GEORGIA SOYBEAN COMMODITY COMMISSION

Farmers Putting Soybean Checkoff Dollars to Work for You

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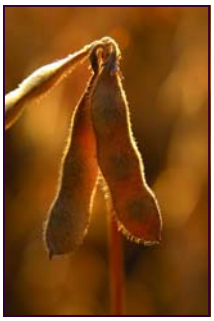

Georgia Soybean News

SPRING 2017

GA-based project seeks to develop soybean irrigation app

The Southern Soybean Research Program (SSRP) uses soy checkoff dollars to coordinate and fund production research projects that benefit the Southern soybean-producing region. The SSRP is managed by the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board. Six states make up the SSRP including Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

The SSRP meets twice a year and is scheduled to meet in Georgia in late June at the UGA Tifton Campus and UGA's Stripling Irrigation Research Park (SIRP). The SIRP is the premier research and extension facility for irrigation in the Southeast. This is the current location of the irrigation work being funded by SSRP in Georgia.

The project, "**Developing Irrigation Management Strategies for Soybean Production in Humid Regions of the Southern US**," is being coordinated in Georgia by Drs. George Vellidis and Wesley Porter with the University of Georgia Crop & Soil Sciences Department.

This project will provide Georgia soybean growers with a cheap, reliable, and easy-to-use irrigation scheduling tool. The benefit to soybean growers who use this tool will be consistently higher yields, higher water use efficiency, and conservation of water resources.

The long-term goal of this project is to develop an interactive evapotranspiration (ET) based irrigation scheduling tool for soybeans which operates on a smartphone platform and that can be used to implement both conventional and precision irrigation. At completion of the project, the Soybean Smart Irrigation App will have at minimum a Georgia footprint but will be easily expandable to a regional or national footprint.

For more information on the Southern Soybean Research Program, visit the program online at www.kysoy.org/ssrp.

Some Georgia growers wanted to talk soybean weed control, most didn't

- Eric Prostko, UGA Extension Weed Scientist

Having wrapped up my winter county meeting schedule a few weeks ago, I am looking forward to getting my feet back in the field and getting my hands dirty. As I traveled around Georgia delivering the weed science gospel with my skinny sidekick (UGA Extension weed specialist Stanley Culpepper), I found it very interesting that not many folks wanted to talk about soybean weed control.

Recent NASS soybean planting intentions for the Deep South might help justify this observation. With that said, southeast growers who do care about soybean weed control had a ton of questions for me about the new Enlist (2,4-D choline) and Xtend (improved dicamba) technologies.

At this point in time, there is not too much to say about the Enlist system. In my research thus far, weed control performance with the Enlist system has been good. However, China has yet to grant import approval and southeast university variety performance data is non-existent. Consequently, I will focus my attention in this month's column on the Xtend soybean system.

First and foremost, I want to make it absolutely clear that the new Xtend system is not a miracle cure or silver bullet for any of your current weed problems!

Soybean growers who intend to use this system must still start clean, use residual herbicides, and make timely postemergence applications of labeled dicamba formulations. If you fail to follow these 3 simple rules, you will likely experience huge disappointments with this or any other technology. Also, don't forget that the use of narrow rows (<30") is always a good strategy to help make top soybean yields and improve overall weed control.

On a regulatory note, Georgia growers who intend to apply Engenia, Fexapan or Xtendimax over the top of Xtend soybean varieties must have attended a *Using Pesticides Wisely Training*, have a current copy of all appropriate labels/data sheets, and check the appropriate web-sites at least 7 days before application for the most current list of approved nozzles and tank-mixtures.

To make it slightly easier to understand all of this mess, I have included a quick summary of these products in Table 1 (see page 3). Disciples of this column from other states should double check with their local pesticide sheriffs.

Although a ton of Xtend SE soybean variety performance data is not available, University of Georgia, Auburn and University of Florida had a few of these varieties in their 2016 OVT trials. My evaluation of these variety results is that there are definitely some winners and losers, so I would scour the data to find the best fit for your fields. Variety selection is arguably the most important soybean production decision that you will make.

