



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

**Winter School 2007  
Rock Eagle 4-H Center  
January 16-18, 2007**

## ***County Agent Winter School Poster/Exhibit Abstracts***

***Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H & Youth***

**Learning *for* Life**

# ***Agriculture and Natural Resources***

## ***✦ On-Farm Herbicide Trials***

In 2006, two on-farm trials were conducted in Macon County to evaluate various preemergence and post emergence herbicides for the control of GR-Palmer amaranth. The results of both trials suggest that GR-Palmer amaranth will only be controlled using a combination of both preemergence and post emergence herbicides.

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## ***✦ Demonstration Rain Garden***

Working collaboratively with Cobb County Water System, County agent Steve Brady and Master Gardener Volunteers created a demonstration garden for the general public, commercial landscapers and school teachers. This multipurpose garden is designed to show how an attractive landscape feature can help protect water quality.

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## ***✦ Cotton Nematode Trials***

Cotton nematode trials were conducted in 2005 and 2006 to evaluate new and traditional nematicides. Work was conducted on the Eavenson farm using randomized complete block design with four replications. Results were varied based upon yield alone, but economics lean towards using traditional treatments.

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## ***✦ Forage Trials***

In 2006, a forage trial was set up in Banks and Stephens Counties on Bermuda and fescue hay fields. Commercial fertilizer, broiler poultry litter, and humate were applied. The commercial nitrogen treatment was significantly higher when addressing RFQ value and TDN. There was also a significant difference in crude protein between harvests. This study supports that growers can significantly reduce their input costs by using alternative fertility sources without reducing yield.

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### ✦ ***Modified Master Forester & Wildlife Series***

After completing the Master Wildlife program, there was a need for a similar but improved program according to participant evaluations. Master Forester and Wildlife program series featured shorter sessions; on-site interactive speakers; and topics relative to Southwest Georgia. Post program survey comparisons indicated the new program demonstrated greater economic impact.

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### ✦ ***Urban Environmental Issues***

Gwinnett County has become Atlanta's most populous suburban community with more than 750,000 people. This growth has brought significant changes to our ecosystems, particularly water quality. Creative education programming by Gwinnett Cooperative Extension helped provide the synergy needed to enhance the effectiveness of State, Federal, and local resources addressing environmental issues.

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### ✦ ***North Georgia Turfgrass Field Day: An Annual Event for Green Industry Professionals***

Each May, Hall County Cooperative Extension coordinates the North Georgia Turfgrass Field Day held at Allen Creek Soccer Complex in Gainesville. Topics have included water management, equipment maintenance, disease management, pesticide safety, sports field problems, and weed control strategies. Over 400 have attended, and 310 received category 24 pesticide credit.

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### ✦ ***Evaluating Incidence of Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus in Peanuts***

Research was conducted to evaluate the incidence of tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) in six peanut varieties (Georgia Green, Georgia-03L, AP-3, Georgia -01R, Georgia-02C, and C-99R). Stand counts were taken after complete emergence, plots rated for TSWV in July, and yield and grade determined at harvest.

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✦ ***Using Relative Weight to Evaluate Largemouth Bass and Blue Populations in Ponds***

Relative Weight is calculation that relates the “standard weight” of a fish to actual weight. The standard weight reflects the weight a fish should attain at a given length. If the fish is heavier, forage is in surplus. If the fish is lighter, forage is inadequate. Relative weight is calculated with the following equation: actual weight/standard weight \*100%. A relative weight score of 100% is ideal. Largemouth bass at the Cabe Farm had an average relative weight of 114%.

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✦ ***Developing an Effective Applied Scientific Teaching Curriculum and Learning Garden for the Putnam County Elementary School***

Putnam Elementary School Administration recognized the need for heightened agricultural and environmental awareness and in-depth scientific exploration at elementary grade levels. Administrators identified Putnam Extension and 4-H as a source of expertise and volunteer labor to develop a teaching garden and promote learning, awareness and responsibility in the students involved

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✦ ***Zoysia Mite Control***

Zoysia mite damage on Meyer lawns is unique to the Augusta area in Georgia. Initial control recommendations were diazinon, but diazinon went off the market in 2003. Other control methods were needed so Mr. Mullis and Mr. Phillips used an experimental insecticide, milbemectin, on 3 turf plots at two sites.

