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The faculty, staff and students from the ESAREC wish you a happy and healthy Holiday Season!



Love The Stalk?

Feel free to send us your feedback!

mlpeyton@vt.edu

Grain Markets Trending Higher

With the recent grain markets trending higher, farmers are reminded that a quick and easy way to get daily updates on your cell phone is to text or email Robert Harper, Commodity Specialist with Virginia Farm Bureau, at (804) 388-0664 (Robert.Harper@vafb.com) and request to be added to his text list for grain information.



From The Director

The year of 2020 is ticking away. We hope everyone is staying safe, finishing up harvest and planting, and finished their holiday shopping. We are busy at the Eastern Shore AREC finishing up plot harvest, data collection, lab work, and writing reports to close out projects from this year. We are also midstream in our interview process for hiring our Horticultural Cropping Systems position for Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension that will be based at our facility. Please take time to watch these recordings from the three candidates' Extension seminars. You also have a chance to voice your overall opinion for each candidate with a survey. The survey simply says, "acceptable" or "not acceptable" with a text box for you to say why you rated the candidate this way. As always, let us know if there is anything we can help with and Happy Holidays!

- *Mark*

- **Dr. Jianbing Ma:** [Extension Seminar Link](#) and [Opinion Survey Link](#)
- **Dr. Emmanuel Torres Quezada:** [Extension Seminar Link](#) and [Opinion Survey Link](#)
- **Dr. Marlee Trandel:** [Extension Seminar Link](#) and [Opinion Survey Link](#)

Agents Corner

It's that time where we begin to "wrap up" and shut down our production for the year and while the corn harvest was depressing, things picked back up with soybean harvest. On December 1, Secretary Perdue issued a drought disaster declaration for Accomack and Northampton counties which makes producers eligible for certain assistance from the FSA. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans when applied for within 8 months from the date of the declaration. If you need more information or have questions, please contact the FSA office in Accomack.



Ursula & Theresa

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

Theresa and Ursula have started a YouTube Channel to educate the Eastern Shore public about the agriculture around them. These videos are being released through social media of local organizations. Please feel free to share the videos and visit the YouTube Channel. Another segment of this series is "Ask a Farmer" where local community members submit questions and farmers answer them. Please let us know if you would like to participate in this educational opportunity!

DICAMBA RE-APPROVED IN XTEND AND XTENDFLEX CROPS:

In late October, the EPA re-approved the herbicide Dicamba with a 5-year label in Xtend and Xtendflex crops. Tavium herbicide (Dicamba plus Dual) registration was extended for over-the-top use. Some changes from the 2018 registration are:

- Downwind buffer increased from 110 ft. to 240 ft.
- Include a volatility reduction agent (VRA) in every application. This is in addition to a drift reduction agent (DAR) for certain tank mixtures.
- Application window restrictions up through June 30 for soybean and July 30 for cotton.
- Uses of Dicamba outside of Xtend and Xtendflex crops not labeled. Such as pastures.
- Dicamba training required every other year in place of every year.

PRIVATE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION

Private pesticide recertification will be offered virtually for 2021. This is a self-paced course offered through the Virginia Tech Canvas platform. If you would like to participate in private pesticide recertification please contact either Ursula or Theresa and they can set you up.

CONTACT US:

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Pest Pressure, A Historical Exploration

By H el ene B. Doughty

“Going down the rabbit hole of these historical treasures is, to say the least, interesting for any nerdy entomologist.”

How was your pest pressure in 1977? In 2020? Is insect pest presence changing over time on the Eastern Shore? The Entomology Department at the Eastern Shore AREC houses copies of the Vegetable Growers News from 1946-1991, Virginia Truck Experiment Station Bulletins from the early 1900s, 61-year-old preserved insect specimens (imagine the DNA possibilities) and 35 years of black light trap data! Going down the rabbit hole of these historical treasures is, to say the least, interesting for any nerdy entomologist. It certainly is quite fascinating to examine changes in insect populations, particularly when pondering the many reasons behind these fluctuations. Weather, overwintering success, temperature requirements for life cycle, presence of beneficial insects, insecticide resistance, introduction of new insecticides, changes in cropping systems and management are some examples of what causes changes in pressure.



