



# ACPA Newsletter

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## Arkansas Crop Management Conference January 16-18, 2018

The Arkansas Crop Management Conference is scheduled for January 16-18, 2018, at the Wyndham Riverfront, North Little Rock, AR. The conference for 2018 will have around 20 educational credits available this year and will end at noon Thursday. Topics of interest to be addressed include proposed new regulations on auxin technologies, resistant pigweed management, soybean inoculants, peanut production, red banded stinkbugs, and water management, plus several topics on nutrient management. The awards luncheon will be on Tuesday; there will also be socials with finger foods on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Register

for the conference online at: [acpanews.com](http://acpanews.com).

The Wyndham offers a conference room rate of \$104.00 plus tax for single or double occupancy and \$10.00 for each additional person. Breakfast is included. Guests may call the hotel toll free number at 1-866-657-4458 or the hotel directly at (501) 371-9000 to make reservations. Please mention Arkansas Crop Management when calling in order to receive the special conference rate. Members calling after the cut-off date may not be able to receive the negotiated rate. Cancellation of an individual guest room reservation needs to be made 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid no-show charges.

**"Register for the conference online at [acpanews.com](http://acpanews.com)"**



**"Make your room reservations at the hotel by calling (501) 371-9000"**

## Bill Introduced in Congress to Address Phony Organic Imports

A recent USDA Inspector General (IG) audit report published Monday, September 18, indicates ever increasing food products imported and marketed as organic may not actually meet U.S. government standards to be marketed and sold as such. The IG's review said that the department's Agricultural Marketing Service, which oversees organic standards, couldn't prove that incoming cargoes "were reviewed at U.S. ports of entry to verify that imported agricultural products labeled as organic were from certified organic foreign farms and business." The audit also found the agency hasn't figured out how to ensure that shipments sprayed for insects at the port don't get labeled organ-

ic before they reach grocery store shelves. Arkansas produces non-GMO soybean and corn for use in poultry production that may be impacted.

A bipartisan bill called the Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act was introduced in Congress in response to recent discoveries that many imported agricultural products labeled as organic were not found to actually be organic by U.S. standards. The influx in so-called organic products has harmed organic and non-organic producers in the United States. This bill is designed to improve trade oversight in our global market by providing the funds to give USDA and certifiers the tools to better respond to

threats to the integrity of organic. Given that the legislation increases funding for USDA, it's not clear if or when this legislation could receive consideration, but the issue is likely to emerge in the upcoming farm bill debate. The bill also included information on funding if passed. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in order to carry out activities under the national organic program established under this title, there are authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; \$16,500,000 for fiscal year 2019; \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; \$22,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; and \$24,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

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## Meeting dates that may interest you:

- State Plant Board Special Meeting and Public Hearing Nov. 8, 2017
- ACPA Research Conference Nov. 28-29, 2017
- Arkansas Crop Management Conference January 16-18, 2018



## 2017 Metribuzin Ratings for Soybean Varieties

By: Dr. Jeremy Ross, University of Arkansas Extension Soybean Agronomist



**Soybean production is critical to Arkansas agriculture and research is needed on all aspects of production.**

Every year, varieties entered into the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's Soybean Performance Trials are screened for tolerance to metribuzin. Metribuzin (Sencor, Canopy, etc.) is a PSII inhibitor (Group 5) herbicide that provides residual control of an assortment of annual grasses and broadleaf weeds in soybean, including Palmer amaranth. With the extensive use of PPO (Group 14) and chloracetamide (Group 15) herbicides

in soybean and rotational crops such as corn and cotton, use of an additional mode of action (MOA) is a sound strategy to reduce the risk of resistance to these other herbicide MOA's. The handicap to metribuzin use is the sensitivity of soybean varieties to this herbicide. Other environmental factors, including soil texture, organic matter, rainfall, soil pH, and product use rate, may also play a part in sensitivity. The University of Arkansas System Division of

Agriculture conducted a greenhouse screening of soybean varieties, testing their tolerance to metribuzin at a rate of 0.5 lb ai/A or 10.67 oz/A of a 75DF metribuzin product. Soybean varieties are given a rating of either Slight Injury, Moderate Injury, or Severe Injury based on results from the greenhouse screening. Results are available here and under the publications tab on the AR Row Crops blog webpage as well as the Soybean page at uaex.edu.

