

LOUISIANA CROPS NEWSLETTER

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Cotton, Corn, Soybeans, Sorghum, and Wheat



Volume 4, Issue 9 September 2014

18th Annual National Conservation Systems

 **Cotton**
&  **Rice**
Conference

SPONSORED BY
Cotton Incorporated
US Rice Producers Assoc.
United Soybean Board

 

January 14-16, 2015 • Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA

This Event Marks The 18th Year
LSU AgCenter
plus These Six Southern Universities
Have Joined Together
AS ACADEMIC CO-SPONSORS
To Bring The Southern Producer
The Latest, True, Tried and Tested Agricultural Research.



LSU AgCenter
Auburn University - Alabama
University of Arkansas
Texas A&M University

Mississippi State University
University of Missouri
University of Tennessee

'15 Save the Date

Check Out The Conference News Release In This Issue
And Watch For Upcoming Details In Future Issues
of the Louisiana Crops Newsletter

Nation's Leading Ag Educational Conference Is Headed To Baton Rouge In 2015

The 18th Annual National Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference, the Southern Corn & Soybean Conference and the Southern Precision Ag Conference are headed to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Sponsored by Cotton Incorporated, US Rice Producers Association, and the United Soybean Board and a production of MidAmerica Farm Publications, the event is scheduled for January 14 - 16, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA.

Again in 2015 the conference will showcase presentations by over 100 speakers. Mid-South farmers, University Researchers representing seven Southern Universities and nationally recognized crop consultants will share their latest crop production research during the three day conference.

Cotton, rice, corn and soybean production systems will be the topics. During a given hour, there are over 18 unique breakout sessions for attendees to choose from," stated John LaRose, Chairman of the Conference Steering Committee.

"At this conference you can learn from the nation's leading Agricultural Researchers and crop production techniques of other Mid-South farmers."

"Of the 100 plus scheduled speakers, over 40 will be Mid-South farmers who will be sharing their crop production systems with attendees during the Breakout Sessions," explained LaRose.

There were over 730 attendees at the last conference held in Tunica, MS3; many recognized the conference as the nation's leading agricultural production conference.

When attendees were asked for their comments during past conferences, this is what they wrote:

- "I liked real farmers talking about real world experiences and I was impressed with their vast knowledge and proven variables."
- "I liked the informality of the meetings, timely information and the one on one with speakers. That alone made it the best conference in the South."
- "The forward thinking speakers were truly experts in their fields - excellent meeting."
- "Networking with like mind individuals in small group discussions provided a unique conference."
- "The experiences of the producers really brought the message home for me - hearing farmers telling their stories of success and failure along with researchers giving scientific data."

The Cotton and Rice Conference is a MUST-ATTEND EVENT FOR ALL FARMERS wishing to hone their production methods. The conference offers farmers ways to trim inputs while boosting yields. In recent years both farmers and landlords have found that beyond tillage, there are many other farming resources that can be conserved through a properly designed conservation systems program. The importance of conserving soil moisture, as well as reducing fuel, labor, seed, chemical, fertilizer and other input costs is the key to economic success for all farmers and landowners.

Farmers from Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee will be able to receive their state pesticide re-certification credits. Certified crop consultants can select from over 50 hours of qualifying sessions to earn CEU's during the conference.

For the past 17 years, the conference has been Co-Sponsored by the following seven mid-south universities: University of Arkansas, Mississippi State University, University of Missouri, University of Tennessee, LSU AgCenter, Auburn University, and Texas A&M. USDA-NRCS of Washington DC and USDA-ARS centers in the Southern states are co-sponsors as well.

The conference is Co-Sponsored by many of the nation's leading agricultural corporations and typically has a sold out trade show.

Find registration and full details as they become finalized by visiting www.mafg.net

Diagnosing Nematode Damage
By
Charles Overstreet, Extension Nematologist

One of the best ways to determine if plant-parasitic nematodes caused you any problems this past year occurs at harvest time. Damaged plants will simply not yield as well as healthy plants. This will certainly show up during harvest of several of our field crops. Additionally, stunted or weak areas are readily evident during harvest.

Since many of our combines or cotton pickers have yield monitors, yield maps can be developed from production fields. Producers can get a good idea of where yields are weak or strong in a field. A number of conditions can be involved in poor yields such as drainage, nutrients, pests (insects, weeds, disease, and nematodes), and many others. Unless the soil is heavy clay, nematodes can be serious problems for many crops grown in Louisiana and should be considered a potential suspect.

