TCAA Extension Meeting – 2013/2014 Extension Planning
Hastings FPWACS – Downtown - September, 19, 2013 – 1PM

Agenda

1:00 PM – Dr. Kelly Morgan (Soil and Water Science Dept. Immokalee) via Polycom

BMP and Extension Programs – Message

- Meeting with county agents
- Emphasize the IFAS extension role on BMP program
- Agents may emphasize the BMP practices from the BMP manual
- TCAA has already about 95% of the growers signed up for the BMPs
- Mini proposal – up to $5,000 for extension, ½ page, summary of the objective, audience, on farm demonstration, money goes direct to the agents;

1:20 PM – Dr. Jeff Ullman (UF Ag. Eng. Dept) – Southern Risk Management Education Center Project

- Regional USDA project – Irrigation and fertilizer irrigation management
- 3 different regions in Florida
- giving growers materials to make decision on irrigation, fertilizer, etc
- grower meetings – Fall 2013 and Spring 2014;
- put together materials
- write EDIS publications – salinity, nutrient and irrigation (fill the gaps), soil moisture;
- create good quality videos with educational materials for growers;
- use the economic aspect of the irrigation;
- topics for programs:
  - cocktail of chemicals
  - use of banding fertilizer collect data from growers
  - use of gypsum
  - Irrigation systems and risk

1:40 PM - Selection of dates and programs

Planning of Fall and Spring Activities (12 month in advance)

To define:

a) Model? (Discussion about what programmatic model of field day we want, e.g. Young Farmer Model, etc)

Field day Model

1) Characteristics of field day and programs: shorter; if longer you need to see a lot of things; have a meal and go outside;
2) Spring potato – early planning to be planted and show it in the field;
3) Potato varieties – extra seed to be shown in the field; highlight the good varieties with cards (postcards); identify the potato varieties that are close to release;
4) Need to buy a trolley for the farm;
5) Stations around the field – no more than 1 or 2 talks in the barn;
6) Present academic content in a short way –
7) Presenter don’t know their audience – presenter need to get familiarized with their public

Young Farm Type of Model
1) once a week during Oct/Nov/Dec – 5-6 weeks
2) 5-6 speakers hand selected (combination of agents/specialist/invitees)
3) the program needs to be discussed in advance, so the objectives and goals – long term plan;
4) should be hands on with practical examples;
5) One main subject a year: e.g. fertilizer management; weed control, etc
6) Hand outs

Suggestion of themes for young farm model:
1) Soil fertility and fertilizer (pH, N, P, K, Ca & Mg, Micro)
2) Banding fertilizer, source, place, -
3) Fertility and salts – best value for your money (k2o or P2o5, forms of N);
4) Gypsum
5) Irrigation management (seepage, drip, subsurface, tile, overhead)
6) Nematode and weed management (nematode biology, weed seed bank dynamic; cycle, chemical control, alternative control)
7) Plant disease:
8) Finance and marketing
9) Lincoln will develop a program/speakers and share with the group

b) Programs already scheduled:
   1. Bayer Crop Science Meeting (October 16, 2013) tentative – we don’t know yet – lunch at Johnny’s
   2. Fumigation training meeting (8:30 - October 21, 2013)

c) Dates (schedule future meetings)

   Fall Young Farmers – (Dan will check the date with Bayer first)
   Tommy Miller’s field day – 1 hour (conversion of seepage to drip irrigation) February 20, 2014. Needs to confirm with him.
   Potato Twilight School – week of April 21st (end of the week TDA).

d) Advertisement process (rules and responsibilities)

   Not discussed.
e) Establishment of rules for Companies participation/funding on UF field days

List of potential topics for field days or classes: (Please include your topic here)

- Basic stuff – needs to be frequently reinforced;
- Timing of the presentation – topic should match with grower’s activity - e.g. fertilization practices, fumigation; weeds control needs to be done at the beginning of the season, instead of in April
- soil fertility and fertilizer (Lincoln, David, Jeff)
- irrigation and water table management (Lincoln, Jeff, Mark Clark).
- weed management
- surfactant and nutrient management (Liu, Dinkins, Ullman)
- Soil and Water Salinity: sampling, interpreting results and crop symptoms (Mark, Lincoln, David, Jeff) comment from Mark: We are starting a survey of irrigation wells in the TCAA for salinity. We are also hoping to get equipment set up at Downtown Hastings to test soil salinity. We could develop a field day around sampling, analysis and results interpretation as well as update growers on the latest information we have. This could also include information about crop sensitivity and symptoms.

