



CASWELL TOBACCO EXTENSION NOTES **Winter 2017-18 Season**

Hello again and Happy New Year,

Well another year has gone by and I am looking forward to a great 2018 season. We had some challenges this 2017 growing season with some varieties not performing well, not good hold-ability of plants in the field, lower prices/pound than projected, and some diseases in the greenhouses (Pythium, collar rot, and tomato spotted wilt virus) and fields (Granville wilt and black shank, but not as bad as previous years along with one confirm case of blue mold in the county). A lot of this was due to delayed or unfortunately timed plantings with a wet spring and dry summer which resulted in a light weighted crop. I have a few things that I want to run by each of you. Hope the information provided will be helpful.



Annual Tobacco Production and GAP Meeting

The upcoming 2018 Regional Tobacco Production Meeting and GAP Recertification Training. The meeting is designed to provide you with recertification training on the GAP information you are required to receive by your contracting company as well as production information for the 2018 growing season.

I would like to remind you that the GAP training sessions are required by the following companies:

- RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company
- Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company
- American Snuff Company
- United Tobacco Company
- Universal Leaf North America
- Alliance One International
- Japan Tobacco International
- Philip Morris USA
- Philip Morris International
- US Smokeless Tobacco Company
- US Tobacco Cooperative
- Hail and Cotton, Inc.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 22, 2018, at the Caswell County Civic Center, 536 Main Street East, Yanceyville, NC. The meeting will begin with registration and breakfast at 8:30 AM, followed by the program at 9:00 AM. The training will conclude around 12:00 noon with a sponsored lunch.

The meeting agenda will be very similar to what it was last year. In addition, GAP Connections has requested that each meeting allow for the following: 15 minutes for GAP Connections, 40 minutes for DOL, 40 minutes for Crop Management, and 40 minutes for Environmental Management. NCSU Tobacco Extension Specialists (Dr. Loren Fisher, Dr. Hannah Burrack, and Dr. Matthew Vann) will present Extension/Research updates as covering the 40 minutes requirement for Crop and Environmental Management. We will give out updated information for your GAP notebooks, NCSU Tobacco Handbooks, and DOL posters.

You will receive re-certification for the GAP training as well as 2 hours of pesticide “X, D, N, O” credits, so you MUST pre-register by calling the Caswell County Extension Center at (336) 694-4158. Bring both your GAP and NCDA Pesticide Cards with you so we can scan them into our computer system. This year GAP Connections is requiring you to have a photo I.D. along with your GAP card in order to get re-certified. Pre-registration is required by January 18th. Seating is limited, so walk-ins the day of the training may not be accommodated.

If you have questions concerning requirements or recommendations for GAP training, please contact your tobacco company representative or our office.

48th Tobacco Workers Conference

Plans are underway for the 48th Tobacco Workers Conference in 2018. The TWC will take place at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC – January 15-18, 2018.

The TWC is an international educational conference of tobacco scientists and producer educators who will report on educational and research projects relating to flue-cured, burley, and dark tobacco production and management. Presentations include oral papers

and a poster session. Participants in the conference include representatives of the major tobacco production and cigarette manufacturing countries in the world. A recent TWC included participants from 14 states and 11 countries. I plan on attending this conference so if anyone wants to ride down with me, just give me a call.

Conference location details can be found at the <http://twconference.com/>.

Tobacco Day, December 7th

Tobacco Day Meeting this year will be Thursday December 7, 2017 at the Johnston County Cooperative Extension Office from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. A variety of speakers from both NCSU and Industry will be there presenting the latest information on tobacco production. I plan on attending this event; therefore, anyone wanting to ride with me just call me to let me know.



Thought of this year's cost to analyze: Piedmont Flue-Cure Tobacco roughly cost you \$3,852 per acre at \$1.54 per pound to produce. Some farms will vary in higher expenses depending on inputs. Organic tobacco production will be higher because of more labor expenses.

Feel free to continue contacting me at 336-694-4158 (office) or 434-728-5980 (cell) for research-based information and Extension recommendations. I hope all of you have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday. Hope this information will be of value to you.

Sincerely,

Joey E. Knight, III

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Caswell County Extension Director