



ACPA Newsletter

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Arkansas Corn Yield Record Broken in 2014

By Dr. Jason Kelley, Extension Agronomist, Wheat and Feed Grains, University of Arkansas

Arkansas corn producers had an excellent year with another record yield. The state average yield is estimated at 190 bu/acre, which was 2 bu/acre greater than last year. With the yield of 190 bu/acre, Arkansas was tied for having the third highest state average corn yield in the United States. Arkansas producers harvested an estimated 535,000 acres in 2014. The season got off to a difficult start with too much rain and cool weather in March, April, and early May that delayed or prevented planting for many producers. High winds associated with thunderstorms caused significant greensnap in many fields in central and North-east Arkansas in early June resulting in substantial yield

reductions. However, the weather during silking and grain fill was ideal for high yields with below average temperatures and above average rainfall. Anytime we can get an extended period of cooler temperatures during grain fill like we did in 2014, we should see high yields if we have managed the crop properly. This is exactly what happened the last two years. Forecasts for 2015 indicate that Arkansas corn acreage may see a slight reduction due to lower grain prices, however many producers say they are not reducing corn acreage because they see a substantial rotational benefit the following year for soybeans or other crops.



“The state average yield is estimated at 190 bu/acre, 2 bu/acre greater than last year”

Arkansas Crop Protection Association Holds Annual Meeting at ACMC, Election of Officers on Slate.

Election of officers for ACPA will be conducted at the annual meeting to be held in conjunction with the Arkansas Crop Management Conference January 20-22, 2015 at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in North Little Rock, AR. Officers nominated this year will include President Elect Dr. Tom Barber moving to position of President. Tom is Extension Weed Scientist with

the University of Arkansas and currently serves as Program Chairman of ACMC. The nominee for President Elect and ACMC program chair for 2015-16 is Chuck Ligon. He has been a member of ACPA for 25 plus years and has served on the ACPA board for one term and coordinated the Silent Auction Fundraising Auction for 3 years with several other members.

Chuck is Territory Manager for Pioneer Seeds. Brad Koen will be nominated for another term as board member. Brad works for BASF and is currently Chairman of the ACPA Sustaining Membership Committee. Several ACPA committees and other business will be discussed at the annual meeting.

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Special Points of Interest

- Record Corn Yield in 2014
- Pre-Register for Arkansas Crop Management Conference on-line at acpnews.com.
- Invasive pest a concern for Arkansas agriculture
- ACPA Ex-officio Board Members Mike Thompson retires and Rodney Baker promoted to Farm Bureau Executive Vice President.

2015 Arkansas Crop Management Conference, Looking into the Future!!



Dr. Lorenz will discuss neonicotinoid insecticides and honeybee health.

The Arkansas Crop Management Conference has a program designed for the agricultural needs for next year and the future. The highlight of the program will be Tuesday at the opening session on drone technology “UAS Technology Applications in Agriculture” by Keith Perkins and Grant Beckwith. Another opening session will feature Wade Foster speaking on “Fertilizer: A View from Washington”.

The program will also feature several speakers on herbicide technology for next year. Dow and Monsanto will introduce new weed control technologies

this year in limited acreages. Discussions on these advances in weed control will be discussed at the industry updates, a session on application technology, discussions by Dr. Tom Barber and Jason Norsworthy on Wednesday, plus many hallway conversations on the best ways to control resistant weeds. Presentations on diseases of wheat, rice and soybeans will feature our University of Arkansas scientists. Also, honeybees have been a hot topic in the news and Dr. Gus Lorenz will present information on our neonicotinoid insecticides

in conjunction with bee health. Another hot topic this year that will be discussed by a panel of experts is the sugar cane aphids effect on grain sorghum production. The conference also has a great introduction to basic soil chemistry presented by Dr. Bill Simmons from the University of Illinois. You cannot miss this great opportunity to learn the latest in crop management for the coming production year.

Invasive Insects, Weeds and Diseases a Concern in Arkansas Agriculture



Bengal dayflower above and kudzu bug below



Insects, weeds and diseases are expected in Arkansas agriculture each year and our consultants are on the job daily determining the levels of infestation. The pests that occur are normally expected to be the same. However, invasive species pose a potential threat for the future in Arkansas. ACPA newsletters have features several articles by Joel Bard on potential pests for Arkansas. The boll weevil is perhaps the most famous invasive species for the Southern US causing massive damage to the

cotton crop until eradication efforts were completed a few years ago. Another invasive pest, the Kudzu bug, was found in Arkansas this past year and potential could be a major pest of soybeans and similar crops. The disease Asian Rust was also deemed a threat a few years ago but has not proven a serious pest to this point. Several weeds, including Bengal dayflower, have been mentioned over the years as potential invasive pests. The primary goal of these invasive pest articles is to raise the

awareness of our partners in agriculture to be on the lookout for any strange uncommon pest that you see. Early detection of pests could result in eradication of pest when they are at low levels. The Arkansas Plant Board is the lead agency for control of outbreaks of invasive pest in our state. Several years ago, the ASPB lead a successful to eradicate an outbreak of Gypsy Moth in northern Arkansas. So be aware and report unusual occurrence of any insect, disease or weed.

