

# Virginia Cooperative Extension



## FARM NOTES

January 2012

### Upcoming Meetings

January 9: Pro-Crop Advisory Update. Weyers Cave Community Center. \$20 registration. Pesticide, CCA, and CNMP Credits Available. Call 540-564-3080 to register.

January 31: Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training (credit for Private Applicators also). Front Royal, Virginia. Call 665-5699 to register.

February 7: Annual Virginia No-Till Alliance Annual Meeting. Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Call 564-3080 to register.

### Summary of Slug Scouting Data for 2011

This past summer I conducted a pilot cost share program related to slug management in no-till corn and soybean. The heavy spring rain caused significant planting delays. I thought I would do most of my scouting during May. However, we did not finish until about July 6. Overall I rate this past years slug feeding pressure as low.

Summary of 2011 SLUG SCOUTING Program

- 3,083 acres enrolled before planting season
- 230 EXTRA acres scouted during scouting season
- 3,102 total acres scouted at this time, a few late plantings still need to be scouted
- 211 acres either not planted or fields were disked
- 244 of the 3,102 scouted acres were authorized for slug bait

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### Does Longer Season Corn Yield Better?

Over the past few years I have noticed that farmers are planting later maturing varieties of corn. Is this a good idea or a bad idea? The one problem that I see is that longer season corn will often lead to dry down problems. In my view, this has more to do with the fact that as fall progresses it gets cooler and corn will not dry down as easy. No matter how good the variety, as we go through November, December and January we lose yield to lodging, wildlife and wet/dry conditions. This past summer my field scout (Matt Kline) summarized corn grain and silage yield data from variety tests in the Shenandoah Valley, Blacksburg and Wytheville for years 2000 through 2010. When a variety test is planted at a specific location, all varieties are planted in the same plot at exactly the same time. These three locations have weather similar to the Shenandoah Valley.

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**Slugs (continued from page 1)**

If you can get a good stand without plowing/disking, is it worth it? This past year less than 10% of the scouted acres had slug damage that even came close to needing slug bait. Let's assume a you are a farmer with 200 acres of corn. You make one pass with a disk to minimize risk of slugs (and let's also assume that you can get the same stand no-tilling as following a disk). If the disking cost \$10 per acre then you spend \$2,000 per year disking. It cost about \$30 per acre for slug bait (\$22 for the bait and \$8 for the application). You could afford to apply slug bait to 66 acres come out financially the same as if he disks. Furthermore, you will get all the benefits of leaving the residue on the surface.

**New product for controlling slugs in Corn and Soybean More Testing Needed:**

This past summer I field tested Lannate for controlling slugs in corn. We installed two different field trials that included Lannate. I will provide the data in my next newsletter. Based on visual observation the Lannate did reduce slug feeding pressure on the corn (I presume it killed some of the slugs). It did not work as good as slug bait, but it might work good enough (i.e. we don't need to kill every slug in corn, just enough to allow the corn to outgrow the slugs).

We have only installed two field tests with the Lannate so we need more tests to get comfortable. Maybe next time it won't work at all.

**Longer Season Corn... continued from Page 1**

Yields of all varieties within each maturity rating in the table (page 3) were averaged. My view of the data is that there appears to be a small yield advantage to planting corn grain varieties with middle or late maturity ratings. The reason I use the word "small yield advantage" is my worry about dry down in the fall. If the corn will not stand or it is too wet to store, then a five extra bushels per acre might not matter. In regard to corn silage, the data is not as clear. It appears that the middle and late maturing varieties yielded slightly better than the very early or early maturing varieties. I do not visualize cool fall weather being a problem for harvesting corn silage.

Lannate has an extremely short efficacy (ie.six-eight hours after spraying it no-longer will kill bugs). Our Extension Entomologist have not field tested Lannate for slug control. They suggested that if we wanted to try Lannate that we spray it immediately prior to dark (ie. 8:00 p.m. or later) or spray it in the dark. The reason for this spray time is that slugs normally feed at night. They speculate that spraying during the daytime when slugs are under residue would have minimal effect on the slugs.

If you want to try Lannate this coming summer for slug management I suggest you consider it to be a trial (and not a well proven product). I also suggest that you leave some untreated areas in the field so we can evaluate whether or not the Lannate actually is providing good control.