Trials on the ground with potential for showcase: (Please include your topic here)

David Liu’s group (including David Dinkins):
- Using surfactant to improve potato yield and quality at Blue Sky, etc.
- Optimizing gypsum rate in potato production at Blue Sky

Mark Clark’s group (including David Dinkins, Mark Warren, Eunice Eshun):
- Monitoring of the TCAA Water Management Partnership projects is supposed to get going ASAP (waiting on FDEP contract). Once that happens four project sites (Bucky Sykes, Richard Jones, Mark Jones and Tater Farms) will be monitored using a paired watershed approach comparing conventional seepage irrigation with alternative irrigation option (overhead, subsurface drip and irridrain). Sites will be continuously monitored for water consumption, edge of field discharge (surface runoff and subsurface runoff in the case of irridrain sites) and flow proportioned water quality sampling to determine total nitrogen and total phosphorus loads. Additional sites may be monitored in conjunction with these first for, or there may be a rotation of the monitoring equipment off of these sites and to another set of farms after a certain period of time.
- We are also beginning a salinity survey of irrigation wells in the TCAA. David D. can explain what we are up to. In short, we sent out a call for participants in the August newsletter and are following up on those growers who are interested in participating. After an initial site visit and sampling that we conduct, growers that want to participate will collect and bring water samples on a monthly basis to be analyzed (first week of the month). We conduct the analysis for EC (also trying to get chloride measurements) and send the results back to them within a week or
two. We also compile the data and hope to get a better understanding for the temporal and spatial differences of EC within the TCAA.

- I’ll be talking to Danny on Friday to see about possible soil salinity monitoring in his fields under different irrigation practices. We are not monitoring his site for the Water Management Partnership due to some site limitations, but he might be a good site to evaluate in-field effects of different irrigation practices on soil salinity. This project is still on the drawing board and will need discussion with the rest of you, but may be another showcase opportunity.

Lincoln’s group:

- Cabbage planting dates and spacing (Sept – March) - cabbage production will be compared for different plant spacing (10”, 12” and 14” at 4 rows) in 4 different planting dates from September to December (Lucas).
- Cabbage N-rates (Nov – March) – 4 row 10” with 5 nitrogen rates Charles
- Water table level vs nitrogen rates – will be conducted from January to May, this is the second year. Potato yield from “Atlantic” and “FL1867” will be compared when managed with 3 different water table level and 4 Nitrogen rates (0; 100; 200 and 300 lbN/ac) - Libby
- Tile drainage; subsurface drip vs nitrogen rates. Similar N-rate design of the trial above, potato yield will be compared when tile or subsurface drip irrigation is used – Libby
- Plastic mulch demonstration at Tommy’s Miller (Oct-Mar). We will test plasticulture and cabbage density variations at grower’s field – Planting date scheduled Oct 21.
- Low cost soil moisture/water table level sensor wireless – soil moisture sensor prototype and automatic irrigation will be tested at the farm to control irrigation.
- CRF Trial at Steve Singleton
- Broccoli Variety Trials (not discussed)

David Dinkins

- 2014 – Potato Cabbage and vegetable cover crop
- 2014 – Increasing Agricultural Awareness, Farm profitability through Agritourism
- 2014 Community Resources & Economic Development trough New Marketing Strategies and Alternative Crop Production Method Development
- 2013-14 – Agricultural Industries Business Retention and Expansion Program
- Using surfactant to improve potato yield and quality at Blue Sky, etc.
- Optimizing gypsum rate in potato production at Blue Sky

Mark Warren

- Value added product seminar and other food related events and activities for the 2013-2014 FY.
- 2013-14 – Agricultural Industries Business Retention and Expansion Program

Joe Noeling’s group:

Due to lack of nematode pressure and the omission of a sorghum sudan cover crop to build the population, and limited funds Joe will submit no formal plans for research this coming year. Joe intends on working collaboratively with DOW Agrosciences and TriEst to do some grower trails evaluating new methods of application and fumigant placement. For these trials, Joe is hopeful that harvest plots can be established and harvested using the UF digger. Some kind of cost structure for off-campus
harvesting will have to be determined. Even though Joe will conduct no formal research effort at Cowpen, he will be more than happy to support any extension programming regarding nematode management and soil fumigation. Including new regulatory changes that you want to include him in. I am also interested in following up on the sunnhemp plantings we initiated this past summer, one with David and Doug.

- 2014 – Potato Cabbage and vegetable cover crop

David Bearl:

- 2014 – Increasing Agricultural Awareness, Farm profitability through Agritourism

Nick Dufault’s group:

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Jeff Ullman’s group:

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Allison Beyer

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Prissy Fletcher

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Peter’s group:

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