Field Crops Newsletter

April 2006

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Be sure to visit

The McDowell Cooperative Extension Commercial Agriculture Web page
http://mcdowell.ces.ncsu.edu/ag for complete information on:

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<tr>
<th>Livestock and Grain Market Reports</th>
<th>Soil Sample Reports</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Crops Pest Management Information</td>
<td>Current Newsletters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management information on livestock field crops, forages and other agriculture.</td>
<td>Other Agricultural Information &amp; Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural weather information</td>
<td>NC Ag Chemical Manual for recommendations on all approved insecticides, herbicides, fungicide, fertilizers and more</td>
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</table>
Nickels for Know-How Check-off Vote Set for May 25

A self-assessed check-off that supports agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at NC State University is set for a vote on May 25, 2006.

Users of feed and fertilizer in North Carolina will vote on May 25 on whether to continue the 15 cents per ton self-assessment on fertilizer and animal feed produced in our state. Since 1951, the Nickels check-off has been voted on every six years and has passed in the 12 previous referenda by an average 90% favorable vote. Polling locations in McDowell County will be at Spencer Hardware on Rutherford Road., L&R Country Store in Glenwood, Crooked Creek General Store on Bat Cave Road. in Old Fort, and the McDowell Cooperative Extension Office in Marion. Voting hours will be from 9-5.

Dean Johnny C. Wynne of CALS says “Virtually every significant advancement in agriculture in the last 55 years has received Nickels funding at some point. Without Nickels, our College would not be able to serve the citizens of North Carolina as well as we do.”

Co-Chairs of the May 25 Referendum are Mr. Larry Wooten, President of the NC Farm Bureau, Mr. Jimmy Gentry, President of the NC State Grange and Mr. Fred Burt, Chairman of the NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. and a farmer from Wake County.

In addition, Nickels for Know-How provides support for fund raising efforts in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences that generate over $30 million annually in private contributions. This is a $75 return on every $1 dollar invested. Some of the entities that Nickels provides operating support for include the NC Cooperative Extension Service Foundation, the NC 4-H Development Fund, the NC FFA Foundation, the NC Family & Consumer Sciences Foundation, the NC Dairy Foundation, the CALS Alumni and Friends Society, and the JC Raulston Arboretum Board of Directors.

Nickels funds have helped the College to raise funds for over 475 endowments valued at over $100 million that provide over $800,000 in scholarships to 600 undergraduate students in the College. In addition, these endowments support faculty efforts, county extension programs, commodity research efforts, and other programs in CALS.

Efforts to keep rural agricultural students at NC State through the “Spend a Day at State” program, the CALS Student Ambassadors Program, CALS Teaching and Advising Awards, Workshops for High School Vocational Agriculture Teachers, On-Campus Internships and Annual Scholarship Enhancement are also funded by Nickels.

Since 1951, most of the state’s research-based agricultural advances have at some point shared Nickels funds. Some examples of those faculty-driven projects are as follows:

* Switchgrass varieties as feedstock for bioethanol production
* Avian Flu Education Program
* The Academy for Excellence in Commodity Association Leadership
* Maximizing profit in North Carolina peanuts.
* Family & community disaster preparedness education.
* Strengthening agricultural programming in 4-H through commodity groups.
*Franklin County 2-day Educational Goat & Sheep Conference.
*International competitiveness of the NC swine industry.
*Helping NC Farmers survive during difficult times.
*Developing 4-H livestock programs and educational materials
*Using vitamin E to improve pork quality.
*Composting swine manure for nutrient removal.
*Alternatives to herbicide spraying for woody vegetation.
*Integrating swine waste mgmt. with greenhouse tomato production.
*Off-season production of small fruits.
*Development of a method for estimating potato yield losses.
*Processing mortality silage into valuable poultry and swine feed products.
*Fertility regimes for high density apple orchards in Western, NC.
*Foliar fertilizer use in NC cotton.
*Using animal waste for horticultural compost production.
*Role of darkling beetle migration in the re-colonization of NC turkey houses.
*Assessment of flood impacts on agricultural soils in NC.
*Profitable peach production as part of a diversified farming operation in NC.
*Evaluation of cover crops & conservation tillage for conventional & organic sweet potato production in NC.
*Development and delivery of on-farm HACCP educational safety programs.
*Mechanisms of protein degradation in chicken skeletal muscle.
*Water movement & nitrate leaching in constructed turf systems.
*New forage grazing strategies to improved conversion of grass to beef.
*Development of niche markets for new orange and yellow watermelon cultivars.
*Integrated strategies to minimize disease risk & enhance strawberry enterprises.
*Development of an online course on Feed Mill management.
*Biology, ecology, and control of Tropical Spiderwort.
*Enhancing quality and safety of North Carolina specialty meat products.
*Building a superior striped bass.
*Management of red imported fire ants in North Carolina pastures.
*Maximizing turkey meat yield through early post-hatch nutrition.
*Wheat transformation for drought tolerance.