## Dicamba Seed Screening for Non-Dicamba Tolerant Soybeans

### **"Seed Screening Service for Dicamba Exposure Offered by University of Arkansas".**

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is offering a service to screen non-dicamba tolerant soybeans being grown for seed production that might have been exposed to dicamba. "We've heard from growers who worry about the effects that dicamba exposure might have on their non-dicamba beans for seed production," said Bob Scott, professor and weed scientist for the University of Arkansas System Division of

Agriculture. "They want to be sure their soybean seed is vigorous and free of any dicamba symptoms."

Growers who wish to have their seed tested will need to download and fill out a form and submit about 1,000 soybean seeds per sample. Growers will be asked to specify the type of seed, whether conventional, Roundup Ready, Liberty Link, Enlist or other variety.

"We will be testing for percent-

age of germination, the percentage of seedlings showing auxin-type symptoms 14 days after emergence," Scott said.

The cost per sample is \$100. Checks should be made out to "Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service."

For more information, contact Bob Scott at bscott@uaex.edu or (501) 676-3124

## Public Hearing and State Plant Board Special Called Board Meeting November 8, 2017



**Dicamba soybean injury has resulted in numerous complaints to Arkansas State Plant Board and a recommended limitation on usage for 2018.**

Public Hearing and State Plant Board Special Called Board Meeting, Little Rock Wed, November 8, 2017, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Legal Notice: Public Hearing and State Plant Board Special Called Board Meeting  
The Arkansas State Plant Board will meet at 9:00 am, November 8, 2017 at the Embassy Suites Little Rock, 11301 Financial Centre Parkway, Little Rock, AR 72211.

I. Public Hearing to consider

adopting changes to the Arkansas Regulations on Pesticide Use. The hearing will be to consider changes to implement a cutoff date for the use of dicamba in the state of Arkansas.

Comments may be mailed to:  
Attn: Susie Nichols or Brandi Reynolds, Arkansas State Plant Board, P.O. Box 1069, Little Rock, AR 72203 or emailed to brandi.reynolds@aspb.ar.gov or susie.nichols@aspb.ar.gov. Mailed comments will be accept-

ed beginning Sunday, October 1, 2017 until the close of business Monday, October 30, 2017. Anyone wishing to make comments in person may attend the hearing and they will be afforded the opportunity to present those comments. Comments must be made in writing or in person at the public hearing.

The proposed rule change may be viewed on the Plant Board web page at: [www.aad.arkansas.gov](http://www.aad.arkansas.gov).

## Plant Board Sets Proposed Rules for Dicamba in 2018

On Thursday, September 21, the Arkansas State Plant Board held a quarterly meeting where they considered many items including new regulations related to dicamba herbicide for the 2018 crop year. The board unanimously approved proposed regulations that would prohibit the use of dicamba herbicides in crops from April 16th through October 31st. The proposed rules will go to public hearing Wednesday, November 8th, and the Plant Board will also receive written comment for a 30 day period prior to the hearing. The Board also denied a petition by Monsanto that claimed previous rules related to dicamba as well as recommendations from the Task Force were arbitrary and capricious. The Board went point by point through the specific allegations of the Monsanto petition and made statements refuting their claims. A formal

legal response will be provided by the Agriculture Department in the coming days. Monsanto could further pursue their claims through an appeal process, but it's unclear if they will proceed in that direction.

Another letter of petition from a group of Arkansas farmers looking to find a compromise allowing for a later cut-off date was not included in the meeting agenda. That letter was received by the Board on Wednesday, and it appears that their request will likely be heard as part of the review process of the proposed rule.

