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**WILCOX COUNTY AG NEWS UPDATE**  
From Tim Smith, County Extension Coordinator

The year is 2012. Who would have thought it? The years just seem to roll off the calendar and yet a year like 2011, with the heat, the lack of rain and the gnats, just seemed to linger on. The year ended with 10 to 12 inches of rain less than average. Central Georgia remains in D3 extreme drought and predictions are for at least the next few months that rainfall amounts will remain below normal. We sure could use some significant amounts of rain to recharge the aquifers and fill the ponds. We will have to wait and see if the rains come in late spring or early summer or if the drought lingers on through the summer.

On a positive note there are several things to look forward to in the upcoming year. Commodity prices remain strong, according to Notes from the Senate, Senator Jack Hill says the Outlook for Georgia remains bright. Pecan prices have tripled over historic levels due to the demand from China. Peanut contracts are being offered at highest prices in at least ten years. Cotton prices are expected to reach over \$1.00 per pound again as demand remains strong. Corn, soybeans, wheat and cattle are all trading up. The Senator made nine other positive points about Georgia's future and how the overall economy of Georgia is slowly improving. Another positive note is Meymik 15G (aldicarb) has been approved by EPA and should be available for use in 2012.

Some challenges that we face in 2012 are labor, drought and resistant weeds. For those that depend on migrant labor, finding workers and remaining legal will be a challenge. On **Friday, January 13, 2012 9:00am till noon**, Tift County Extension will host a labor meeting where the H2A program will be discussed. You should come away with the info needed to comply with state regulations concerning migrant workers. Everyone is invited and no registration is required. There is not much we can do to change the amount of rain that comes but we can plan our crops to maximize our irrigation capabilities. As far as resistant weeds, come to our production meetings to get the latest on varieties and processes that will help us remain weed free in 2012. Enclosed is a schedule of upcoming production meetings and as you will see all are not breakfast meetings. We have planned programming that you don't want to miss and meals that I think will satisfy your appetites. Be sure to call our office to pre-register for these meetings.

Don't forget to check out our website: <http://www.ugaextension.com/wilcox>