

Louisiana



SOYBEAN & FEED GRAIN REVIEW



Volume V, Issue XII

October 2007

Contributors

Dr. David Y. Lanclos
Rob Ferguson
Brad Guillory



Table of Contents

New State Yield Records–Why ?.....	p. 1
Contacts.....	p. 4



WHAT'S GOIN' ON...

NEW STATE YIELD RECORDS IN CORN AND SOYBEANS POSSIBLE – WHY?

Dr. David Y. Lanclos, LSU AgCenter Specialist

2007 may be a year for the record books when it comes to Louisiana soybean and corn production. USDA has forecasted two new state yield records for both of these crops at 37 and 150 Bu/A respectively. There are environmental, cultural and genetic reasons as to why we have the potential to set these records this year.

For corn, the increased yields are primarily attributable to four factors. The crop began vegetative growth with very hot and dry conditions and this allowed an efficient root system to establish, which permitted the crop to handle stress late-season. Secondly, the

temperatures statewide during peak pollination were much cooler than normal. In fact, there was a statistic floating around last week that we did not get above 91°F during the majority of the corn pollinating period. Thirdly, we had a light insect year and this allowed already superbly pollinated ears to reach their maximum potential. Traditionally, we get some stink bug and ear worm damage that does cause some yield limitations. Lastly, periodic and timely rainfall over much of the dryland acres was extremely beneficial. Physiological maturity in corn is classified by a term “black layer”, where an abscission layer forms between the kernel and the cob. Over much of the dryland acres, about two weeks prior to black layer, we started receiving intermittent rainfalls, which saved our dryland acres and nudged the yield numbers upward.

Regarding the soybean crop, favorable environmental conditions were the major contributing factor as to why yield reports are coming in average to above average. Most soybean yield reports are in the 38 to 40 Bu/A range. Early beans were 40 to 60 Bu/A. I estimate that 70% of the state is now harvested and if these numbers hold for the late-planted double cropped wheat beans, then a record is in sight. We did receive rainfall on the majority of the wheat beans around R5.5 which would have still done some good from a yield standpoint.

We have had a fairly “light” insect year this year in soybeans as well and that has made a difference in the quality of the beans that are being harvested. Heat indexes of over 105 for three weeks, caused a lot of fields to prematurely “quit” and caused some green beans and some green bean syndrome effects as well. Most of these situations are requiring the use a desiccant.

The use of fungicides judiciously could have played a role in some of the yield increases for soybeans also. In speaking with ag professionals from around the country, the question around beans always revolves around Asian soybean rust and why it is taking so long to spread. I am convinced the reason that we did not see the disease spread more efficiently, (when conditions were textbook for the disease to spread) was that Louisiana sprayed so effectively and promptly. It is very hard to estimate how much of the crop received a fungicide at least once but I estimate that 85% of the crop received a fungicide once and about 35% received two applications. Granted, the primary disease causing the second spray was rust, but how much of an impact did these sprayings affect the overall lack of spreading of the disease? If you are keeping up with the disease, it is obviously starting to spread fairly rapidly across the country now. We are getting cooler and receiving more rainfall. Another question that I have been asked a number of times over the past couple of weeks is “are sentinel plots worth it”? My answer is emphatically yes. They have given us the first confirmations in a number of states and still are performing an early detection role in other states that are just beginning to deal with the disease. Why are they successful? Because they are being monitored either weekly or twice weekly by trained professionals who know what they are looking for.

On another note, data has been generated this year on the twin-row vs. single row system(s), and it mirrors what Mississippi has been promoting for the past couple of years. Mississippi researchers and extension specialists have been reporting roughly a 9% yield increase with the twin row system when compared to a single row configuration. In a replicated study here in Alexandria, LA over three varieties, we noted a 6 to 7 Bu/A increase with the twin row system compared to a single 38” row system. On a producer’s field in Avoyelles parish in an on-farm demonstration, we were able to achieve 10 Bu/A more with twin rows versus a single 38”row system. Both plant populations were 130,000 seed to the acre.

In the coming weeks, there will be more data being reported on corn fungicides, raised vs. flat systems, single vs. twins, triazole efficacy/phytotoxicity/yield and other projects as well. 2008 is shaping up to be a heavy wheat and soybean year for Louisiana, and there is really good data being generated in the midsouth for corn and soybean farmers to continue breaking yield records if this data is considered in management decisions.



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.



PERSONNEL

STATE EXTENSION SPECIALISTS

Dr. Jack Baldwin, Professor, Entomology, Baton Rouge

jbaldwin@agcenter.lsu.edu

Responsibilities: Soybeans, Corn & Grain Sorghum

Dr. Kurt Guidry, Associate Professor, Ag Economics and Agribusiness, Baton Rouge

kmguidry@agcenter.lsu.edu

Responsibilities: Soybeans and feed grain economic marketing

Dr. Clayton Hollier, Professor, Plant Pathology, Baton Rouge

chollier@agcenter.lsu.edu

Responsibilities: Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, and Corn

Dr. David Y. Lanclos, Assistant Professor and Specialist, Dean Lee Research and Extension Center, Alexandria

dlanclos@agcenter.lsu.edu

Responsibilities: Soybeans, Corn & Grain Sorghum

Dr. Charles Overstreet, Professor, Plant Pathology, Baton Rouge

coverstreet@agcenter.lsu.edu

Responsibilities: Nematodes in all agronomic crops

Mr. J Stevens, Associate Professor and Specialist, Dean Lee Research and Extension Center, Alexandria

