



Bertie County Ag News

NORTH CAROLINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Crop Comparison Decision Aid

Every season brings new challenges, but none quite like 2020. COVID 19 has added extra stress upon the normal planting season. Most of the cropping decisions have been made but with commodity prices still in a downward trend, growers need a way to monitor inputs and effects on farm profitability. Dr. Nick Piggott has developed a Crop Comparison tool to aid in that process. Click on this link below to go to this excel spread sheet:

<https://cals.ncsu.edu/are-extension/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2020/03/Crop-Comparison-Tool.xlsx>

Growers can add crop acres, rent values and personalize input costs to get a more personalized figure. It compares corn, soybeans, cotton, wheat, peanut, tobacco and sweet potatoes. Bottom tabs give whole farm analysis, average yields for NC and individual counties (grain only).

Budget Comparison 2020 Crop Year Given Current Market Conditions and Expected Yields

Enter Average Land Rent Value Here		150							
	Corn	Soybean	Wheat	Sorghum	Cotton	Peanuts	Tobacco	Sweet Potatoes	
BAILING SUPPLIES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7.50	\$ -	
STATE CHECK-OFF FEE (PEANUTS)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6.00	\$ -	\$ -	
NATIONAL ASSESMENT (PEANUTS)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.74	\$ -	\$ -	
TRACTOR/MACHINERY	\$ 25.41	\$ 25.41	\$ 23.13	\$ 26.08	\$ 55.65	\$ 61.96	\$ 219.31	\$ 88.53	
LABOR	\$ 22.26	\$ 22.26	\$ 19.81	\$ 21.16	\$ 39.38	\$ 56.14	\$ 672.65	\$ 242.38	
HARVEST COST****	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750.00	
STORAGE****	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
SCOUT	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	
LAND RENT	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
GINNING**	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 260.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
CROP INSURANCE***	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 130.00	
INTEREST ON OP. CAP.	\$ 6.85	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.32	\$ 3.14	\$ 10.59	\$ 12.73	\$ 48.11	\$ 64.17	
Total Variable Costs	\$569.67	\$373.85	\$370.84	\$347.86	\$890.81	\$856.09	\$2,908.96	\$2,912.79	
Return above Variable Costs	\$18.33	\$160.15	-\$22.24	-\$114.19	\$49.51	\$293.91	\$791.04	\$1,187.21	
FIXED EXPENSES									
*TRACTOR/MACHINERY	\$54.67	\$54.67	\$42.11	\$61.85	\$138.32	\$123.33	\$405.12	\$88.53	
Bulk Barn, Tobacco Loading system, Bailer, H2A overhead (for tobacco only)							\$354.83		
<small>FARM OVERHEAD IS INCLUDED ON THE CROP AND FARM SUMMARY SHEET</small>									
Total Fixed Costs	\$54.67	\$54.67	\$42.11	\$61.85	\$138.32	\$123.33	\$759.95	\$88.53	
Total Cost	\$624.34	\$428.52	\$412.95	\$409.71	\$1,029.13	\$979.42	\$3,668.91	\$3,001.32	
NET RETURNS TO FARMER AND RISK	(\$38.34)	\$105.48	(\$64.35)	(\$178.04)	(\$88.81)	\$170.58	\$31.09	\$1,098.88	
Break Even Yield	149	48	83	114	1737	4258	1983	366	
Break Even Price	\$4.46	\$7.14	\$5.90	\$6.30	\$0.64	\$0.20	\$1.83	\$6.00	

Don't Miss This Chance!

Agricultural producers are eligible to participate in the program and should reach out to their bankers and/or agricultural lenders to apply immediately. While SBA still needs to confirm some administrative details, **loans will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis and producers can get started on the application now.**

The Federal Government recently passed the CARES Program in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. This \$2 trillion package includes programs for farmers and agribusiness. The Paycheck Protection Program is especially attractive. This program designed to help employers keep their employees paid, is a \$349 billion package of forgivable loans. Farmers are eligible but for the loans to be forgiven certain criteria must be met. Generally, loans can be forgiven if used to pay employee salary and benefits, some rents, mortgages and utility bills if obligated before February 15. Look closely at the requirements. This loan package is on a **first come basis**. If you think it fits your operation act quickly. For more information go to this web site (<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>). In addition, the CARE act provides funds for growers through USDA. Details are being worked out by USDA. More information will be forth coming.

Additional information can be found at the following web sites:

SBA *Coronavirus Relief Options* <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>

From American Farm Bureau: *Paycheck Protection Loans Available to Farmers, Regardless of Revenue, Apply Now* <https://www.fb.org/market-intel/update-ag-and-ppp/>

From Penn State Extension: *Small Business Benefits and the CARES Act: What Farm and Food Producers Need to Know* <https://extension.psu.edu/small-business-benefits-and-the-cares-act-what-farm-and-food-producers-need-to-know>

Burndown Considerations in Peanuts

As we approach peanut planting consider the article below by Dr. David Jordan, Extension Peanut Specialist, if you have a problem with winter weeds.

Winter weeds such as marehail (horseweed) can be difficult to control prior to planting peanut, especially as weeds get larger. There is no product that comes close to giving complete control after peanuts emerge. We must assume that marehail is resistant to glyphosate in all fields. Applying 2, 4-D or dicamba to help on this weed as well as weeds like cutleaf evening primrose needs to be done now to make sure control is adequate and residues that could injure peanut have dissipated. Paraquat and glufosinate can also be used as burndown treatments up to planting and prior to peanut emergence. But something needs to be applied well before that point in time and the synthetic auxins have a place if applied soon enough.

Thrips Control Growers have a variety of options for thrips control in peanuts including AgLogic, Thimet, Admire Pro and Velum Total. In trials conducted by Dr. Rick Brandenburg, Peanut & Turf Extension Specialist, last year, control by Admire Pro and Velum Total was just a bit less than in prior years. This could have been from the extreme dry conditions experienced last May or some possible resistance beginning to show with these two materials. Use full recommended rates this year and scout early to determine if a followup spray with Orthene might be needed.

TSWV Still Around A number of good cultural practices contribute to the suppression of TSWV. These include use of a tolerant variety, consistent stand 4-5 plants per foot of row, in furrow thrips control and planting early to mid-May or during a time when thrips populations are predicted to be low. Don't let the guards down, TSWV infection are here every year.

COVID-19

We want to assure you that N.C. Cooperative Extension is still with you, and will help you get through this crisis. Currently, to help mitigate the spread of the virus, many people, including many of us in Extension, are working from home. However, working from inside a home often is not an option in agriculture, especially not with a busy spring season starting. We know that many emergency regulations and recommendations are already affecting your business, and will most likely have a long-lasting effects on you and your neighbors.



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