Root-knot nematode is a major problem on soybeans and cotton in Louisiana. This pest can be readily identified late season by observing the root systems of either of these crops. These galls or swelling of the roots are usually quite large and producers should not have any difficulty recognizing them when looking at a root system. Corn is also an excellent host but produces such small galls that identification is difficult to recognize. A number of our grain sorghum varieties are also good hosts for this nematode with extremely small galls produced.

Reniform nematode is also a serious pest of soybeans and cotton. Generally, this nematode does not produce easily recognized symptoms on the roots and positive identification in the field is difficult. Roots may appear discolored or roughened with large numbers of egg masses of the nematode. Corn and grain sorghum are poor hosts for this nematode which is why they are used as rotation crops.

Since yield maps can pinpoint weak areas in a field, this would be good areas to check for nematodes. A few samples for nematode analysis from these low yielding areas in a field can identify the types and numbers of nematodes present. Both root-knot and reniform nematodes cause problems when populations are high in the soil to cause severe damage to the root system. Late season damage may show up on either soybeans or cotton by early maturity or plant death. These damaged areas may be visible prior to harvest and alert you of potential problems.

If you cannot see any galls but still suspect nematodes, soil sampling is still one of the best methods to identify the problem. You just have to remember to place the soil samples in a plastic bag and protect from heat or cold. Samples can be sent in to the Nematode Advisory Service for processing that is operated by the LSU AgCenter. Your local county agent can help you with submission of these samples.

Although you cannot do anything about nematodes at this point this year, you can certainly take steps to prevent losses next year. Crop rotation, resistant varieties, and nematicides are options that can reduce losses from these pests.



Soybeans maturing out early due to root-knot nematode injury.



Galling present on the soybeans from the previous field.



Late season damage to cotton from root-knot nematode. Stunting and early maturing of plants can be seen in middle of field.



Severe stunting and yield loss of cotton from very high levels of reniform nematode near the end of the growing season.



Large numbers of egg masses (stained blue) of the reniform nematode visible on cotton roots.

Mid-South Agricultural Labor Seminar

Domestic Labor Edition

October 14, 2014

DATE

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

TIME

Registration: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Seminar: 9:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

LOCATION

Best Western Inn & Suites and
Conference Center of Alexandria
2720 North MacArthur Drive
Alexandria, LA

FOR MORE INFO

Contact: Brian Breaux
(225) 922-6210

HOST ORGANIZATION



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

American Sugar Cane League
LA Cotton and Grain Assn.
LA Sweet Potato Assn.
LA Rice Growers Assn.
LA Vegetable Growers Assn.
LA Nursery and Landscape Assn.
LA Forestry Assn.
LA Cattlemen's Assn.
LA Pecan Growers Assn.
LSU Ag Center
Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Assn.
Louisiana Crawfish Processors
Assn.

Employment law attorneys and agricultural labor experts advise farmers on Federal and State labor laws and regulations that govern employment of domestic workers.



This edition of the Mid-South Agricultural Labor Seminar will focus on issues related to the employment of domestic workers. Some issues to be discussed.

- Operation of farm implements and motor vehicles on highways in Louisiana and new exemptions for agriculture.
- Louisiana's Employment at Will Doctrine, employer rights under the Doctrine regarding termination of workers
- Your requirements, restrictions and liabilities under the Fair Labor Standards Act regarding on payment of wages, recordkeeping, overtime, wage rates, employee loans and withholding, payroll deductions and equal pay.
- Avoiding discrimination and rules on drug testing
- Employment of youth under 16 in agriculture
- Employer pesticide responsibilities and requirements for workers when pesticides are used on the farm

Attend and Get Your Labor Questions Answered



2014 Mid-South Agricultural Labor Seminar
Domestic Labor Edition
Best Western Inn and Conference Center
Alexandria, LA
Tuesday, October 14, 2014



Moderator: Randy Bracy, Chairman - LFBF Labor Advisory Cmte. [No Press or Recording Permitted]

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION

9:00 - 9:05 a.m. WELCOME

Randy Bracy, Chairman - LFBF Labor Advisory Committee Chairman

9:05 - 10:00 a.m. LEGAL OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN LOUISIANA — *“Operating Farm Equipment on Highways, CDL Exemptions, Truck Weights, Hazardous Materials, and New MAP-21 Exemptions for Agriculture”.*

Sergeant Bert Dabadie - Louisiana State Police - Motor Carrier Safety Division

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. EMPLOYER LEGAL RIGHTS: “Avoiding Discrimination and Laws That Protect Agricultural Employers - What Mistakes You Should Avoid When Recruiting, Hiring, Drug Testing, Terminating, or Searching Workers”.

