow. You must fill out the survey for each farm that is rented. Land that is owned, does not need to be included in the survey. Your local county agent can assist you in filling out the survey. Your response to the survey is greatly appreciated. Each individual response to this survey will not be shared to anyone in the public and kept private. If you have any questions about this project or survey, feel free to contact Nate Bruce at nsbruce@gmail.com. Below is a URL link and QR code to the survey.

Survey URL:

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/c5fa508a18 2044359393b2a5e5251c47

Survey QR Code:



Effects of Increasing Corn Tissue Boron and Sulfur Concentrations on Nitrogen and Yield

Jarrod O. Miller, Extension Agronomist, jarrod@udel.edu

Jarrod Miller (funded by Maryland Grain Producers https://marylandgrain.org/)

As anions, sulfate (SO_4) and boron (B) leach easily from the soil surface (particularly sandy loams), potentially leading to sulfur (S) deficiencies in grain crops. In this study we observed whether increasing S and B fertilizer applications affected tissue Nitrogen (N), S and B concentrations as well as overall yield.



Sulfur was added in small amounts as starter, with an additional treatment with S UTILIZATION in sidedress. Then the same treatments were repeated with 0.5 lbs of B at sidedress (Table 1).

Table 1: Treatments applied each year as starer					
Starter +	Starter	Sidedress	Total N	Total S	Total B
Sidedress			(lbs/acre)	(lbs/acre)	(lbs/acre)
1 - (N + N)	UAN	UAN	230	-	-
2 - (N/S + N)	Nsul	UAN	230	4	-
3 - (N/S + N/S)	Nsul	Nsul	230	4+18	-
4 - (N +N/B)	UAN	UAN + B	230	-	0.5
5 - (N/S + N/B)	Nsul	UAN + B	230	4	0.5
6 - (N/S +	Nsul	Nsul + B	230	4+18	0.5
N/S/B)					

Over the three years (2021-2023) of the study, yield did not increase based on S or B additions (Figure 1). There was an upward *trend* with yield for B additions in 2023, but it was not significant. This trend was not observable in 2021 or 2022. Even within our sandy coastal Delmarva soils, neither S or B appeared yield limiting within this study.

Additionally, neither N or S varied within the corn ear leaf tissue, although they were lowest in 2023 (data not shown). However, B did increase in the corn leaves with fertilizer applications, particularly for the treatment with both S and B additions at sidedress. This treatment had the highest B concentrations in the ear leaf each year (Figure 2). Although neither B or S had an effect on yield in this study, if you are experiencing a B deficiency, additions with S at sidedress may assist in plant uptake.



Figure 1: Yields each season (2021, 2022, 2023) across the six treatments of N, S, and B (starter + sidedress).



Figure 2: Tissue boron (ppm) each season (2021, 2022, 2023) across the six treatments of N, S, and B (starter + sidedress). Only the statistically highest B concentrations (a = 0.10) within each year are marked with a star.

<u>Corn Planting Timing Effects on Yield and the</u> <u>Relationship to Deer Feeding</u> Jarrod O. Miller, Extension Agronomist, jarrod@udel.edu



Figure 1: Deer feeding in plots in Georgetown, DE, June 2023.

Jarrod Miller (funded by Maryland Grain Producers https://marylandgrain.org/)

Based on some observations in prior years, we planted irrigated corn on three different timings (April, May, and June) to observe three outcomes 1) yield, 2) nutrient uptake, 3) herbivory by deer. Average yields were all below 200 bushels, at 143, 175, and 128 bu/acre in the April, May, and June planted plots, respectively. Yield losses are potentially related to a range of factors, including deer feeding, weather, and soil nitrogen.

Deer feeding focused on the earliest planted plots (April), with some feeding occurring in the May planted plots. It is deer feeding that most likely limited the April and May yields (Figure 1). The June planted plots received very little deer feeding through the season, but ears were stunted due to the interactions with summer weather and planting timing. Tissue nutrient analyses will be completed this winter to examine interactions with uptake, particularly as nitrogen appeared to be limiting.



