



# Bertie County Ag News

North Carolina Cooperative Extension

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## Soil Samples

The fall is always a good time to take soil samples. It is especially important this year for two (2) reasons. First, with the above normal rainfall this past year nutrients such as potash could be leached from the soil. Second, is the increase in fertilizer prices that is already occurring. Based on this an accurate soil test will keep you from over fertilizing. In some cases, growers will be able to use the credits or reserves already present in their soils to decrease their applications. The only way to know if this is feasible is with a good representative soil sample. Remember NCDA will charge (\$4/sample) for samples received in Raleigh after November 30. Samples received into our office by November 19 be delivered to Raleigh.

## NCDA Updates Phosphorus Recommendations

NCDA reports soil phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) as index levels. Following recent actions, there will not be any P recommendations made to soils testing above a 50 index. Prior to this change the critical point was an index of 65. In an analysis of soil samples processed by NCDA from 2017 to 2019 (over 710,000 samples) the average P index was 137. In addition, studies across the state show no increase in yield with levels over 35. This change in recommendation will save farmers money and help with nutrient runoff. This change does not alter the practice of applying a starter fertilizer for crops such as corn.

# Choosing a Corn Hybrid

Yield and yield consistency are 2 of the most important factors in choosing a hybrid. When looking at data, choose data from multiple sources including university trials, dealer trials, county comparisons and work from your own farm. NCSU Official Variety Testing (OVT) conducts annual trials on approximately 90 hybrids each year. These are replicated at 12 sites across the state giving a real variation in soils, rainfall, temperatures and stress. OVT entries are open to all seed companies and generally most are represented in some form. Due to the limited number of entries, a seed company may only enter 2 or 3 hybrids and this maybe specific to a region like the coastal plain or to a specific maturity group. See chart below for results from Coastal Plain entries (2019-2021).

**Above Average Coastal Plain - All Maturities (2019-2021)**

Company/Brand	Hybrid	Trait	Relative Maturity	Yield (bu/a)	Test Weight (lb/bu)	Top Yield Group %	Years in Test
AgriGold	A644-32	TRECEPTA	114	215.3	57.5	63%	2
Local Seed	LC1307	TRECEPTA	113	212.0	56.6	55%	2
LG Seeds	LG5643VT2PRO	VT2P	114	211.4	56.6	58%	2
DeKalb	DKC69-99	TRECEPTA	119	205.1	57.2	56%	2
DeKalb	DKC65-20	VT2P	115	203.9	57.7	25%	2
Seed Consultants	SCS1170AM	AM	117	203.8	57.0	50%	2
DeKalb	DKC59-82	VT2P	109	203.5	56.3	72%	2
Dyna-Gro	D57TC29	TRECEPTA	117	202.8	55.8	50%	2
Pioneer	P1847VYHR	AVBL,YGCB,HX1,LL,RR2	118	200.6	57.0	38%	2
DeKalb	DKC63-57	VT2P	113	200.4	56.9	37%	3
NK Brand	NK1677-3110	Agrisure 3110	116	200.3	55.6	50%	2
Local Seed	LC1407	VT2P	114	198.7	57.5	17%	2
Dyna-Gro	D55VC80	VT2P	115	198.3	56.2	34%	3
NK Brand	NK1748-3110	Agrisure 3110	117	198.2	54.9	19%	2
Seed Consultants	SCS1141AM	AM	114	198.2	56.6	27%	2
Seed Consultants	SCS1188AM	AM	118	198.0	56.7	52%	3
Local Seed	LC1898	TRECEPTA	118	197.3	57.6	25%	2
Dyna-Gro	D57VC17	VT2P	117	197.1	57.8	25%	2
AgriGold	A645-16	VT2P	116	196.9	56.3	19%	2
Local Seed	LC1707	VT2P	117	196.8	57.3	31%	2
Local Seed	LC1506	VT2P	115	196.5	57.8	18%	2
Progeny Ag Products	PGY 2012 VT2P	VT2P	112	196.3	56.4	13%	2
Progeny Ag Products	PGY 2025 VT2P	VT2P	115	196.2	56.1	18%	2
MorCorm	MC 4670	TRECEPTA	116	189.0	57.5	13%	2

