

Crop News & Views

June 2016

Tobacco, Beef & More Field Day

On June 23, the Highland Rim AgResearch and Education Center in Springfield, TN will host the Tobacco, Beef & More Field Day and Trade Show. The event will take place from 8:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and will include updates on fungicides and insecticides for tobacco, as well as a tobacco variety update. Beef and forage topics such as blood pregnancy testing, using byproduct feeds, and artificial insemination will also be discussed. A free lunch will be provided.



UT Soybean Scout Schools

UT's Soybean Scout Schools are scheduled in July for the dates and locations below. The programs are supported by the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board and include basic information about crop development, scouting procedures, and pest management (insect, weed, and disease). The schools are approximately 2-2.5 hours long and occur field side so those attending can get hands on experience. Participants will receive scouting notebooks and a sweep net while supplies last.

- West Tennessee – July 12 (Tuesday), 1:30 PM, West Tennessee Research and Education Center, 605 Airways Blvd, Jackson.
- Middle Tennessee – July 20 (Wednesday), 1:00 PM, Franklin County, Henley Farm (35.284802 N 85.924628 W). This location is 1 mile from Exit 127 on I-24. Tentative plans are for a field lunch to be served beginning about 11:30 AM.
- East Tennessee – July 21 (Thursday), Morning (TBD), UT Holston Research Farm, 3723 Riverside Drive, Knoxville.

Ryegrass Questions and Management

Author: *Larry Steckel, Extension Weed Specialist*

Clearly, one weed many have had trouble with in 2016 is ryegrass. Questions began a couple months ago and continue today. They have ranged from tactics to burn ryegrass down before planting to how to control it in a standing corn crop and more recently, where did all that ryegrass come from that is in my wheat?



When it comes to burning down ryegrass before planting, it is abundantly clear that glyphosate is no longer effective. Adding clethodim in with the glyphosate has been the most effective way to control ryegrass in a burndown. We need to remember this for 2017.

The question on how to control ryegrass in a standing corn crop really has no “sure fire” answer. If the corn hybrid is Liberty Link then Liberty at a quart rate can be effective. Of course, the bad thing about utilizing Liberty in corn applications in March and April is that air temperatures are often too cold for Liberty to be effective. In order to get the best ryegrass control with Liberty, try to pick a warm spell where temperatures are in the mid-80s and apply it during the middle of the day. The other option is Steadfast Q which can be effective on ryegrass even at cold temperatures. The catch is that some ryegrass in the state is ALS-resistant so Steadfast Q will not be effective in those cases.

The most recent question has been why do I have so much ryegrass in my wheat? The answer is that ryegrass continues to develop resistance to our POST- applied ryegrass herbicides. We lost Hoelon years ago and more recently we confirmed ALS-resistant ryegrass, which has quietly been spreading across the state. In those cases herbicides like Finesse, Powerflex and Osprey are no longer effective either. Because of this many moved to Axial and now we are starting to see ryegrass in these fields as well. Ryegrass has been confirmed resistant to Axial in Arkansas and it would not be a surprise to find it in Tennessee. We are in the process of testing this year. (Continued on second page)

Ryegrass Questions and Management, cont.

This all leads me to my main point for the 2016/2017 wheat crop. We are going to have to rely much more heavily in wheat on delayed PRE applications of either Zidua or Axiom this fall. We have seen the most consistent ryegrass control with Zidua at 1.5 ozs/A or Axiom at 8 ozs/A when used delayed PRE. Then follow up with Axial, Osprey, Powerflex or Finesse as needed.



Milan No-Till Field Day Set for July 28

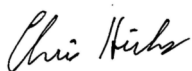
UT AgResearch will host the Milan No-Till Crop Production Field Day on **Thursday, July 28, 2016** at the AgResearch and Education Center at Milan. The event will offer 40 research-based presentations. Sessions will cover best management strategies for no-till crop production, including nutrient enhancement, water use, new technologies in pest control and advancements in plant breeding.

The event is free and open to the public. Gates open at 6 a.m. Presentations and an agricultural industry trade show begin at 7 a.m. The field day will conclude at 2 p.m.

A schedule, a list of presentation topics, and information on pesticide recertification points as well as Certified Crop Advisor CEUs are available at <http://milan.tennessee.edu/MNTFD>. Individuals are also encouraged to follow the event on social media platforms using the hashtag #MilanNoTill.

Field Day visitors can again take part in a hands-on community service activity titled, Farmers vs. Hunger. Participants will package meals to be distributed at local food banks. At the 2014 Milan No-Till Field Day, volunteers packaged more than 28,000 meals.

Sincerely,



Chris Hicks
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Smith County



Instagram

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Poly Tank Safety

Author: *Chris Hicks, UT Extension Agent, Smith County*

Polyethylene tanks, commonly known as poly tanks, are popular plastic storage devices used on farms for the storage and transportation of water and other liquids such as pesticides and fertilizer. They offer the advantages of being less costly than other types of storage containers, being relatively lightweight and easy to handle, and give the producer the ability to see how much of the product is in the tank.

Although advantageous in many ways, poly tanks don't last forever. If left outdoors over a long period of time, the sun will degrade the material making it brittle and more likely to break. A breakage on the farm with a tank filled with water would be a nuisance. A breakage on the highway with a tank filled with chemicals could be a disaster.

Poly tank manufacturers list the specific gravity rating on the tank before it is sold. The specific gravity of a substance is a comparison of its weight per volume compared to water. The specific gravity of water is 1.0, so a tank rated at 1.5 specific gravity is designed to handle the weight of a liquid product 1.5 times the weight of water.

In general, liquid fertilizers are heavier than water by itself. So if you put water in a tank with a rating of 1.0, that's fine. However, if you carry liquid fertilizer in a tank with a rating of 1.0, you are stretching the limits of what the tank can handle. At a minimum, fertilizers should be stored and handled in poly tanks with at least a 1.5 specific gravity rating.

To inspect your tanks for structural soundness, use a water soluble marker to color an area of the tank. Quickly rub off the ink with a paper towel and notice the ink left behind. If the ink reveals cracking or spider webbing where the lines go in all directions, classic UV radiation damage has occurred and the tank may need replacing.



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