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### ✦ ***Blueberry Production Rapidly Increasing in Clinch County***

Clinch County is one of the largest blueberry producing counties in the state. The introduction of a new packing, handling and shipping facility in Homerville, GA, low timber prices, available high productive blueberry soils and good blueberry fruit prices have led to rapidly expanding blueberry acres being planted.

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### ✦ ***Chemical Evaluation on Tobacco***

Admire Pro 4.6SC is a new formulation of imidacloprid that is used primarily by Georgia tobacco growers for tomato spotted wilt virus suppression. The effects of Admire Pro 4.6SC were evaluated at several rates, in combination with Actigard 50WG and compared to Platinum 2SC at two locations in Jeff Davis County in 2006. All plants were transplanted in a randomized complete block design with four replications per treatment. All treatments gave significantly better control of mole crickets, cutworms, tobacco splitworms, and suppression of tomato spotted wilt virus when compared to the untreated plots. Admire Pro 4.6 SC (.8oz/1000 plants) plus Actigard 50WG (.5 oz/50,000 plants) gave the best suppression of tomato spotted wilt virus and the best yields. The rinse water test showed no significant differences between treatments.

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### ✦ ***Improved Methods of Replanting Blueberries in Established Fields***

Blueberry replants transplanted into established stands of 10 years or greater, have a low probability of survival their first year of establishment, due to intensive weed pressure or potential herbicide application problems. Extensive on-farm trials were conducted in Appling, Clinch, Bacon and Ware counties to evaluate plant size and replant aids such as control release fertilizer, soil amendments and mulches alone or in combinations.

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### ✦ ***Sustainable Livestock Production in Cuba and UGA Extension Distance Diagnostics System***

Three UGA Distance Diagnostics through Digital Imaging (DDDI) Consortium members with international sustainable agriculture interest and experience in Central America, attended the “GIGA 2004 (II Simposio Internacional sobre Ganaderia Agroecologica: Evento y Gira de Estudios “Agroecologia en Cuba de Oriente a Occidente”)” symposium. Over 20 countries were represented from as far away as South Africa and Argentina; the 62 registered conference/tour participants included numerous Cuban producers and scientists.

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### ✦ ***Alternate Irrigation Water Source***

Irrigation is a vital part of producing a food and fiber crop for sell. In the 24 counties of coastal Georgia, there are many operations that produce food and fiber. In recent years, over-pumping of the upper Floridian aquifer has forced the Environmental Protection Division to restrict the permitting and developing of wells in this Aquifer system.

Alternative technology such as the horizontal well can be placed at a depth that captures water from a surficial aquifer system not connected to the upper Floridian aquifer system.

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### ✦ ***Valley Master Gardener***

The Valley Master Gardeners of Columbus have added an estimated value of \$23,000 to Columbus Cooperative Extension for the year 2006. A major project the Valley Master Gardeners undertook in 2006 was the renovation of the butterfly garden at Oxbow Meadows, installing new plant species to provide food and nectar for many butterfly species.

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✦ ***The Economic Impact of a Blueberry Packing Shed in Brantley County***

Brantley County is experiencing a growth of new enterprise blueberries. Currently, the county has around 200 acres of rabbiteye blueberries and 40 acres of Southern High Bush blueberries. Until 2005 Brantley County blueberry farmers had to transport their blueberries 40 miles to have their berries graded and packed. With the help of Center of Agribusiness and Economic Development, a feasibility study was conducted to see if a packing shed would be feasible for Brantley County. After the completion of the feasibility study, Southern Blue Farms built and opened the first Blueberry Packing Facility in Brantley County.

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✦ ***Evaluation of Conservation Tillage Peanuts***

Few studies have been conducted to evaluate the advantages of conservation tillage peanuts with cover crops, and industry concerns about burrowing bug damage prompted this trial. This study compared five tillage options replicated four times in randomized complete block designs. Trial was evaluated for spotted wilt, insects, yields and quality.

