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## Seminole Crop News

### Corn 1 week after planting

March 8, 2014

We looked back at some corn yesterday that had been in the ground for one week in some sandy soil. Here are some photos of the seedlings' progress. It is coming along as expected. We say that with cool soils it will take 10 to 12 days to emerge, so at seven days we are right on this schedule. We could use sunshine and warmer soils, however. We would like the daily average to be 60 degrees for quick emergence. The 2 inch soil temperature was about 58 degrees mid- afternoon, yesterday , the daily average was 52 degrees. At this point we were able to get close to a thousand acres planted in Seminole County, in sandy soils where we dodged the heavier rains.





## Question of the Week – Pop up Fertilizer – 2 X 2

March 8, 2014

Last week I had a photo of a corn planting rig and my question was about the set of round coulters out in front of the set where the seeds are coming out. That set of coulters go into the soil about 2 inches deeper than the seed will be placed and about 2 inches to one side. There is a tube inside the coulters that pours out liquid fertilizer, we call it pop up. The placement is so that the young seedling will get it very quickly. But we don't put it right in the seed furrow so as not to burn the seedling with the strong fertilizer. This is the preferred 2 by 2 starter fertilizer placement for field corn. It usually is mostly Phosphorus with some Nitrogen. Phosphorus is important for young seedlings, especially with cool soils.

I remember my ABAC Soil Science professor, Mr. Sibbett, teaching us about this in his, sometimes crude way. "Plants have trouble taking up phosphorus when it is cool, conso...dam...quently, we need some phosphorus close to the seedling. There...dam...fore starter fertilizer is important." They broke the mold after making him.



**Here is this week's question.**

I was called out to identify a floating pond weed yesterday. Here are 2 photos, what is it?



I went by Seminole Stockyard this past Wednesday, Sale Day, and things were really hopping as they usually are. Edwina and Wanda were in the back totaling things up, talking to customers and answering phones. Mr. Bryant was all around the sale area, touting the attributes of the cattle coming into the ring. The auctioneer and clerk were busy with the auction calling out the bids, keeping things straight.

There was something different though...the prices cattle are bringing. They are very high, and they were high last week too. And UGA economists say that they will be high for a while. I saw lots of steers and heifers sell for a dollar and a half and a dollar seventy five a pound. That's good money, if you are selling and you would say... expensive cattle if you are buying replacement heifers for your farm, for instance. At the bottom of this post I have a link to the Georgia auction prices that you can go to, to get a good rundown on prices here in Donalsonville and across Georgia.





Here's a cattle update submitted by UGA writer Clint Thompson.

Georgia cattlemen are struggling to feed their herds and fighting the affects of poor quality forages. With calf prices at a high, selling off stock may be the best option, says one University of Georgia expert.

“For cattlemen that are in the situation where they’re having trouble feeding their cows and the calves are big enough to sell, that’s probably a real smart move for them to go ahead and move those calves right now,” said UGA Extension livestock economist Curt Lacy.

Calf prices are extremely high, with 300-400 pound steer calves fetching \$2 to \$2.25 per pound or around \$700 per head. Calves weighing 500 pounds are selling between \$1.50 to \$1.70 per pound or around \$800.

Cattle prices are highly tempting for cattlemen due to an extreme short supply, which has been declining for the last six years. Several factors have contributed to the smaller number of cattle, including drought and high commodity prices for other commodities.

Cattlemen are also taking land out of pasture production and putting it into other crops, so fewer small calves are available to be bought. Lacy said the supply is the lowest since 1951.

Another supporting factor to the cattle market is low corn prices, which are hovering in the \$4 to \$4.50 range, considerably less than last year's \$6 mark.

By selling their calves early, cattlemen accomplish two goals: They get money in their pocket and relieve the nutritional burden from the cow.

With their calves sold, cows do not have to worry about producing enough milk to feed a calf and can focus on maintaining their own body weight and getting in good physical shape for the upcoming breeding season.

While selling early is a viable option, Lacy cautions against acting too hastily.

"If they want to sell now, they can. Nobody would fault them for going ahead and selling some of those calves now," Lacy said. "If cows are in good condition, though, they may want to just keep them on the cow and sell them when they normally would sell them."

Due to the short supply and high demand for cattle beef, Lacy believes cattle prices will be high for the next several years.