Above average yielding hybrids that were tested for 2 or more years across all relative maturities. The yields for these hybrids are greater than or equal to 1 standard deviation from the average. Hybrids are sorted by yield from high to low. Top Yield Group % is the percentage of time the hybrid was in the top yield group across all locations tested in this category. For more details on these hybrids, visit [ncovt.medius.re](http://ncovt.medius.re)

Tri-County Corn Variety Results				
	Edgecombe	Martin	Pitt	Combined
MC 4311TRE	251.7	193.0	178.8	207.8
LC1307	240.8	194.0	182.6	205.8
DKC 63-57	225.7	185.0	179.5	196.7
1870YHR	225.0	173.6	-	199.3
MC4670	221.8	163.6	184.5	190.0
D58VC65	216.0	188.2	189.1	197.8
D55VC80	214.0	185.2	205.2	201.5
1367-3220 GT	212.8	149.8	185.5	182.7
AV9916AM	210.8	175.4	-	193.1
DKC 67-44	208.8	183.8	194.4	195.7
AV3715AM	207.8	184.6	187.0	193.1
1464YHR	207.0	184.0	183.2	191.4
1065-VT2Pro	197.2	183.8	219.3	200.1
LC1407	195.6	181.4	177.4	184.8
NK1748-3110	178.3	156.4	-	167.3
NK 1677-3110	169.9	174.2	-	172.1

All of the highlighted are varieties that are included in the OVT test above.

# Small Grain Tips

## **If you are still thinking about a wheat crop consider:**

Increase your seeding rate. Planting late means the plants will have less time to generate tillers. Bump up your seeding rate to the higher rate 1.8-2.0 million seed per acre. This is roughly 2.5 bushels. For a large seed variety, it would be closer to 3 bushels.

Apply 15-30 pounds of nitrogen pre-plant. However, if the forecast has changed to cooler temperatures (less than 50 degrees), skip the N as it will not stimulate tillering in cold soils.

Start clean. Good seed bed preparation will go a long way in giving your crop a head start. If planting no till consider using a burn down with roundup or paraquat. If you have escapes or the crop is slow to emerge, consider a post emergence herbicide. There are a number of post emergence options for broadleaf weeds. Harmony Extra has an advantage since it has a wide application window. Consult the ag chem manual, your dealer or our office for more information.

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## Consideration for Corn

High fertilizer prices will affect all crop budgets but none more than corn. Yield and price will be critical factors on profitability for corn in 2022. It will take both to overcome the high input prices we are seeing now. Here are some factors from Dr. Ron Heiniger, NCSU Corn Extension Specialist, to consider moving into 2022.

Yield potential should be a driving factor on corn profitability. What is your farm's historical yield potential? Based on the current input prices 140-150 bushels per acre should be the breaking point.

Nitrogen management is the key in corn production. Use a starter material applying 50 pounds on nitrogen at planting. Starters generally return 10-12 bushels per acre. In years with poor planting conditions (2020) this increase can jump to 20-30 bushels per acre. Starter without adequate N does not lead to yield increases. Starter placement is not as critical as using starter. Placement will help with earlier growth but doesn't always affect yield. Layby nitrogen can be decreased to give a total amount of .8 -.9 pounds per bushel of yield potential.

Good planting conditions can trump starter fertilizer influence. ( i.e.2021). Yield increases will be less when planting and emergence occur under favorable growing condition. Watch the weather and adjust your planting schedule as possible to give your crop the best start. Early uniform emergence is critical.

# Upcoming Meetings

January 12th

Tobacco Production

Farmers Market - Williamston

NOTE: GAP Training will not be held at this meeting. Check with your buying station

January 24th  
(Tentative)

Grain Production

Extension Office - Large Conference Room

February 2nd

Cotton Production

Extension Office - Large Conference Room

February 11th

Peanut Production

Extension Office - Large Conference Room

# NC

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



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