jstevens@agcenter.lsu.edu

Responsibilities: Soil fertility for all agronomic crops

EXTENSION ASSOCIATES

Rob Ferguson, Dean Lee Research & Extension Center, Alexandria

referguson@agcenter.lsu.edu cell phone: 318-308-4191

Brad Guillory, Lee Research & Extension Center, Alexandria

bguillory@agcenter.lsu.edu cell phone: 318-308-2477

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish	County Agent	E-Mail Address
Acadia	Barrett Courville	bcourville@agcenter.lsu.edu
Allen	Randall Bellon	rbellon@agcenter.lsu.edu
Avoyelles	Carlos Smith	csmith@agcenter.lsu.edu
Beauregard	Mike Lavergne	mlavergne@agcenter.lsu.edu
Bossier	Joseph Barrett	jbarrett@agcenter.lsu.edu
Caddo	John B. LeVasseur	jblevasseur@agcenter.lsu.edu
Calcasieu	Jerry Whatley	jwhatley@agcenter.lsu.edu
Caldwell	Jimmy McCann	jmccann@agcenter.lsu.edu
Cameron	Gary Wicke	gwicke@agcenter.lsu.edu
Catahoula	Cliff Watts	cwatts@agcenter.lsu.edu
Concordia	Glen Daniels	gdaniels@agcenter.lsu.edu
East Carroll	Donna Lee	drlee@agcenter.lsu.edu
Evangeline	Keith Fontenot	kfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu
Franklin	Carol Pinnell-Alison	cpinnell-alison@agcenter.lsu.edu
Iberia	Jimmy Flanagan	jflanagan@agcenter.lsu.edu
Iberville	Louis Lirette	llirette@agcenter.lsu.edu
Jeff Davis	Allen Hogan	ahogan@agcenter.lsu.edu
Lafayette	Stan Dutile	sdutile@agcenter.lsu.edu
Madison	Mike Rome	mrome@agcenter.lsu.edu
Morehouse	Terry Erwin	terwin@agcenter.lsu.edu
	Richard Letlow	rletlow@agcenter.lsu.edu
Natchitoches	Hubert Wilkerson	hwilkerson@agcenter.lsu.edu
Ouachita	Richard Letlow	rletlow@agcenter.lsu.edu
Pointe Coupee	Miles Brashier	mbrashier@agcenter.lsu.edu
Rapides	Matt Martin	mmartin@agcenter.lsu.edu
Red River	David Yount	dyount@agcenter.lsu.edu
Richland	Keith Collins	kcollins@agcenter.lsu.edu
St. Charles	Rene' Schmit	rschmit@agcenter.lsu.edu
St. Landry	Keith Normand	knormand@agcenter.lsu.edu
St. Martin	Alfred Guidry	aguidry@agcenter.lsu.edu
Tensas	Randy Smith	rsmith@agcenter.lsu.edu
Vermilion	Andrew Granger	agranger@agcenter.lsu.edu
Washington	Henry Harrison	hharrison@agcenter.lsu.edu
West Baton Rouge	Louis Lirette	llirette@agcenter.lsu.edu
West Carroll	Myrl Sistrunk	msistrunk@agcenter.lsu.edu
West Feliciana	James Devillier	jdevillier@agcenter.lsu.edu

RESEARCH PERSONNEL

Scientist	Location	Responsibilities	E-mail Address
Dr. Roberto Barbosa	Dept. of Ag Engineering, Baton Rouge	Pesticide application, nozzle selection and variable rate application	rbarbosa@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. James Board	Dept. of Agronomy & Env. Mgmt., Baton Rouge	Soybeans: water-logging and other cultural practices	jboard@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. Don Bouquet	Macon Ridge	Nutrient Mgmt., BMP,	dboquet@agcenter.lsu.edu

	Station, Winnsboro	and variety testing	
Dr. Ernie Clawson	NE Research Station, St. Joe	Soybeans: variety testing and early planting	eclawson@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. Dustin Harrell	Rice Research Station, Crowley	Research Agronomist	dharrell@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. Fangneng Huang	Dept. of Entomology, Baton Rouge	Corn & grain sorghum: insect pest management	fhuang@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. James Griffin	Dept. of Agronomy & Env. Mgmt., Baton Rouge	Soybeans and corn: weed management	jgriffin@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. Roger Leonard	Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro	Grain crops: sustainable IPM programs	rleonard@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. H.J. "Rick" Mascagni	Macon Ridge/NE Research Stations, Winnsboro & St. Joe	Corn & grain sorghum: production and variety testing	hmascagni@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. Donnie Miller	NE Research Station, St. Joe	Soybeans: weed control	dmiller@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. Steve Moore	Dean Lee Research & Extension Center, Alexandria	Corn: breeding and aflatoxin Soybeans: weathering Coordinator for variety testing	smoore@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. Boyd Padgett	Macon Ridge Station, Winnsboro	Small grain diseases	bpadgett@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. Ray Schneider	Dept. of Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, Baton Rouge	Soybean: pathology	rschneider@agcenter.lsu.edu
Mr. Roy Vidrine	Dean Lee Research & Extension Center, Alexandria	Agronomic crops: weed control	rvidrine@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. Bill Williams	NE Research Station, St. Joe	Corn and grain sorghum: weed management	bwilliams@agcenter.lsu.edu
Dr. Jim Wang	Dept. of Agronomy & Env. Mgmt., Baton Rouge	Soil testing, plant analysis, soil chemistry	jawang@agcenter.lsu.edu

Visit our Web site: www.lsuagcenter.com

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

William B. Richardson, Chancellor

Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station

David J. Boethel, Vice Chancellor and Director

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

Paul D. Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.