Figure 2: Plots planted in (1) April, (2) May, and (3) June. Yellow box and red outline are April plots. Drone flight month is in the upper lefthand corner.

Evidence of concentrated feeding can be observed in Figure 2, where the dotted yellow box represents the first (1) planting timing in April. Plots were side by side, so deer had the opportunity to feed on June planted corn (3) but preferred the more mature corn through most of the summer. I am not a wildlife expert and cannot give advice on what this means outside of watching your earlier planted fields and testing out planting timings along wood

Soil Texture Relationships to Grid Sampled Coastal Soils

Jarrod O. Miller, Extension Agronomist, jarrod@udel.edu, James Adkins, Irrigation Engineer, adkins@udel.edu

Jarrod Miller and James Adkins (funded by Maryland Grain Producers https://marylandgrain.org/)



Figure 1: Cation exchange capacity (2-8 meq/100g soil) based on ¼ acre grids at the Warrington Research Farm. Higher CEC is green.

Over four hundred soil samples were collected in 2022 for a grid sampling project at the Warrington Irrigation Research farm. Based on the range in cation exchange capacity (CEC) on the farm, 31 of the samples were analyzed for soil texture (sand, silty, clay %). Of those samples, sandy loams were the dominant texture (23 locations), followed by loamy sand (7) and one silty clay loam sample. Clay contents ranged from 5 to 27%, with an average content of 10% across the research farm.

The goal was to determine if texture could help predict some contents of nutrients as well as soil properties. Characteristics that increased with clay content (Figure 2) include CEC, organic matter (OM), potassium (K), sulfur (S), and aluminum (Al). It is well known that CEC is associated with greater clay content, as well as the ability of clay to bind and protect OM from decomposition. It is a little more difficult to determine whether the increased CEC is from clay alone, or in connection with greater soil OM. Similarly, the greater S with clay content could also be related to OM contents.



Figure 2: Clay content comparisons to CEC (yellow), organic matter (grey), potassium (light blue), and sulfur (dark blue) across the research farm.

The greater K associated with clay indicates how important higher CEC is for adequate fertility, as it probably leaches easier from lower CEC soils. It could also be related to the type of clays in the soil. Not show here are increases in Al, Mg, and B with clay, and a decrease in the soil buffer pH.

Coastal soils do not represent the entire region, and some of these relationships may be stronger due to the lower CEC found in our sandy Delmarva soils. However, this does highlight the need to understand soil variability and the effects on leaching and loss when making fertility decisions, including variable rate applications.

Curious about Nitrogen Modeling Tools? DE, MD, and PA Corn Farmers Can Participate in a Short Online Study and Earn Money

Many corn farmers in DE, MD, and PA can expect to receive an invitation in the mail to participate in a university study this month. The study is being conducted by researchers with the University of Delaware, University of Maryland, and Penn State University.

The goal of this study is to understand farmer interest in using an in-season nitrogen modeling tool to guide nutrient management decisions. During the study participants will have the opportunity to learn about and engage with inseason nitrogen modeling tools. Results from this study will help us develop strategies to better serve farmers in this region.

Eligible farmers may participate from home on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Internet access is required. In the online activity, participants will be asked to make in-season nitrogen management decisions for a simulated corn field. In addition to a \$50 participation payment, participants will earn additional money (up to \$100 extra) based on decisions during the 30-35-minute activity. Participants will receive their payment as a Walmart or

Amazon gift card or via PayPal within one week of completing the online activity.

Participation requires a unique participant code, which can be found on the mailed invitation letter. If you do not receive a letter in the mail but you would like to participate, you may contact the research team to receive a login code and instructions. Please contact Badri Khanal at the University of Delaware (302-455-7555; <u>bkhanal@udel.edu</u>).

