



## CASWELL TOBACCO EXTENSION NOTES

### Summer 2016 Season

Hello again,

I think the tobacco crop this year is so different from farm to farm. As I sit here thinking about the growing season, there is tobacco (3 generations) that we are cultivating, topping, and pulling all at the same time on our farms. Hence, the weather conditions have been extremely variable across the State. I've got some information that I want to share with you that may be helpful to you in making crop decisions.



### Blue Mold Disease Update

As most of you know we found tobacco blue mold disease on three farms here in Caswell County in the middle of June in field plantings. It was also spotted in Eastern Tennessee shortly after we had come in contact with it. Tobacco blue mold is a devastating downy mildew disease caused by the fungus-like organism *Peronospora tabacina*. Blue mold can affect plants in the field throughout the growing season. I began an aggressive fungicide spray program with 10 oz/A Quadris and 4 oz/A of Presidio tankmixed (spraying 20 gallons of water per acre on smaller plants and 50 gallons of water per acre on larger plants) and following up 5 days later with the same formulation or some of the other fungicides labeled for blue mold control (Revus, Orondis Gold 200, Forum, and Acrobat). In some of the other fungicides there had been some resistance buildup; therefore, Dr. Dave Shew (NCSU Plant Pathologists) and myself did not recommend them. We have it under control and there are no active spores present in that affected area. But you need to continuously scout for diseases as well as insects so you can stay on top of it. Hot dry weather and topping flowers out help more than anything.



## **NCDA&CS Offers Organic Certification Cost-Share Assistance**

Organic growers in North Carolina can apply for partial reimbursement of the cost of becoming certified or for recertification through a program offered by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Growers who are certified or recertified between Oct. 1, 2015, and Sept. 30, 2016, can apply for assistance through the program. This cost-share program will cover up to 75 percent of the cost of organic certification for a farm, up to a total of \$750. The program has been popular, and with funds available on a first-come, first-served basis, I would encourage growers to submit their applications early.

Under the grant, operations can be certified and reimbursed in four separate categories: crops, livestock, wild crop and handler/processor. The program is for the 2015-2016 season and is funded through a \$168,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Applications must be postmarked by Dec. 1. To apply, growers must provide a completed application, along with detailed invoices/statements from the certifying agency listing all National Organic Program certified costs, proof of payment, an IRS W-9 form and a copy of your certificate or letter from your certifier if this is a new certification. All charges must be for USDA organic certification. The application can be downloaded at [www.ncdaorganic.org](http://www.ncdaorganic.org). Mail the application and required documents to the NCDA&CS Organic Certification Cost Share Program, Attn. Heather Barnes, at 1020 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1020. For questions, contact Barnes at [919-707-3127](tel:919-707-3127).

## **2016 NCSU Tobacco Tour**

The 2016 Tobacco Tour will be held on July 25-27, 2016 at several locations across the state. I will be driving and spending both nights in a hotel; therefore, anyone interested in going are welcome to ride with me. The agenda and hotel numbers are as follows:

### **Monday July 25<sup>th</sup>:**

4:00 pm – Triple B Farms, Bentonville – Precision MH Application

6:00 pm – Welcome Reception – McCall's BBQ & Seafood (139 Millers Chapel Rd. Goldsboro, NC 27534)

Recommended Hotel: Hampton Inn-Kinston: 252-523-1400 (1382 US-258 Kinston, NC 28504)

### **Tuesday July 26<sup>th</sup>:**

7:30 am – Breakfast at Cunningham Research Station (200 Cunningham Rd. Kinston, NC 28501)

8:00 am – Tour Cunningham Research Station

12:00 pm – Lunch at Cunningham Research Station

1:00 pm – Depart Cunningham Research Station for Vick Farms

2:00 pm – Arrive at Vick Farms in Simms, NC – Heat Recovery Demonstration

2:30 pm – Depart Vick Farms for Scott Brothers Farms in Kenly, NC

3:00 pm – Arrive at Scott Brothers Farms (8882 Frank Rd, Kenly, NC 27542)

4:00 pm – Conclude Tour for the Day

Recommended Hotel: Double Tree by Hilton-Rocky Mount: 252-937-6888 (651 N Winstead Ave. Rocky Mount, NC 27804)

**Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup>:**

7:30 am – Breakfast at Upper Coastal Plain Research Station (2811 Nobles Mill Pond Rd Rocky Mount, NC 27801)

8:00 am – Tour Upper Coastal Plain Research Station

12:00 pm – Lunch at Upper Coastal Plain Research Station

1:00 pm – Depart Upper Coastal Plain Research Station for Oxford Tobacco Research Station

2:30 pm – Arrive at Oxford Tobacco Research Station (300 Providence Road Oxford, NC 27565)

5:00 pm – Conclude Tour

**Virginia Tech's 2016 Annual Tobacco Research Field Day**

The Southern Piedmont AREC will hold it's 2016 Annual Tobacco Research and Extension Field Day on August 2, 2016 from 5pm -8 pm at 2375 Darvills Road in Blackstone, Virginia. I am planning on going if anyone wants to ride with me. I go every year and there seems to be a wealth of new information presented that day. With registration begins at 5:00 p.m. with a sponsored dinner at 5:30 p.m. then at 6:00 p.m. load the wagons to being the field research tour.

Field tour topics will include the following: (1) Agronomic management for tips production and de-lugging treatments, (2) Tobacco curing efficiency research, (3) Tobacco sucker control and MH residue management, (4) Flue, burley, and dark-fired tobacco variety evaluations, (5) Organic tobacco fertilization, (6) Black shank fungicide tests, (7) Nematode and disease control, (8) Tobacco leaf spot fungicide evaluation, and (9) Insect pest management.

Feel free to continue contacting me at 336-694-4158 (office) or 434-728-5980 (cell) for research-based information and Extension recommendations. Hope this information will be of value to you.

Sincerely,



Joey E. Knight, III  
Caswell County Extension Director