Dr. Dick Hofmaster’s collection of preserved insect specimens at the Eastern Shore AREC

Total European Corn Borer and Corn Earworm Black Light Trap Catch ESAREC, Painter, VA

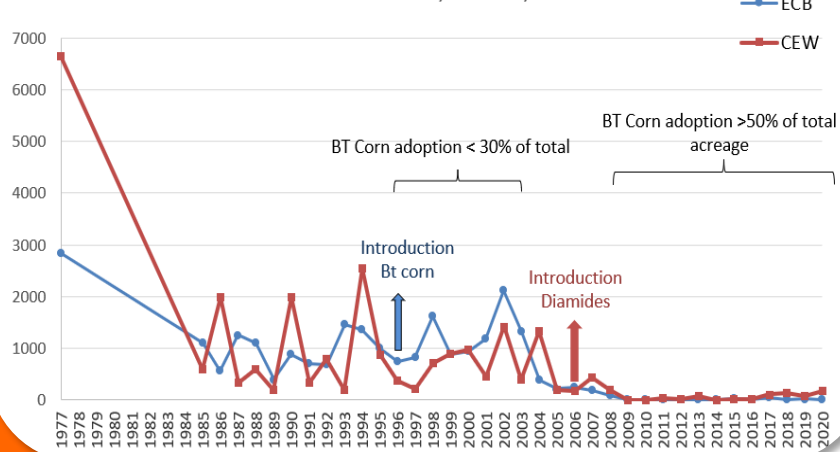


Fig. 1

Comparatively, many other insects are no longer of serious concern or have disappeared altogether. The potato tuberworm and the potato flea beetle, pests of white potatoes, are no longer a primary issue in potato production. The Mexican bean beetle and the squash beetle, pests of beans and squash, respectively, are also no longer found on the Eastern Shore.

We will continue to examine and observe trends and fervently accumulate all data, but our growers, extension agents, scouts and industry personnel are the ever important eyes needed on all fields on the Eastern Shore. If you would like more information on this topic, please contact me! hdoughty@vt.edu

One such example is the sharp decline in European Corn Borer numbers suspected to be a result of the introduction of Bt corn in 1996 (Fig.1). The steady increase in Bt corn acreage adoption to almost 100% today is reflected in numbers that are almost nonexistent. Corn Earworm suffered the same fate, again, likely in correlation with the introduction of diamides in 2006 (Fig. 1). Although no specific trend appears for stink bugs, species have changed over the years with the appearance of the invasive brown marmorated stink bug in 2008. The Southern green stink bug also made its appearance in large numbers in 2019.



Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center

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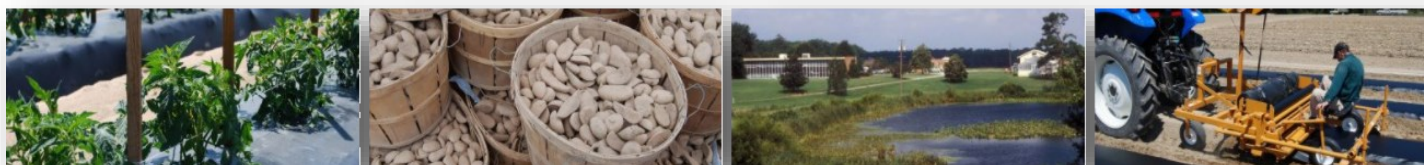
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<https://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/eastern-shore.html>

The Virginia Tech, Eastern Shore AREC is committed to supporting commercial vegetable, grain, oilseed, and fiber production throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Centrally located on Virginia's Eastern Shore, the center conducts basic and applied research on more than 25 agricultural crops.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any activity, please contact Lauren Seltzer at 757-807-6586* (*TDD number is (800) 828-1120) during business hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations.



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