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# ***4-H & Youth***

## ***✦ U.S. to Honduras, Distance Diagnostics Technology Transfer: Sustainable Aquaculture and Rural Development Three Year Pilot Project***

A three year project was initiated in 2003 by Dr. Jean Walter, Jasper County Extension Coordinator, to link youth in Honduras with 4-H youth in Jasper County using distance diagnostics technology and aquaculture. Virtual “diagnostic samples” consisting of images and environmental data have been transmitted between youth at Piedmont Academy, Jasper County, Georgia and the Zamorano Pan American School of Agriculture in Honduras. In 2004, private grant funding provided for expansion of the now \$500K project to three years (2004-2006).

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## ***✦ Hooked on Books 2006 Summer Reading Program***

“Hooked on Books 2006” was a summer reading program for k-2 students organized by 4-H’ers. Over half of the students improved their reading level by the end of the four week program. Each day included a story time, two reading sessions, a program at a local Library and fun activities.

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## ***✦ After School Project Clubs***

Out of school time can be a dangerous time of day for youth. Being active in a project club would allow youth to practice skills they have learned and apply them in real life situations. Youth will acquire personal and social assets in multiple domains to succeed in later years.

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## ***✦ Water Talkers: Integrating Water Education into 4-H Programming***

Water Talkers is a water education project implemented at the 5th grade level to address local, state, and national water issues through two learning components: traditional and experimental. The traditional component incorporated a series of science-based, hands-on educational lessons. The experimental component included community service and water-related activities.

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### ✦ *S.A.F.E Archery, Morgan County*

The Morgan County 4-H S.A.F.E. Archery Program is a 100% volunteer led activity. Certified coaches combine their time and talents to lead more than 50 members of Morgan County 4-H in weekly practices for 16 weeks, and the State 4-H Tournament. Besides technical expertise, 4-H'ers are also learning valuable life skills and have the ability to participate in a "non-traditional" sport.

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### ✦ *Toombs County Youth Put TV Into Action*

Toombs County 4-H staff coordinated a summer program for youth in Toombs County. The program, "TV4-H" put television into action. Day long sessions were planned with a variety of activities to keep kids active. Because of the program, students were away from the non sedentary habits of a typical summer at home.

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### ✦ *Peanuts, How They Impact Jeff Davis County*

There was an increase in peanut acreage in Jeff Davis County, from 1700 to 10,120 acres, over a two year period. A program was necessary to educate youth about the increase and importance of peanuts to the Jeff Davis County citizens. As a effort to educate the Home School population (pre-school-6th grade), Jeff Davis County Extension Agents developed and implemented a series of activities to raise awareness regarding peanuts in Jeff Davis County and the state of Georgia. Classes and exhibits were used to educate this group. Activities involved hands-on classes that provided a variety of experiences with peanuts such as making peanut butter from peanuts and checking the maturity of peanuts using the hull scrape method. Youth studied the agronomics and uses of peanuts. Through the knowledge gained, exhibits were created and displayed at the local extension office and at the annual Jeff Davis County Fair.

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# ***Family and Consumer Sciences***

## **✦ *Survivor Kids Camp***

Survivor is a collaborative effort of the hospital's wellness center and the FACS Agent. The month long summer camp, based on the CBS reality series *Survivor*, incorporates fun, fitness, and nutrition. Parents also attend a 2-hour weekly evening nutrition session that include menu planning and 30 minute meal preparation techniques.

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## **✦ *Operation Eatery***

Operation Eatery, a community partnership, was developed utilizing a grant to teach food safety techniques to food handlers in the North Central health district. Collaboration between the local Health Department and two County Extension Agents increased knowledge and skills of food handlers through lecture and hands on activities.

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## **✦ *School Nutrition Training***

Southwest District FACS Extension, in collaboration with School Nutrition Program directors, provide six hours of local, low cost continuing education for School Nutrition employees each year. In 2006, topics included: *What is that Yellow Bar Doing on MyPyramid*, *Get a Handle on HACCP*, and *Cooking for a Lifetime*.

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