

Virginia Cooperative Extension

A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University



College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences



School of Agriculture
Virginia State University

“Where the Green Grass Grows...”

Franklin County Ag Newsletter

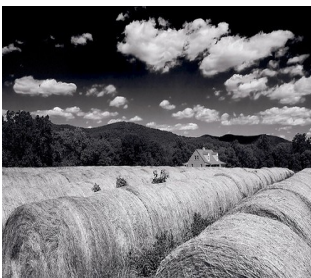
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As I write this, my one year anniversary as the Franklin County ANR extension agent is approaching. The year has passed quickly as they seem to do. I have enjoyed working with you all, farmers and homeowners alike. We have seen many challenges and opportunities in the past year and I know that we will continue to do so. If farming and the rural lifestyle was easy, everyone would do it!

Tim Johnson

Franklin County Extension Agent



Price Report

-Corn-	4.25
-Soybeans-	11.31
-Wheat-	5.97
-Live Cattle-	82.25
-Feeder Cattle-	101.75
-Class III Milk-	10.30
-Oil-	59.50
-Dow Jones-	8415.07

All prices as of May 20,
2009

Farm Safety Begins With You

As planting season gets in full swing after the cool spring weather, everyone needs to take extra precautions on the farm. While some farm work may be behind schedule due to the rain, it will pay to take your time and do things correctly now, verses trying to cut corners and getting hurt. If you drive any tractors or equipment on state maintained roads, be sure that both are equipped with slow moving vehicle signs. If your tractor is

equipped with flashing lights be sure and use those as well. With the growing population of Franklin County we need to do all we can to ensure the safety of all motorists. Safety checks should be performed on all equipment that has not been used since last season as well. It is cheaper to prevent a problem than to repair one!



April showers bring May slugs

With all of the rain we have received this spring, and I'm not complaining, I have had several calls on slugs in corn. Slugs can become serious pests in no-till fields during spring periods of cool, wet weather. Fields with heavy layers of manure, crop refuse or thick weed cover are at higher risk from slugs. Because slugs feed at night and hide during the day in the mulch and surface trash near the seedlings, they often are not suspected of being the cause of the shredded leaves on the young corn seedlings. Yet slugs can be found during the day by turning over clods of dirt and surface trash near the seedlings. It is suggested that samples be taken from the area around 5 plants in 10 locations of the field to determine the average number of slugs associated with each plant. Populations of 5 or more slugs around each plant at the spike through the 3rd leaf stage may be economic, especially if injury is heavy, plant growth is slow, and cool, wet conditions prevail. During dry, warm weather, 10 or more slugs per plant may be tolerated. Also, corn seedlings that have reached the 3rd leaf stage of growth generally are able to outgrow feeding damage by slugs. For control of slugs, use metaldehyde (Deadline M-Ps) at 10-40 lb/acre. For best results, apply product in the evening. It is especially beneficial if applied following rain. Slugs generally stop feeding in 2-3 hours and die within 2-3 days. A rate of 5 pellets per square foot is recommended.

-Excerpt from VCE Pest Management Guide

The Real World

Virginia Tech's soil testing program is a priority educational effort for Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE). Individual soil test recommendations are the best tools available for determining nutrient needs for the environmental and economic production of crops, gardens, and lawns. On July 1, 2009 the routine soil testing cost for **Home Lawns, Garden, Fruits, and Ornamental** samples will change to **\$10 per sample** at the Virginia Tech Soil Testing Laboratory. Soil tests for **Golf Courses and Industrial Lawns** will also cost **\$10 per sample**. Costs for special tests for **Organic Matter** will change to **\$4** and a **Soluble Salts** test will cost **\$2**. This is the first cost increase in 19 years! **-Please be sure to note this change will not affect routine soil tests for Commercial Crop Production- There will be no charge for agricultural soil testing!**

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