Monthly Grain Market Outlook

Nate Bruce, Farm Business Management Specialist, <u>nsbruce@udel.edu</u>

The trend in new corn prices has been down through the month of November, breaking market support. New corn traded between \$5.05 and \$4.60 throughout the month. Surprising significant changes to market fundamentals will be the only major driver of corn prices up to this point. Soybean prices have been a wild ride over the course of last month, trading in the \$12.50 to \$13.90 range. Chinese export demand and concerns about the Brazilian plantings were the primary drivers of soybean prices. Wheat prices trended lower over the course of the month after USDA NASS Flour Milling Products report was released. The report estimated July-September wheat used in milling was the smallest for that guarter since 2014 when USDA NASS began the reporting series. It is not uncommon for wheat prices to decline at this time of year, but the pace has been concerning considering prices the last two years. The November USDA WASDE estimated increased production, domestic use, exports and ending stocks. Corn production is forecast at 15.2 billion bushels, up 170 million from last month on a 1.9bushel increase in yield to 174.9 bushels per acre. With larger supplies, feed and residual use is raised 50 million bushels to 5.7 billion and corn used for ethanol is raised 25 million bushels to 5.3 billion. Corn exports were raised 50 million bushels to 2.1 billion. With supply rising more than use, corn ending stocks are up 45 million bushels to 2.2 billion. The farm seasonaverage corn price received by producers was lowered by \$0.10 per bushel from the October estimate to \$4.85 per bushel. The November USDA WASDE estimated increased soybean production and ending stocks. Soybean production is forecast at 4.13 billion bushels, up 25 million from the last estimate. Crush and export demand remained unchanged from the October estimate. Soybean ending stocks are increased to 245 million bushels. The farm season-average soybean price was forecast at \$12.90 per bushel, the same as the October estimate. The USDA WASDE estimated increased wheat supplies, decreased domestic use, unchanged exports, and higher ending stocks. The November report increased wheat imports by 10 million bushels compared to the October estimate. A reduction in food use lowered projected reduced total domestic use by 4 million bushels down to 1,155 million bushels. Ending stocks in the report increased to 684 million bushels. The projected farm seasonaverage price was lowered down to \$7.20, down \$0.10 from the October estimate.

In international grain market news, grain traders are paid close attention to South American planting conditions this past month, particularly in Brazil. Drought conditions delayed soybean planting in the Brazilian region of Mato Grasso. The delayed planting could have a negative impact on the Brazilian second corn crop which accounts for most of the countries corn production. Soybean importers have increased purchases of US soybeans away from South American sources. Particularly, China negotiated grain import agreements with several countries at the tail end of October. Soybean futures increased because of increased Chinese demand. It is likely more US soybeans will be purchased in the future if South American crops underperform. The Ukrainian Infrastructure Ministry has reported 90 ships have left the ports of Odessa since August 8th, exporting 3.3 million tons of agricultural and metal products. Ukrainian exports through the Black Sea continue but alternative export routes, particularly by rail, have increased Ukrainian grain exports since the beginning of the conflict.

Corn Futures













Small Grains Insect Scouting

David Owens, Extension Entomologist, owensd@udel.edu

Now is a good time to scout small grain fields, and especially barley fields, for aphids. Barley tends to be planted earlier than wheat allowing aphids more time to colonize and reproduce. Barley is also generally more susceptible to barley yellow dwarf virus than wheat. There are several species of aphids that may be present in fields. English grain aphid and bird cherry oat aphid are the most common. English grain aphids are green with long black antennae, black feet, and black cornicles (tailpipes). Winged EGA is brown and green. Bird cherry oat aphid is generally associated with more severe BYDV incidence. It is a dark, olive-green aphid with red at the base of the cornicles. Winged females are black. When scouting, look at 1 row foot or 1 square foot in multiple locations in a field. I like to walk a large circular route with 6 to 10 stops. When looking at the plants, if you look towards the sunlight, aphid silhouettes are easy to see as they are backlit. A third, generally less common, species that may be present is greenbug. Greenbug looks similar to English grain aphids, but the antennae are green, the tailpipes are green and there is a blue stripe right down the middle. Sometimes English grain aphid also has a blue stripe on its back, but it is more prominent with greenbug.