Brad Koen Chair of Sustaining Membership Committee

“Check Sustaining Membership at <http://acpanews.com/>”

Brad Koen is serving as chairman of the ACPA sustaining membership committee. Other committee members include Dan Sterenberg and Kyle Colwell. The sustaining membership committee works with corporations, Arkansas businesses and individ-

ual businesses in supporting ACPA scholarships and educational efforts such as the newsletter, website, Research Conference and the Arkansas Crop Management Conference. ACPA could not exist without the help of our sustaining members. A

list of our sustaining members may be found on our website at <http://acpanews.com/>. ACPA is pleased to recognize Erwin Keith Inc., Greenpoint Ag and Raymat CropScience as new sustaining members for 2014-15.



Arkansas Crop Management Conference, January 20-22, 2015, Pre-Register On Line.

The 2015 Arkansas Crop Management Conference is scheduled for January 20-22, 2015 at the Wyndham Riverfront, North Little Rock, Arkansas. Phone 501-371-9000 for room reservations. A block of rooms will be available until January 10 first come basis so call now,

The 2015 Program starts at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, January 20, 2015. On-site registration will start on Monday, January 19 at the Wyndham from 3-6PM. The ACMC has an exciting program with very applicable agricultural approaches and solutions for the coming year

including a discussion on drone technology.

Pre-registration is \$165 with a pre-registration cut-off date of January 15 on line, on-site registration is \$195, state and federal registration is \$95. The room rate for the conference is \$104 single or double including a complimentary breakfast.

The ACMC meeting will have over 20 CEU's available this year if you attend the complete agenda. Pre-Register at <http://acpanews.com/> The program is also available on line to review or download.

The program is diverse with credits available in nutrient management, in soil water plus extensive pest management topics and crop management reviews. The latest in technology will be presented.

Randy Veach, President of Arkansas Farm Bureau will be the featured speaker at the awards luncheon speaking on "Waters of the US and other EPA issues". Be sure to register early to get the lower registration rate. Also, make hotel reservations early.



Award Luncheon will be Tuesday at noon.

Emerald Ash Borer, Another Invasive Pests Found in Arkansas

The emerald ash borer, a tiny Asian insect responsible for the deaths of tens of millions of trees since its accidental introduction to the United States in 2002, has been confirmed in Hot Spring, Clark and Nevada counties, according to the state Plant Board and the Arkansas Agriculture Department. Since 2009, the Arkansas State Plant Board and the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, have been conducting

surveys to detect the borer, using traps and inspecting ash trees for signs of infestation. The insect, a mere half-inch long, has expanded its range by hundreds of miles during its 12 years in the U.S. It was first discovered in southeastern Michigan. In 2008, it was found in southeastern Missouri. While its appearance in Arkansas was not unexpected, "the only surprise was finding it first in south Arkansas," said Jon Barry, extension forester with the

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. "The emerald ash borer should be able to spread only a few miles a year by flight, but it has been spreading by leaps and bounds instead. How has this occurred?" Barry said. "The most likely culprit in the spread of the borer is us -- people. People move firewood, sometimes firewood that is infested with the emerald ash borer, and in the process move the pest."



Emerald Ash Borer, Arkansas State Plant Board places quarantine on movement of potential infested wood and wood products

ACPA Expresses Thanks to Mike Thompson and Rodney Baker, Ex-officio Board Members

ACPA extends congratulations to Rodney Baker, ex-officio Board member from Farm Bureau for many years. Rodney Baker, a 36-year employee of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, was named as the organization's executive vice president. Baker assumed his new role effective November 1, 2013, upon the retirement of Ewell Welch, the organization's current EVP. A new Farm Bureau representative

will be appointed to represent Farm Bureau in the near future as ex-officio board member to ACPA. Thanks to Rodney Baker for his service and support.

Another ex-officio board member to move on is Mike Thompson. Mike served as Director of Pesticide Division, Arkansas State Plant Board. Mike attended ACPA board meeting annually and offered priceless advice to

our board and coordinated plant board input to our meeting. Mike has decided to retire and drive his Corvette more. A big thanks goes out to Mike for his efforts and service to ACPA over the years.

"Thanks For Years of Service and Support to ACPA"

We're on the web:
acpanews.com

Arkansas Cotton Outlook for 2015

By: Dr. Bill Robertson, Extension Cotton Specialist, University of Arkansas

As the 2014 season comes to a close, USDA estimates Arkansas cotton producers will average 1137 pounds of lint from 330,000 planted acres. While this yield estimate will set a new record, planted acres remain low in this period of low prices. Many things are cyclic in nature and Arkansas cotton production is no exception. Beginning in the mid-70s planted cotton areas fell from an average of just over a million acres to a low of 320,000 acres in 1983. Planted acres increased the following year and continued that trend leveling off around the million acre

mark in 1991 and held steady through 2006. Since 2006 we have experienced a continuous drop much like that seen in the late 70s. We likely will fall below the low mark set in 1983 for our upcoming season. It is also likely that in the next 10 years we will experience a similar trend in that our acres will increase.

The loss of infrastructure is critical to the comeback of any commodity. Continued improvements in ginning, harvest, and production technology will help facilitate the comeback of cot-

ton just as we have seen in the past. At our current position of cycle we are now experiencing, it is important to continue to focus on maintaining or improving cotton's market share with other natural and man-made fibers, strive to continue to improve efficiency of production to maintain profitability, and retain as much of our infrastructure as possible to be in position when cotton bounces back.



“Yield average 1137 pounds of lint per acre in 2014”