Georgia Cattle Auctions Report website

[http://marketnews.usda.gov/portal/lg;jsessionid=DPFSH3IGHW5WKCQKAFOSFEQ?paf\\_dm=full&paf\\_gear\\_id=4300008&startIndex=1&dr=1&rowDisplayMax=25&commodity=CATTLE](http://marketnews.usda.gov/portal/lg;jsessionid=DPFSH3IGHW5WKCQKAFOSFEQ?paf_dm=full&paf_gear_id=4300008&startIndex=1&dr=1&rowDisplayMax=25&commodity=CATTLE)

## **Miller County Agent Job Opening Posted**

March 5, 2014

The position announcement for the Miller county agent has now been announced and applicants can now apply. This will be a good job for someone in a county with a rich history of big time row crop agriculture.

Go to this link to apply.

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/unit/abo/hr/>

The links in the sheet below aren't live but you can get to this page by clicking on the above link.



**Position Announcement:** #2378

**County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources**

**Headquarters:** Colquitt, GA, SW District  
**Position Available:** 7/1/2014

**County:** Miller ([www.colquitt-georgia.com](http://www.colquitt-georgia.com))  
<http://extension.uga.edu/about/join/careers.cfm>

**Qualifications:** This position requires:

- Successful experience in program development and management, a demonstrated communication ability as well as skills in leadership and management, a demonstrated ability to multi-task and work as a team member and with groups;
- A demonstrated ability to work as a team member and with groups and committees;
- The ability to design, coordinate, and teach educational programs to meet community needs; and a
- A Bachelor's degree in Crop & Soil Science, Plant Protection & Pest Management, Agriculture, Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Agricultural Education, or closely related area (a Master's degree is strongly preferred).

**Major Responsibilities:**

- Miller County is one of the top ten counties in Total Row Crop Production and Forage Value. Agriculture and related business are the economic lifeblood of the county. This position is responsible for managing the agricultural and natural resources program in Miller County by providing educational programs in production agriculture, pesticide, wildlife, and related areas
  - Utilizes the expertise of advisory groups, community leaders, public officials and representatives of intended audiences to analyze data, identify needs, and assist in developing educational programs
  - Develops a plan of work that is equitable in meeting the varied socio-economic needs of the county
  - Targets specific audiences for educational programs addressing critical issues identified in plan of work
- 

## Cotton Council Farm Bill Meetings

March 3, 2014

### NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL FARM BILL INFORMATION MEETINGS

The Georgia Cotton Commission would like to encourage all producers, cotton industry firms, agri-businesses, and other interested parties to attend the National Cotton Council farm bill information meetings. The purpose of these important meetings is to provide information on the provisions of the new law. Please make plans to attend at one of these locations:

**Baxley** – March 20, 9:00 a.m. – Baxley Church of God – Fellowship Hall, 353 Blackshear Highway

**Dawson** – March 21, 2:00 p.m. – Main Street Theater, 152 North Main

**Donalsonville** – March 21, 9:00 a.m. – Lion's Club, 100 South Wiley Avenue

**Statesboro** – March 19, 3:00 p.m. – Bulloch County Ag Center, 151 Langston Chapel Road

**Tifton** – March 20, 3:00 p.m. – Tifton Campus Conference Center – Small Auditorium, 15 RDC Road

## Corn Planting

March 3, 2014

Field Corn is being planted in South Georgia. Wet soils from recent rainfall has slowed most folks from getting started planting but some have put corn in the ground. Here on Mark Hanna's farm they have about 150 acres planted. They started Friday, Feb 28 and rain may catch them and slow things soon.

Here's John Hanna checking seed placement.



Tracy Scarborough is checking corn planter.



Soil temperatures are just getting where they need to be for planting. Here's the average soil temps for the last three days in Donalsonville. We use the 2 inch soil temperature for corn planting decisions.

### Donalsonville, Seminole County, Georgia

#### Yesterday's Conditions

Daily Summaries:	February 27	February 28	March 1	March 2
Maximum Temperature (°F)	53.8	61.6	70.9	77.0
Minimum Temperature (°F)	34.8	29.3	39.4	42.4
Relative Humidity (%)	52.2	60.9	64.2	68.0
Dew Point Temperature (°F)	25.1	30.2	40.5	46.5
Atmospheric Pressure (in)	29.99	30.09	30.20	30.15
2 in. Soil Temperature (°F)	52.8	53.0	57.9	60.2
4 in. Soil Temperature (°F)	54.3	53.6	57.2	59.2
8 in. Soil Temperature (°F)	55.1	53.8	56.8	58.9

Here's planting date info from the UGA Corn Production Guide. It can be accessed at this link.

