

Louisiana



SOYBEAN & FEED GRAIN REVIEW



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CORN UPDATE

LOUISIANA COULD GET ONE SHOT AT CORN PLANTING

Dr. David Lanclos, LSU AgCenter Specialist

If current conditions remain status quo, and with seed supply of corn and milo being tighter than normal, planting correctly and achieving an adequate stand the first time will be more important than ever. The reason - if a stand is not achieved the first time, there *potentially* may not be enough seed to replant entire fields again.

Because of this fact, there are several important production factors to remember. With all of the rain received over the past couple of weeks, date of planting is not a concern right now. Today (February 14) with full sunshine, it will take at least seven to ten days before the lightest soils could be dry enough for planting even without any more rainfall. Because of this fact, the earliest corn that will go in will be just about right. The LSU AgCenter planting date recommendations for corn are for south Louisiana from February 25 to March 20 and for North Louisiana from March 10 to April 1.

Recently, there has been some exceptional work done on plant populations across the mid south. Without getting into the specific research data that has been conducted, it would be easier to reiterate a few highlights. An important strategy to maximize corn yields is to plant the correct plant population. This year at grower meetings, we have stressed that producers need to contact their respective seed dealers about the optimal plant population by hybrid. The respective companies know exactly what plant population hybrids need to at to maximize yield. Corn yields are being maximized from as low a population of 20,000 to a high of 35,000. A “general” guide is that most hybrids will maximize yield potential with a final plant population from 22 to 31,000 plants per acre.

Dual row versus the single row: At this point, most research is indicating that the dual row system is a fine system especially on beds however; yields have not been significantly enhanced when compared directly to a single row system. Rick Mascagni, an agronomist at the Northeast Research Station conducted research on twin rows versus a single row indicated that there was little yield advantage in corn regardless of plant population.

Irrigation – If you have it use it. Corn requires a large volume of water on an annual basis to maximize yield. Historically around 24 inches of water is required during the growing season to maintain and maximize yields. An interesting observation for north Louisiana was noted over the past three years core block trials. Under irrigated conditions, yields ranged from 160 to 165 when planted from March 1 to April 5. Under non-irrigated conditions, yields were decreased to 148 Bu/A when corn was planted from March 1 to 20th and yields were less than 130 Bu/A when corn was planted March 31 to April 5. These results indicate the harsher yield penalties that can be noticed when corn is planted later in a non-irrigated environment.

One question that I have gotten a few times over the past couple of weeks is that of black bird and or crows concerns at planting and how to handle them. One of the more successful practices that I have observed is that of placing a plastic owl on a T-post or a fence post in the middle of the field. In addition, the placement of “reflective eyes” has made a difference also. The key to maintaining success with the decoys is moving them as often as possible. These decoys can give you as much as a week of reduced bird pressure in some cases. Another way to “try” to keep them out is to make sure that the seed furrow is being closed adequately with the press wheels. This is especially important in minimum till situations or in fields with lots of left over crop debris. The birds typically will start in an open furrow and move systematically down the row and never miss a kernel.

Corn on corn strategies. Planting corn after corn can present some interesting challenges. The lack of crop rotation is misunderstood but one thing is very clear, when crops are not rotated, yields are not maximized. In the Midwest corn following corn yield penalties can range from 10 to 12 Bu/A or as much as 10%. Choose the right genetics. Try to rotate hybrids if possible in a field. This will aid in less disease incidence. If you have the option, place a Bt hybrid in corn following corn fields. Save your non-Bt hybrids for fields that were in cotton or beans last year if possible. Even with most hybrids being Roundup Ready®, attempt to rotate herbicide chemistries as much as possible. This would be the residual compounds being added to the glyphosate products.



WHAT'S GOIN' ON...

2007 MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION **Dr. Ernie Clawson, LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station**

The Louisiana Agricultural Sciences Association (LASA), formerly the Louisiana Plant Protection Association (LPPA) and the Louisiana Association of Agronomists (LAA), will host its annual meeting in Baton Rouge on March 27, 2007. This meeting will have three different areas of focus. The first will be presentations from graduate students, and will include graduate student competitions in oral and poster presentations. The second, which is new for this year, will be presentations from county agents. The last will be presentations by other extension and research personnel.