There are a couple of suggested thresholds for aphids in small grains. North Carolina State University uses a threshold of 20 aphids per row foot in fields where BYDV has been a problem and cold weather is not forecast. Cold weather means daily average temperatures around 40 degrees F. Other states use a threshold as low as 6 aphids per row-foot.

If a field is near or above threshold and the farm had BYDV last season, scout the field! Aphid management generally only pays for itself when performed in fall or late winter (no later than the end of February). Last season, we experienced unusual and, in some cases, severe BYDV evident in March. Some of these fields had very low aphid numbers going into 'winter.' Last winter we experienced less than half the number of days below 32 F that we normally receive, and by the end of February aphid counts in many locations exceeded 100 per row foot.

Pyrethroids do an excellent job controlling aphids. For barley producers, we have Endigo ZC or ZCX, but only if a thiamethoxam seed treatment such as Cruiser, was not used. Other labeled insecticides for small grains can be found at by searching for UD small grain insect control 2020.

For more information about barley yellow dwarf management, please see the extension bulletin "Barley Yellow Dwarf in Small Grains in the Southeast" which can be found at:

https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/files/efpdf1/ef1 50.pdf.

Fall Herbicide Treatment for Small Grain Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist; mjv@udel.edu

This fall has presented an opportune time to treat small grains with a postemergence herbicide. For small grains planted in September and early October, I like spraying them in the fall rather than waiting until the spring. These herbicide applications have been more consistent and overall better weed control than spring treatments in our trials. The soil temperature remains warm for weeks after the first frost and this keeps the weeds in an active state. I find annual bluegrass, henbit, or speedwells species are often more susceptible if treated in the fall compared to early spring. Once we have consistently cold weather and soil temperatures drop, then fall treatments will be questionable. Fields may need a spring herbicide application for wild garlic control, but often broadleaf weed control is excellent with fall treatments and additional treatments are not needed.

A few considerations

Fall herbicides are particularly important if the field was not "clean" at planting. Use of a vertical tillage tool often will not kill weed seedlings, and they recover and can be too large for effective control in the spring.

Zidua or Anthem Flex are only effective on seedlings as they emerge from the soil. They have little to no effect on emerged plants. I am not sure they have a lot of value when applied this late in the fall.

If bluegrass is an issue, Osprey is the best product available. Italian ryegrass can be controlled with Axial products, Osprey or PowerFlex. Do not apply nitrogen within 14 days of Osprey application. (Note Osprey or PowerFlex are not safe on barley)

For late planted small grains:

- Be sure to observe the size requirement before application.
- Harmony Extra, Quelex, and Starane should not be applied before the two-leaf stage of wheat.
- Also leaves of late planted wheat may be tender, use caution when selecting the adjuvants.

General

Winter Annual Weed Identification

Barbara Scott, Research Associate; <u>bascott@udel.edu</u> & Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist; <u>mjv@udel.edu</u>

As we move into the fall months and transition from summer annual weeds to winter annual weeds, the website below has excellent photos of common winter annual weeds in Delaware as a refresher.

https://cdn.extension.udel.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/06/22091804/winterweeds-2019.pdf

Weather Summary

1 Week Accumulated Growing Degree Days



1 Month Accumulated Growing Degree Days





1 Month Accumulated Precipitation



These weather maps are generated from DEOS weather station data and are part of a new Ag Weather website that is under development: <u>http://deos.udel.edu/almanac/</u> Your feedback is welcome!

Weekly Crop Update is compiled and edited by Emmalea Ernest, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist and Drew Harris - Kent Co. Ag Agent

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