Since I most likely exceeded my word count this month, this might be a good place to drop back and punt. It is always exciting to get the chance to use new technologies. However, don't let this excitement cloud your senses. These new auxin technologies are nowhere near as foolproof as the glyphosate-resistant technologies might have appeared to be to some (*not me*) before the evolution of resistance.

Our industry cannot afford to drop the ball on this one!

(Source: Southeast Farm Press; April 10, 2017)

	Engenia™	Xtendimax™ with Vapor Grip™	Fexapan™ with Vapor Grip™
Manufacturer	BASF	Monsanto	DuPont
Active Ingredient	dicamba-BAPMA	dicamba-DGA	dicamba-DGA
Dicamba lb ae/gal	5.0	2.9	2.9
Single POST in-crop Rate/A	12.8 oz	22.0 oz	22.0 oz
Total POST in-crop Rate/A (2 applications)	25.6 oz	44.0	44.0
Season total use Rate/A (PPLNT + PRE + POST)	51.2 oz	88.0 oz	88.0 oz
Time of Application	PPLNT/PRE/POST (R1)	PPLNT/PRE/POST (R1)	PPLNT/PRE/POST (R1)
Tractor Speed	≤ 15 MPH	≤ 15 MPH	≤ 15 MPH
Boom Height	≤ 24"	≤ 24"	≤ 24"
Nozzle Type	6 approved Refer to web-site	20 approved Refer to web-site	TTI11004 Refer to web-site
GPA	≥ 10	≥ 10	≥ 10
Wind Speed	0-3 MPH = do not apply if temperature inversion 3-10 MPH = optimum 10-15 MPH = do not apply if wind is blowing towards neighboring sensitive crops > 15 MPH = do not apply	0-3 MPH = do not apply 3-10 MPH = optimum 10-15 MPH = do not apply if wind is blowing towards non-target sensitive crops > 15 MPH = do not apply	0-3 MPH = do not apply 3-10 MPH = optimum 10-15 MPH = do not apply if wind is blowing towards non-non-target sensitive crops > 15 MPH = do not apply
Sensitive Buffers	110 ft	22 oz/A = 110 ft 44 oz/A = 220 ft	22 oz/A = 110 ft 44 oz/A = 220 ft
Tank-Mixtures	No AMS or UAN Refer to web-site	No AMS or UAN Refer to web-site	No AMS or UAN Refer to web-site
Rain-Free Period	4 hours	4 hours (efficacy) but also has 24 hour restriction for rainfall after application (off-site movement)	4 hours (efficacy) but also has 24 hour restriction for rainfall after application (off-site movement)
Website	www.engeniatankmix.com	www.xtendimaxapplication requirements.com	http://www.dupont.com/products-and-services/crop-protection/soybean-protection/articles/fexapan-application.html

Census of Agriculture Countdown Begins for America's Farmers, Ranchers

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to strongly represent agriculture in their communities and industry by taking part in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census, to be mailed at the end of this year, is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them.

"The Census of Agriculture remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every county in the nation," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "As such, census results are relied upon heavily by those who serve farmers and rural communities, including federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations, extension educators, researchers, and farmers and ranchers themselves."

The Census of Agriculture highlights land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other topics. The 2012 Census of Agriculture revealed that over three million farmers operated more than two million farms, spanning over 914 million acres. This was a four percent decrease in the number of U.S. farms from the previous census in 2007. However, agriculture sales, income, and expenses increased between 2007 and 2012. This telling information and thousands of other agriculture statistics are a direct result of responses to the Census of Agriculture.

Producers who are new to farming or did not receive a Census of Agriculture in 2012 still have time to sign up to receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture report form by visiting www.agcensus.usda.gov and clicking on the 'Make Sure You Are Counted' button through June. NASS defines a farm as any place from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year (2017).

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture and to see how census data are used, contact your local Farm Service Agency office or call (800) 727-9540.

