



**NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
WEEKLY UPDATE  
Week Ending 11/14/08**

1. Items for Approval – None this week.
2. Items for Discussion – None this week.
3. Summary of County Visits by Dr. Jon Ort

DATE	COUNTY VISITED	PURPOSE
11/7/08 – 11/11/08	Chicago, IL	NASULGC Meeting

4. Items for Information

- In Duplin County, many pastures have been hurt by the drought and suffer from weed problems, erosion and stand issues. NC Cooperative Extension in cooperation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) visited and graded pastures to assess drought damage, educate growers on best management practices, and ways to avoid pasture damage in the future. Two drought management programs were conducted to educate and assist growers in gaining drought relief financial assistance. Fourteen growers who applied for the drought assistance through SWCD in Duplin County received funding and attended at least one pasture management training session. County pasture producers received nearly \$70,000 in drought relief due to their need, availability of financial assistance, and participation in educational programs. As a result, the partnership between NRCS, SWCD and NC Cooperative Extension is strengthened, growers have become more educated in pasture management, and pastures will become more sustainable as farm input costs rise.
- NC Cooperative Extension, Pamlico County Center and the NCSU College of Natural Resources Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT) obtained a Gateway Counties Grant through the Office of Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development and matching funds from Pamlico County to develop a tourism development plan for Pamlico County. The plan was developed through collaboration between Dr. Carol Kline, former extension tourism associate in the PRT Department, the Pamlico County Extension Director, and Dr. Kline's PRT 491 Special Topics Class. The tourism development plan for Pamlico County included several visits by the class to Pamlico County to meet with focus groups of stakeholders and tourism-related businesses and organizations.
- Determining peanut maturity is an important production decision. Maturity affects flavor, grade, milling quality, and shelf life. The Northampton County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension helped peanut farmers determine maturity in 2008. Eighty nine peanut samples representing 2,776 acres were checked. Producers picked up an increase of \$0.03 per pound on grade by waiting an extra 7 days to harvest a more mature crop. This translates into an additional \$105 per acre or \$291,480 in additional income for the 2,776 acres checked.

- In New Hanover County, NC Cooperative Extension Consumer and Commercial Horticulture Agents visited a 27-home neighborhood at the request of the landscaper and Homeowners Association. Our agents walked the property with both clients, diagnosing present weed and potential disease problems and potential cultural and chemical strategies to reduce horticultural inputs while maintaining the landscapes' aesthetic quality. We also discussed the importance of correct water conservation practices and the benefit to both the environment and landscape. The landscaper came back to our office two months later thanking us for our help and said our advice had helped him manage the property more efficiently. Base on reduced amounts of fertilizer, herbicide and water combined with reduced future fungicide applications it is estimated that Extension's recommendations saved the Pointe Summerset Homeowners Association \$4,800 dollars annually.

5. Routine Items – None this week.