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North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
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January 2013 Hot Line Number 534-5256

# Ag News

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## Extension Agents



Craig Ellison, Interim Northampton County  
Extension Director  
Extension Agent, Agriculture



Lee Tyre, Extension Agent  
Livestock Agent

## Off the Top...

**January and February are the months for meetings to begin. Please note the meeting dates that have been scheduled for these two months.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS....

### Jan. 31

**Cotton Yield Contest and  
Peanut Yield Contest  
Due – 4:30 pm  
Information in this issue**

### Jan. 31

**No-Till Roundtable**  
Northampton County Ext. Center  
8:30 am – light breakfast  
2 hours pesticide credit – N,O,D,X

### Feb. 6

**Corn Meeting**  
Northampton County Ext. Center  
9:30 am – light snacks  
Credits 1 hr

### Feb. 8

**Price Risk Management Workshop**  
Northampton County Ext. Center  
9:30 – 11:30 am

### Feb. 8

**Peanut Production Meeting**  
Northampton County Ext. Center  
12:00 Noon – Catered lunch  
2 hours pesticide credit – N,O,D,X

### Feb. 12

**Cotton Production Meeting**  
Northampton Co. Ext. Center  
8:00 am – Catered Breakfast  
2 hours pesticide credit N,O,D,X

## Upcoming Events continued...

Feb. 11

### Regional Sorghum

Wilson County

9:30 pm

Feb. 19

### Annual Forestry Mtg.

Northampton Co. Wellness Center

6:30 – **Registration Required**

Feb. 20

### Soybean Meeting

Northampton Co. Extension Center

1:30 - 2 hours pesticide credits -

NODX

Ice Cream Sundae

Feb. 26

### Pesticide Recertification

Northampton Co. Ext. Center

2:00 – 4:00 pm **and** 6:00 – 8:00 pm

2 hours pesticide credits – ‘V’  
for each class

Feb. 28

### Pesticide Recertification

Northampton Co. Ext. Center

2:00 – 4:00 pm **and** 6:00 – 8:00 pm

2 hours pesticide credits – ‘V’  
for each class

March 5

### Pesticide Recertification

Northampton Co. Ext. Center

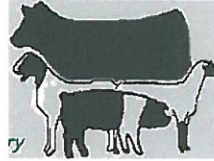
2:00 – 4:00 pm **and** 6:00 – 8:00 pm

2 hours pesticide credits – ‘X’ and  
commercial for each class

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting R.Craig Ellison, County Extension Director, at telephone # 252-534-2711 or [craig\\_ellison@ncsu.edu](mailto:craig_ellison@ncsu.edu) or fax # 252 534-1827, or in person at the County Extension Office at least seven (7) days prior to the event.

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## 4-H Livestock Show and Sale...

Come out and spend the day at the livestock arena in Murfreesboro on June 12<sup>th</sup>. This is the day set-aside for this years 4-H Livestock Show and Sale. Youth ages 9-19 can show steers or heifers and participants ages 5-19 can show sheep, goats, and/or hogs. The deadline to register for the show is **Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**. This is a great project for the entire family. Call Lee (534-2711) for more information.

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## PEANUT YIELD CONTEST...

This year's contest will be based on all the peanuts a grower produced. **Participation is**



**voluntary.** You will need a minimum of 25 acres to be eligible.

The producer needs to supply a summary

including: farm number, planted acres, total production per farm number, yield per farm number, and supporting documents of production (1007, warehouse receipts). The deadline has been set for **Thursday, January 31, 2013 by 4:30 pm.**

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## COTTON YIELD CONTEST:

- ✓ Contest is voluntary
- ✓ Deadline for entries – **Thursday, January 31, 2013 by 4:30 pm in our office.**
- ✓ Growers must deliver official producer cotton bale list plus gin summary (no handwritten receipt will be accepted).
- ✓ Provide all FSA numbers where cotton was grown
- ✓ Yield must include all acreage grown including out of county/state acreage.
- ✓ Must be growing 50 or more acres of cotton.
- ✓ Northampton must be the home or control county.
- ✓ Entries must be from person doing the work or directly supervising hired employees to carry out management practices necessary for the welfare of the crop.





## Annual Forestry Meeting...



The Northampton County Forestry Association will hold its annual meeting on **Tuesday, February 19th at 6:30 p.m.** The meeting will be at the Culture and Wellness Center, on Hwy. 305 north of Jackson.

The speaker will be from Enviva.

The Outstanding Member of the Year Award will be presented and your 2013 dues of \$10.00 will be collected at this meeting.

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## Price Risk Management Workshop...

Northampton County will hold this workshop on **Friday, February 8, from 9:30 – 11:30 am**, at the Extension Center. Nick Lassiter will cover the following topics: Introduction to Grain Hedging, Basis Trading, Cost of Carry, Cotton futures, and Options trading on futures, Equities, and Indices. There will be an emphasis on the principles of options, spreading strategies, and using options to manage financial risk. Energy derivatives will be explained as well as trading strategies to manage your exposure to energy. **Please call the extension office to register. This will help in having enough handouts.**

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## PURGE TIME:

If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter. Please call our office at 534-2711 and ask for your name to be removed from the mailing list. Thank you.