(Information courtesy of USDA-NASS; Source: American Soybean Association)

Statewide Variety Testing - Soybean Recommendations

The UGA College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences (CAES) Statewide Variety Testing program provides variety research on public and privately developed cultivars of corn, soybean, peanut, cotton, grain sorghum, wheat, barley, rye, oat, triticale, canola, summer annual forages, and winter annual forages each crop year.

Proper variety selection is the most important decision a farmer makes. Farmers want and need to grow the best adapted crop cultivars to be successful, but producers do not have the time or resources to plant several cultivars to determine which are adapted to Georgia growing conditions and the best available. The work of the Statewide Variety Testing program provides this information for Georgia farmers.

To see what soybean varieties performed best in the 2016 variety trials, visit www.swvt.uga.edu.

Seeds of Wisdom

Technology has changed drastically since the 1990s. Televisions are thinner, phones are smaller and tractors can steer themselves. Technology has even improved in the seeds that we plant. Since the 1990s, and particularly within the past decade, soybean seed treatments have become a common tool for farmers from all regions. Some use them as insurance against poor germination rates. Others like the protection against seedling diseases when planting in cold, wet soils.

Providing high-quality soybean products to end-users won't happen if a seed doesn't sprout. Alison Robertson, Ph.D., Department Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Iowa State University, helps navigate the seed treatment selection process.

Q: How should farmers select a seed treatment?

A: Seed treatments may contain active ingredients such as fungicides, insecticides or nematicides to control pathogens and pests, and biological products for growth promotion. The first thing we look for is whether a seed treatment is designed for one specific purpose or if it offers a range of benefits. Typically, a farmer should use a seed treatment with three or four active ingredients, because of the diverse set of pathogens in the soil.

Q: What are the primary reasons farmers should use seed treatments?

A: Most soybean pathologists recommend a seed treatment if you are planting into cold, wet soils. Also, if there's a history of poor stand establishment, if you are planting lower populations or planting into poor seedbed conditions. Depending on your individual farm circumstances, it might not be necessary to use seed treatments on all your acres.

Q: What should farmers who use seed treatments look for after planting?

A: Some treatments can slightly damage the plants, so after emergence a farmer should scout his or her fields and see if there is any burning on the cotyledons. This isn't a sign that anything is wrong, but it does provide evidence that the treatment has worked. After a couple of days, the plants grow out of the damage, and research indicates that yield is not affected.

Q: Are there new or recent developments with seed treatment technology?

A: There has been quite a lot of work looking at biologicals, not as stand-alone treatments, but in partnership with treatments that address pathogens in the field. In addition, nematicides have been developed recently to help fight off soybean nematodes.

Q: Other than seed companies, where should farmers go for more information on seed treatments?

A: First, your local land-grant universities, extension offices and extension newsletters are excellent sources of regional information. You can also visit www.plantmanagementnetwork.org for additional information about seedling diseases.

(Source: United Soybean Board; March 14, 2017)

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Connected by Conservation Stewardship

(Courtesy of United Soybean Board)

The U.S. Sustainability Alliance (USSA) is a USDA-supported program, composed of 20 organizations, to promote the sustainability of U.S. agriculture, fisheries and forestry in major markets in the European Union (EU). The objective is to minimize potential market access issues and to counter misconception of U.S. food production.

Soy checkoff dollars are used to manage and support USSA through the U.S. Soybean Export Council. For more information, visit USSA online at: *https://thesustainabilityalliance.us/*.

The soy checkoff empowers U.S. soybean farmers with tools that will help them maximize their profitability. Whether it's a database of high-protein-and-oil soy varieties, the results of soy-checkoff-funded research or interviews with experts, the checkoff spreads the word about cutting-edge tips and tricks you can put to use on your farm.

For more information, check out USB farmers resources online at:
www.unitedsoybean.org/farmer-resources/tools/
www.unitedsoybean.org/farmer-resources/beyond-the-bean/

To view past issues of the Georgia Soybean News, visit
www.georgiacrop.com/resources/newsletters/.

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