Suggested layout of an on-farm test for Lannate. Areas shaded would receive Lannate.

|  |                |                |                |                |  |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
|  |                |                |                |                |  |
|  | Unsprayed area |                | Unsprayed area |                |  |
|  |                |                |                |                |  |
|  |                | Unsprayed area |                | Unsprayed area |  |
|  |                |                |                |                |  |
|  |                |                |                |                |  |
|  |                |                |                |                |  |

Summary of Corn Grain and Silage Variety Test Yields Over the Past 11 Years (2000 through 2010)

| Maturity          | Very Early | Early      | Middle     | Late       |                                       |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Maturity (Days) * | <108       | 108-111    | 112-115    | >115       |                                       |
| Location          |            |            |            |            |                                       |
| Blacksburg        | 143<br>(0) | 154<br>(1) | 159<br>(2) | 160<br>(6) | bu./acre<br>(Years w/ highest yield)  |
| Shenandoah Valley | 152<br>(1) | 162<br>(2) | 165<br>(5) | 155<br>(2) |                                       |
| Wythe County      | 21<br>(0)  | 21<br>(0)  | 22<br>(0)  | 23<br>(5)  | tons/acre<br>(Years w/ highest yield) |
| Shenandoah Valley | 21<br>(3)  | 21<br>(0)  | 22<br>(2)  | 22<br>(2)  |                                       |

## Grain Bin Safety

People can become caught or trapped in grain in three different ways:

1. The collapse of bridged (crusted) grain
2. The collapse of a vertical wall of grain
3. Entrapment in flowing grain. Moving or flowing grain is involved in all three, people who work with grain; loading it, unloading it and moving it from bin to bin need to know about the hazards of flowing grain and how to prevent a grain entrapment situation.

### Collapse of Bridged Grain

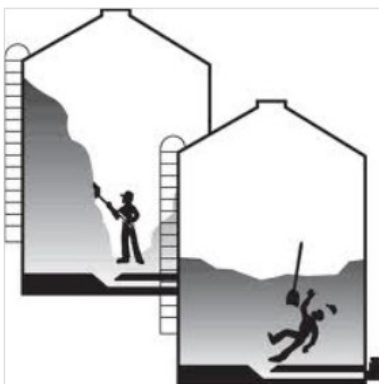
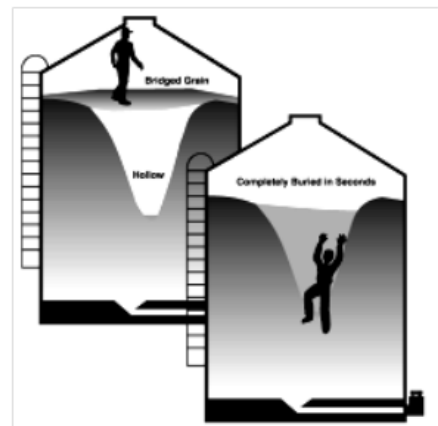
Grain can become bridged when it is moldy, high in moisture, or in poor condition. The kernels stick together and form a crust, which may be self-supporting. This gives a false indication that it is safe to stand on the surface of the grain. The worker cannot tell if there is grain under the crust or not.

### Collapse of a Vertical Mass of Grain

Grain can "set up" in a large mass against the bin wall or in various formations when it has been stored while in poor condition. The mass of grain can collapse and "avalanche" down on workers who attempt to break it loose with shovels or other objects. There will be no warning when it breaks loose and cascades down. The impact will knock workers off their feet, burying them in various positions. Individuals working in the bin can be buried almost instantly.

### Flowing Grain

Flowing grain will not support the weight of a person. It will pull a person down and into the grain mass as it flows. The "suction" action is strong enough that a person cannot "swim," climb, or walk against it and get out. As grain flows out of a bin the victim will be pulled down and under very quickly with little time to react. A person cannot be pulled from flowing grain without risk of injury to the spinal column if the grain is at waist level or higher. The grain will have a very strong grip on the body. Research has shown that up to 400 lbs. of pull is required to extract a body from waist-deep grain. That is more than enough force to permanently damage someone's spinal column.



# The 2011 Wheat and Barley Yield Contest Results

Congratulations go out to the winners and participants in the 2011 wheat and barley yield contests who are listed below. Production practices and more details about the entries will be posted to: [www.grains.cses.vt.edu](http://www.grains.cses.vt.edu). Results of the 2011 statewide variety testing results for wheat and barley are now on the VCE website: <http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/3007/3007-1456/3007-1456.html>

## 2011 Virginia **Wheat** Yield Challenge Winners

| Place | Grower           | FARM                       | COUNTY       | YIELD<br>BU/AC | VARIETY  |
|-------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------|
| 1     | Frank Hula       | Riverside Farm             | Charles City | 129.5          | Shirley  |
| 2     | John P. Shepherd | Tri-County<br>Grain Farms, | Nottoway     | 120.9          | USG 3555 |
| 3     | Bill Nelson      | Colonial Acres<br>Farm     | Henrico      | 120.3          | Roane    |
| 4     | Craig Brann      | Brann Farms                | Richmond     | 118.0          | Shirley  |

## 2011 Virginia **Barley** Yield Challenge Winners

| Place | Grower             | FARM                              | COUNTY       | YIELD<br>BU/AC | VARIETY      |
|-------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1     | John P. Shepherd   | Tri-County<br>Grain Farms,<br>LLC | Brunswick    | 152.2          | Thoroughbred |
| 2     | Richard T. Sanford | Sanford Farms                     | Westmoreland | 132.8          | Thoroughbred |

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*If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in these activities, please contact Robert A. Clark, Extension Agent, Agriculture, at the Shenandoah County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension at 540/459-6140 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event.*

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