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## Agricultural Exemptions...

**The following are vehicle size exemptions:**



1. Self propelled farm equipment, including cotton module haulers, is allowed up to 10 feet in width. (N.C.G.S. 20-116(j))
2. Self propelled farm equipment is allowed In excess of 10 feet in width but not exceeding 25 feet with the following conditions: (N.C.G.S. 20-116(j))
  - a. The equipment must be operated during daylight hours only;
  - b. The equipment must display a red flag on the front and rear of the equipment or a flashing warning light;
  - c. If traveling more than 10 miles, a flag vehicle with flashing lights must be position in front and behind the equipment;
  - d. The equipment must be operated to the right of the center line when meeting opposing traffic;
  - e. The equipment must be folded to its minimal width.
  - f. **The equipment may be operated on a fully controlled access highway or interstate only after approval by NCDOT.**
3. Cotton and sage module haulers shall not exceed 50 feet in length. (N.C.G.S. 20-116(d)(2))
4. Annual oversize permits for hauling farm equipment up to 14 feet are available at no charge. (N.C.G.S. 20-119(b))
5. Hauling agricultural equipment from the farm to dealer is allowed under permit without certified escorts. Other destinations require an escort if designated in the permit. (N.C.G.S. 20-119 (g)(1))

For further permit information, contact the DOT Oversize/Overweight Permit Office: 1-800-221-8166

## Nitrogen Management for Small Grains...

Randy Weisz and Ron Heiniger

### No-Till

Preplant N management for no-till small grains is similar to conventional-till with a couple of minor differences. Many no-till growers find that their preplant N rates need to be on the high end of the recommended range. Therefore, when planting during the recommended planting dates, consider as much as 30 lbs of preplant N per acre. Growers using the early planting system may also want to consider applying 15 to 30 lb N per acre preplant, particularly in conditions where corn or sorghum residue is heavy.

### Winter: Rescue Applications

Cold temperatures slow plant growth and tillering, and consequently decrease N uptake. Since little N can be taken up by the crop during the winter months, N applied in winter may leach away and is generally of little value to the crop. Nitrogen management during the winter months consists of making sure the crop does not become N deficient. Small grains under N stress in the winter can lose tillers, which may reduce yield.

Indications of a possible N deficiency are a pale green color, thin and poorly developing stands, and a history of rains that caused leaching after planting. A small application of 15 to 30 pounds N per acre can help to green the crop back up if these symptoms occur. This rescue application needs to be made when daytime high temperatures are expected to be above 50°F. This application can stimulate growth, but the potential for environmental impact is great. If you apply N in the winter, check the tiller density in late January or early February and apply more N only if needed.

### Late January and Early February: Last Chance to Grow More Tillers

Late January to early February is the time to determine if the crop has enough tillers to optimize yield. This is a very important decision. Apply N in January or February only if tiller densities are less than 50 tillers per square foot. If N is not needed, applying N in January or February results in increased risk of freeze damage, disease, lodging, and reduced yield. If tillering is low, however, an early application of N can help to stimulate further tiller development in the last few weeks before growth stage 30, resulting in higher yield and profit. The following guidelines will help you decide whether to apply N in late January or early February.

### Guidelines For Wheat

The end of January or in the first week of February,

wheat that has about 100 well-developed tillers per square foot should not have any N applied until growth stage 30. **A well-developed tiller is one with at least three leaves.**

A “medium” density stand with about 50 tillers per square foot. It also is well on the way to being a good yielding crop, and should not have any N applied until growth stage 30. Wheat that is poorly tillered and only has about 20 tillers per square foot. It has a low yield potential and needs more tillers to develop in February. It should have 50 to 70 pounds N fertilizer applied in late January or early February. A second N application should be made to finish this crop off at growth stage 30.

Wheat stands that are in between 30-45 tillers also need an early N application. Such a field will yield best with 40 to 50 pounds of N fertilizer applied in late January or early February and a second N application to finish the crop off at growth stage 30.

To determine tiller density, count well-developed tillers (those with at least three leaves). Ignore small tillers that have only one or two leaves. Do not be concerned with differences between the main plant and younger side tillers. Just count any stem with at least three leaves as a tiller. The final count will include main plants, tillers, and side tillers. Count all the tillers that have at least three leaves in a yard of row. Do this in several places and take an average. Tiller density is then computed as follows:

$$\text{Tillers per square foot} = \frac{(\text{tillers per yard of row}) \times 4}{(\text{row width in inches})}$$

Example: If in five counts of tillers in a yard of row the average was found to be 102 tiller per row and the row spacing is 7.5 inches, then tiller density is:

$$102 \times 4 \div 7.5 = 54.4 \text{ tillers per square foot.}$$

An alternative is to mark out a square foot of ground and count all the tillers in that area that have at least three leaves. Do this in several places and calculate the average.