Thomas Kiggans, Employment Law Attorney - Phelps Dunbar, LLP, Baton Rouge, LA

11:00 -11:10 a.m. BREAK

11:10 - 12:10 noon WAGE AND HOUR LAW (FLSA) (MSPA): “Understanding Laws Governing Payment of Wages, Recordkeeping, Employee Loans, Deductions From Pay, Mandatory Sick Leave, and Agricultural Employment of Minors”.

Thomas Kiggans, Employment Law Attorney - Phelps Dunbar, LLP, Baton Rouge, LA

Lunch

Included w/Registration

2014 AGRICULTURAL LABOR ISSUES

Brian Breaux - Louisiana Farm Bureau, Baton Rouge, LA

1:15 - 2:45 p.m. WORKERS AND PESTICIDES: “Pesticide Certification, Enforcement and Your Responsibilities for Worker Safety When Pesticides are Used on the Farm”.

Kim Pope -Pesticide Safety Education Coordinator - LSU Ag Center

Marty Pousson - Coordinator: Pesticide Certification & Training - La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry

Ronnie Mulberry - Coordinator: Pesticide Inspection and Enforcement - La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Registration to attend the Seminar is \$35.00 per person, which includes lunch.

Mailed registrations should be received no later than October 10, 2014.

Please attend. You can register on October 14, 2014 at the Seminar but if possible, please contact Jessica at (225) 922-6243 or E-Mail Jessica at jessical@lfbf.org with your number of attendees so we can have a sufficient number of meals.

You will not hear this information anywhere else! Make plans to attend today!

Entomology Update

Sebe Brown and David Kerns: LSU AgCenter Entomologists

Soybeans

Over the past few weeks a significant portion of North Louisiana has experienced a large increase in soybean loopers and stink bugs.

Soybean loopers (SBL) have the ability to build large populations quickly and are exaggerated by the use of broad-spectrum insecticides for three-cornered alfalfaoppers and stink bugs. The threshold for SBL in Louisiana is 150 worms in 100 sweeps or 8 worms $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or longer per row foot. Because SBL are foliage feeders, adequate insecticide coverage is essential to limiting defoliation and reducing population numbers. Soybean loopers often initiate feeding in the lower portion of the canopy defoliating soybean plants from the inside out. This cryptic behavior allows SBL to stay protected from some predators and insecticide applications in the dense canopy of soybean plants. Thus, good insecticide coverage is essential for optimal control of SBL. Insecticides currently recommended for use against SBL in Louisiana include Belt, Prevathon, Besiege, Steward and Intrepid. Another new option is Intrepid Edge, which is a pre-mix of the ingredients in Intrepid and Radiant.

Redbanded stink bugs have become the dominant stink bugs species in Louisiana soybeans. Redbanded stink bugs are part of a complex of pod feeders that feed directly on soybean seeds reducing seed size, quality and yield. This pest is more difficult to control than other stink bug species often requiring 3-5 insecticide applications. Pyrethroid efficacy against redbanded stink bugs has declined in recent years resulting in the use of tank mixes and premix applications. The threshold for redbanded stink bugs in Louisiana soybeans is 16 bugs in 100 sweeps. Endigo, Leverage 360 and Belay have demonstrated satisfactory control of redbanded stink bugs as well as tank mixes of acephate plus a pyrethroid. Beware only 2.0 lbs of acephate can be applied per crop per season for soybeans. Redbanded stink bugs are strong fliers and re-colonization after an insecticide treatment may occur quickly.

Routine scouting is required for both of these insects in soybeans. The flighty nature of redbanded stink bugs and large populations of soybean loopers can result in significant yield losses if populations are allowed to increase unchecked.

Entomology Update

Dr. Jeff Davis: LSU AgCenter Entomologist

Kudzu bug found in West Feliciana Parish, LA on kudzu. Heavily infested. Found September 19, 2014.

Kudzu bug found in Washington Parish, LA on kudzu , September 18, 2014.

Soil sampling tools

Dr. Beatrix Haggard, Agronomist – Macon Ridge Research Station

Dr. Josh Lofton, Agronomist – Macon Ridge Research Station

There are many different methods used to determine how a field will be sampled. There are 5, 10, and 20 acre grids, management zones, or sometimes entire fields are grouped together. Just as there are different options for sampling schemes, there are many different types of soil sampling tools.

For normal nutrient recommendation sampling, the standard push/step probe will be suitable (Figures 1 and 2).



Figure 1. Gator probe open.

Figure 2. Gator and step probe.