In addition to the issues directly related to dicamba, the Plant Board also set forth more regulatory policy clarifying its procedures for requesting additional research from product registrants and for setting forth state specific restrictions on various products. A hearing on

this matter will be held December 12.

The Plant Board also finalized regulations setting forth penalties under Act 778, which allows for penalties of greater than \$1,000 and up to \$25,000 for egregious violations that cause significant off-target injury. While this regulation now goes to the Governor and Legislative Council for review, the Plant Board also endorsed a recommendation of the Dicamba Task Force to change the new penalty law so that penalties may be assessed for illegal applications of auxin herbicides even if direct off-target injury is not discovered as a result of the act. Such a change was endorsed by the Ag Council of Arkansas to set forth a meaningful deterrent to discourage illegal use of herbicide technologies.



**University of Arkansas field day participants observe research on dicamba.**

## Seven Arkansas Soybean Growers Achieve the 100 Bushel Per Acre Mark This Season

By Ryan McGeeney, University of Arkansas CES

Seven Arkansas soybean growers have broken the 100 bushel per acre mark this season so far, with others possibly to come. The growers, four of whom have surpassed the benchmark yield in previous seasons, are all taking part in the Arkansas Soybean Association's "Grow for the Green Soybean Yield Challenge." Jeremy Ross, extension soybean agronomist with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said the certifications have come unusually late in the year. But as any grower in the state will tell you, 2017 has been anything but usual. "In a typical year, we'd have quit looking at fields in competition two to three weeks ago," Ross said. "But it's the second week of October, and there are still a

few potential fields out there." Growers Matt Miles and Layne Miles, both of Desha County, returned to the winners' circle with 105.020 and 108.052 bu/ac, respectively. James Elton Wray and James E. Wray, Jr., both previous 100-plus bu/ac growers of Poinsett County, harvested 105.918 and 103.830 bu/ac, respectively. Newcomers to the 100 Bushel Club include John Newkirk of Stuttgart with 103.974 bu/ac, Billy Wayne Tripp of Searcy with 100.511 bu/ac and Jason Berry of DeWitt with 102.894 bu/ac.

"We've had a spectacular year for soybeans in Arkansas," Ross said. He noted that the original U.S. Department of Agriculture soybean acreage estimate of 3.5 million acres for 2017 actually

rose slightly, by about 50,000 acres, after severe flooding in the late spring and early summer led some growers to plant beans where they'd lost rice and corn to the weather. Unseasonable cool temperatures and frequent rains also led to excellent yields, even if the overall average doesn't put most fields anywhere near the 100-bushel mark. Data released this week from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates the average soybean yield in the state at 51 bushels per acre, four bushels above 2016's average, and a new state record. Winners of the 2017 Grow for the Green contest will be recognized at the Arkansas Soybean Association's annual meeting in January 2018.



**Intense crop management is required for 100 bushel per acre yields in the Arkansas crop production areas.**

We're on the web:  
[acpanews.com](http://acpanews.com)

## Arkansas Crop Protection Association Research Conference Scheduled for Nov. 28-29, 2017

***“Continuing education credits will be available for 2017 – a great opportunity to get last minute credits”***



The Arkansas Crop Protection Association (ACPA) will host its annual research conference November 28-29, 2017, in Fayetteville, AR. The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1325 N. Palak Dr., Fayetteville, AR 72704. Phone 479-856-6040 for reservations and mention ACPA. A room block is available at a rate of \$119 per night until Oct. 27. Please call and make your reservation today to get this low room rate. Conference highlights will include a student paper competition with cash prizes awarded to the top presentations in both Ph.D. and Master's divisions.

Crop protection researchers from industry, extension, and academia are encouraged to attend and participate by making presentations.

Continuing education credits will also be available for 2017, a great opportunity to get last minute credits. A formal call for papers has been sent out. The Conference coordinator is Dr. Jarrod Hardke. The onsite registration fee is \$50.

The conference is scheduled to begin at approximately 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28, and conclude on the afternoon of Wed., Nov. 29, at approximately 3 p.m.



**Student paper competition is composed of a diverse range of topics on crop related research**