These are just a few of the ways Nickels for Know-How has worked to support North Carolina farmers and agribusinesses. NC State University is grateful to the citizens who make this possible by voting on May 25, 2006 for the statewide Nickels Referendum.
Soybean Rust Update

March 8, 2006
From Jim Dunphy and Steve Koenning – NCSU

Rust has now been found on kudzu in 11 counties in Florida, 4 counties in Georgia, 5 counties in Alabama, and 1 county in Texas (in the southern tip of the state). Most are in protected (from the weather) urban areas.

The closest find to Murphy to date is in Montgomery County, Alabama, which is about 230 miles away. The closest to Raleigh is in Brooks County, Georgia, which is about 445 miles away.

A map of where soybean rust has been confirmed in 2006, as well as the additional counties that have been scouted so far this year, can be found at http://sbrusa.net/

For additional information on Soybean Rust, check the following online websites:
http://www.stopsoybeanurst.com/mc_home.asp
http://spdn.ifas.ufl.edu/soybean_rust.htm
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/notes/Soybean/soy008.htm

Did you know...........................................

chsel The first soybeans were brought to the U.S. on a Yankee clipper in 1804 in the early days of our nation.

沺 In the late 1880s, U.S. farmers began growing soybeans for cattle feed.

℞ By 1904, people no longer thought of the soybean as just a feed crop, but also as a source of protein and oil.

℞ By 1929, U.S. soybean production reached 9 million bushels a year.

℞ By 1940, the soybean crop had grown to 78 million bushels harvested on five million acres.

℞ Today, farmers across the U.S. grow soybeans that have been harvested into yields of about 2 billion bushels a year. About half of U.S. soybeans are exported to major markets including the European Community, Japan, Taiwan, Mexico and South Korea. More soybeans are grown in the U.S. than anywhere else in the world.
Grain Prices

North Carolina grain prices paid to producers by location, delivered in bulk, as of 4:00 pm. In dollars per bushel.

US 2 Yellow Corn: was 3 to 4 cents lower. Prices were 2.33-2.53, mostly 2.38-2.48 at the feed mills, and 2.13-2.63, mostly 2.18-2.23 at the elevators. New Crop: 2.36-2.71.

US 1 Yellow Soybeans: were 4 cents lower. Prices were 5.82 at the processors, 5.48 at the feed mills, and 5.32-5.63, mostly 5.47-5.53 at the elevators. New Crop: 5.61-5.76.

US 2 Soft Red Winter Wheat: was 6 cents lower. Prices were 2.85-3.15, mostly 2.85 at the elevators. New Crop: 2.58-3.22.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Feed Mills</th>
<th>US 2 Yellow Corn</th>
<th>US 1 Yellow Soybeans</th>
<th>US 2 Soft Red Wheat</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Cash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bladenboro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candor</td>
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<td>Cofield</td>
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<tr>
<th>Elevators</th>
<th>Soybeans</th>
<th>Meal (48 pct protein)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Belhaven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chadbourn</td>
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<td>Clement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creswell</td>
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<td>Pantego</td>
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Source: North Carolina of Ag-USDA Market News, Raleigh, NC
Dallas Woodhouse Market Reporter 919-733-7252
http://www.ncagr.com/market/mktnews/RA_GR110.TXT