If you are trying to determine problem spots that are not appearing in typical soil test results and you know that they are not due to drainage issues, then deep cores are probably needed. There are different types of bucket augers, based on the soil texture that you are sampling. The most common bucket augers are Clay/Mud, Sand, and Regular (Figure 3). The clay/mud augers are typically very open augers, which allows for samples to be easily removed from the auger. Regular augers are more enclosed, this allows for looser soils to be contained in the auger until the sample needs to be removed. Bucket augers can be purchased as a whole unit, or each auger bit can be attached to multiple extensions for deeper depths of sampling. Most extensions are available in 3 foot lengths.



Figure 3. Bucket augers and soil probes.

When using the bucket augers, tape can be placed at the desired sampling depths for ease of sample collection (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Electrical tape placed at 6in increments on clay auger.

How deep and how many soil samples?

The depth of the sample is different based on each crop's needs and should be focused on where the effective rooting depth will be located. In most instances, soil samples collected from 0-6 inches are adequate; however, for mobile nutrients and deep-rooted crops grown in Louisiana's deep alluvial soils 6-12 inches would be beneficial. Additionally, if it is thought that salts have accumulated; samples should be taken from 0-3 inches. This zone has the greatest influence on seed germination. Further, in some areas samples should only be taken where roots can penetrate. This is especially important in the Macon Ridge soils where hard layers limit deep root growth.

For grid sampling, one sample (making sure there will be enough for analysis) taken near the center of the grid. While for management zone sampling, 15-20 samples should be obtained from each zone. Samples can be taken with a soil probe or shovel, making sure to stay within the previously mentioned depths. These samples should be mixed in a plastic bucket and placed in a quart-sized sealable plastic bag. Large pieces of plant material should be removed.

When should samples be taken?

Soil samples can be taken anytime during the course of the year; however, samples taken in the fall allow for timely applications as well as time for lime to react, thereby altering the soil pH. For mobile nutrients such as Nitrogen and Sulfur, soil samples should be taken around the same time that fertilizer will be applied. Regardless of what information is needed from the soil samples they should be taken around the same time each year. Any residue which remains should be scraped away from the surface before samples are pulled.

For questions regarding results from the soil analysis contact your local Parish Extension Agent.

Soybean Green Plant Malady



Several soybean fields in South Louisiana are not maturing normally. The green plant malady of soybeans is an abnormal physiological condition when, after crop maturity should have occurred, main stems, leaves or pods remain immature. This problem can delay crop harvest and decrease the quality of harvested seed. In some cases this problem has prevented soybean harvest entirely. In other situations seed quality reductions can cause significant losses in value, or an entire load of soybeans can be rejected at the elevator because of excessive moisture or damaged seed. Green plant malady may result from a number of causes, including viral infections, insect feeding and certain environmental factors or stresses. Delayed crop maturity can cause poor harvest efficiency. Immature pods, green stems and green leaves allow more foreign matter to be collected during harvest, which increases harvest difficulty. A chemical harvest aid can be an important production tool in some situations to overcome the negative consequence of the green plant malady. Application timing of harvest aid is critical to managing harvest efficiency.



Upcoming Calendar of Events



October 9, Landscape Horticulture Field Day at the Hammond Research Station, Hammond.

Mid South Agricultural Labor Seminar - Domestic Labor Edition - Tuesday, October 14, 2014 - Best Western Inn and Conference Center - Alexandria, LA

November 11-12, Louisiana Ag Industries Association, Inc. Annual Convention, Marksville

For additional calendar information on LSU AgCenter Parish and Statewide events, visit our website at www.lsuagcenter.com/calendar

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

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West Feliciana	Andre' Brock	225-635-3614	abrock@agcenter.lsu.edu

Specialists

Specialty	Responsibilities	Name	Phone	Email
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Cotton , Corn	Cotton, Corn	Dan Fromme	318-880-8079 (cell)	dfromme@agcenter.lsu.edu
Weeds	Corn, Grain Sorghum, Cotton. Soybeans	Daniel Stephenson	318-308-7225 (cell)	dstephenson@agcenter.lsu.edu
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Entomology	Cotton, Corn, Soybean, Grain Sorghum	David Kerns	318-439-4844 (cell)	dkerns@agcenter.lsu.edu
Entomology	Soybean, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Sugarcane	Beuzelin, Julien	337-501-7087 (cell)	JBeuzelin@agcenter.lsu.edu
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Sorghum	All agronomic crops	Josh Lofton	318-498-1934 (cell)	jlofton@agcenter.lsu.edu

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www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/crops

<http://louisianacrops.com>

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, William B Richardson, LSU Vice President for Agriculture

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

LSU College of Agriculture

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