The LASA is open to all agricultural, horticultural, and related disciplines, and participants from private, university, state or federal government, or other employment areas are welcome. Abstracts are requested by February 23, 2007 and should be sent to Dr. Ron Strahan via e-mail at rstrahan@agcenter.lsu.edu

Registration/membership fees are \$10 for graduate students and \$25 for all others, and will be collected on site. The meeting will begin at 12:00 noon and conclude at 5:30 PM with a crawfish boil. The location of the meeting will be in 210 and 214 Efferson Hall and the crawfish boil will be at the 4-H Mini Farm, both on the LSU campus.

SOYBEAN, CORN AND GRAIN SORGHUM PRESENTATIONS ONLINE

A new link has been added to the LSU AgCenter web site to view the soybean, corn and, grain sorghum commodity presentations. To access the information go to the particular commodity you are interested in and select "Production Overview." Currently the soybean and grain sorghum links are posted and the corn will be shortly. The actual links are below.

Soybean: <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/5498BFBB-C6DD-4AAB-B3D1-A092AA414C1F/33836/2007LASoybeanProductionLanclos1.pdf>

Grain Sorghum: <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/E080A860-A830-4E74-B455-5B770936EDA1/33762/2007LAGrainSorghumProductionLanclos1.pdf>



Louisiana Soybean Association (LSA)

LSA is a producer-based soybean organization affiliated with the American Soybean Association (ASA) and the United Soybean Board (USB). This organization has many roles, including updating statewide soybean producers on current legislative and environmental issues. The LSA has representatives on the ASA and USB boards. This allows Louisiana issues to be brought to a national audience. As a member of LSA, you support local, state,

national and international promotion and use of soybeans. Membership is available to anyone involved in production agriculture. Agribusiness personnel are strongly encouraged to join.

When you join the LSA, you become a member of ASA, which is the collective voice of 25,000 U.S. soybean producers and other agbusiness personnel that are members of the association. By making the choice to become a member of ASA you make that collective voice even more powerful.

ASA is your advocate in Washington D.C., on issues like biodiesel legislation, the Farm Bill, transportation infrastructure and market access. This important policy work is paid for by your voluntary membership in ASA, and cannot come from checkoff dollars. As your number one advocate, ASA testifies before Congress, lobbies Congress and the Administration, provides written comments on key issues, helps develop key legislative language on soybean initiatives and relays information about the importance of ASA issues to the media.

ASA's commitment to policy development begins with the grower-members. They elect state Board members and voting delegates who establish the policy goals for ASA. For more than 85 years, ASA has been working on behalf of its members to build demand, enhance profit opportunities and protect the soybean industry. ASA is proud to represent its soybean grower members, and is looking forward to another 85 years of success.

To increase its representation on the national level, the LSA is seeking new members to be a part of their organization. By purchasing a three year membership to the LSA for \$155.00 the new or renewing member will receive credit for four bags of seed at their respective seed dealership. After paying for a three year membership and purchasing your seed as you normally do, send in a copy of the receipt and where you purchased your seed back to LSA by June 30th, 2007. Your account at that seed dealership that you choose will then be credited for four bags by the respective seed representative.

The seed companies participating in the LSA membership drive are: Asgrow/DeKalb, Croplan Genetics, Delta Grow, Delta King, Delta & Pine Land, NK/Syngenta Seed, Pioneer and Terral. If you have any questions on joining LSA call Charles Cannatella 337-207-4730 or go online at www.SoyGrowers.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 2/22 West Carroll Grower Meeting – Oak Grove, LA for details contact Myrl Sistrunk msistrunk@agcenter.lsu.edu
- 2/22 Tensas Grower Meeting – St. Joe, LA for details contact Glen Daniels gdaniels@agcenter.lsu.edu
- 2/26 Iberia Grower Meeting – New Iberia, LA for details contact Jimmy Flanagan jflanagan@agcenter.lsu.edu



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