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/fieldcrops/gagrains/documents/2013CompleteCornProductionGuideMP.pdf>

### Planting Dates

Plant corn as soon as temperature and moisture become favorable for seed germination and seedling growth. Soil temperature in the seed zone should be 55°F or greater before planting. Corn seed will sprout slowly at 55°F while germination is prompt at 60°F. Delay planting if

cold weather drops soil temperatures below 55°F at the two-inch level. However, if soil temperatures are 55°F and higher, and projections are for a warming trend, corn planting can proceed. Extremely early planting introduces a risk to frost or freeze damage and subsequent loss of stands. Usually, as long as the growing point is below ground level, corn can withstand a severe frost or freezing damage without yield reduction. It is best therefore to monitor soil conditions and weather if your desire is to plant as early as possible. Generally it takes corn seed 7 to 12 days to emerge when planted in soils there are 55°F.

Early planted corn out-yields late planted corn. Depending on your location, planting dates may range from early March in south Georgia to mid-May in north Georgia. Early planting helps avoid periods of low rainfall and excessive heat during pollination, both of which lead to internal water stress during critical periods of corn development. Early planting is essential when double cropping soybeans, grain sorghum, millet or vegetables following irrigated corn.

As planting is delayed into the summer, corn yields decline. In general, yields decline at  $\frac{3}{4}$  a bushel per day rising to about 2.5 bushels per day. Studies in Tifton, under irrigation, demonstrate that yields of stress tolerant and disease resistant hybrids are about 50% of normal when planted in late May or early June. Therefore, late planting is very risky with a high degree of failure.

Here is a useful chart for checking planted population.

Table 8. Approximate Plant Populations at Various Row Widths and Plant Spacing within a row.

Within row Plant Spacing (inches)	Row Width in Inches				
	20	30	36	38	40
4.5			38,700	36,700	34,800
4.7			37,100	35,100	33,400
5.0		41,800	34,800	33,000	31,400
5.3		39,400	32,900	31,100	29,600
5.5		38,000	31,700	30,000	28,500
5.7		36,700	30,600	29,000	27,500
6.0		34,800	29,000	27,500	26,100
6.2		33,700	28,100	26,600	25,300
6.5		32,200	26,800	25,400	24,100
6.8		30,700	25,600	24,300	23,100
7.0		29,900	24,900	23,600	22,400
7.3		28,600	23,900	22,600	21,500
7.5		27,900	23,200	22,000	20,900
7.8	40,200	26,800	22,300	21,200	20,100
8.0	39,200	26,200	21,800	20,600	19,600
8.3	37,800	25,200	21,000	19,900	18,900
8.5	36,900	24,600	20,500	19,400	18,400
8.8	35,600	23,800	19,800	18,800	
9.0	34,800	23,200	19,400	18,300	
9.3	33,700	22,500	18,700	18,700	
9.5	33,000	22,000	18,300		
10.0	31,400	20,900			
10.3	30,500	20,300			
10.5	29,900	19,900			
10.7	29,300	19,500			
11.0	28,500	19,000			
11.5	27,300	18,200			
12.0	26,100				
12.5	25,100				
13.0	23,200				
13.5	23,200				

- Implements the CAES Civil Rights/Equal Opportunity plan and ensures that clientele understand that UGA Cooperative Extension offers its educational programs, assistance, and materials to all people without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, genetic information, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or veteran status
- Develops and conducts relevant interdisciplinary programs with other staff members based on critical issues
- Collaborates with other agencies and community groups to plan and implement programs
- Conducts promotional efforts to expand the public's view of extension programming
- Utilizes current research data and information on emerging issues in program development and teaching
- Demonstrates personal interest and involvement in community by participating in and supporting civic/community activities/organizations and networking with community leaders
- See [www.caes.uga.edu/intranet/coextopr/pdfs/coextagentjd.pdf](http://www.caes.uga.edu/intranet/coextopr/pdfs/coextagentjd.pdf) for a listing of other responsibilities.
- This position requires frequent night meetings, some weekend work, and attendance at out-of-county meetings. A valid driver's license is required.

Administrative Relationships: This position serves as a UGA Public Service Faculty Member and a member of the Miller County Extension Staff (<http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/miller/>) and is under the direction and leadership of the Miller County Extension Coordinator and the Southwest District Extension Director.

Starting Salary & Benefits: \$40,400/year with a Master's Degree (Bachelor's \$34,500 minimum) in appropriate subject area as well as an excellent benefits package is available as a faculty member of the University of Georgia.

Application Procedures: To ensure consideration, your application must be received in UGA Human Resources' iPAWS system by **April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014**. Apply online at [www.ugajobsearch.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=63415](http://www.ugajobsearch.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=63415) (Posting Number 20140246) under "Staff" or "County Extension Agents". Mail original transcripts and direct any questions to: UGA CAES Business Office, 215 Conner Hall, Athens, GA 30602, (706) 542-2373, [caesohr@uga.edu](mailto:caesohr@uga.edu)



Later,

Rome

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