

Theresa Pittman, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, Accomack County; Helene Doughty, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, Northampton County; Dr. Mark Reiter, Eastern Shore Agricultural and Research Extension Center Director and Soils & Nutrient Management Specialist

Introduction

Discover the art of teamwork and innovation in newsletter production. Accomack & Northampton County Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) ANR agents and the Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center (ESAREC) Director produce a monthly collaborative newsletter: “The Stalk” designed for maximum impact reach to their stakeholders. Following is a deep dive into the collaborative processes that drive the success of The Stalk. From brainstorming sessions to final edits, we will highlight the generation process of engaging and relevant content that resonates with our audience, making each edition of The Stalk a must-read. Design and layout are crucial elements of our work. Learn about the principles that make their newsletter visually appealing and easy to read. We will share tips on using design tools and software to create professional-looking publications that captivate our readers. Managing the production timeline is another critical aspect. We will review best practices for planning, setting realistic deadlines, and allocating resources efficiently. We will share how we handle unexpected challenges in newsletter production, turning potential obstacles into opportunities for innovation. Celebrate the power of collaborative creativity. Whether you’re a seasoned professional or just starting out, we trust you will find practical advice and creative ideas to enhance your work and build a community of like-minded individuals passionate about content creation and communication.

Planning and Brainstorming

The Stalk Newsletter aims to serve as a vital communication platform within the agricultural sector, fostering informed decision-making and community engagement. Its primary purpose is to disseminate timely and accurate information to a diverse audience, including farmers, agricultural professionals, researchers, policymakers, and concerned consumers.

To achieve this, the newsletter focuses on a broad range of relevant research and extension topics, such as sustainable farming practices, innovative agricultural technologies, market trends, policy updates, and success stories from local farmers. To ensure content relevance and audience engagement, the brainstorming process actively involves Extension Agents, Extension Specialists, and students from agricultural programs at the ESAREC. Their fresh perspectives and insights on contemporary issues enrich the newsletter’s content, making it a valuable resource for the entire agricultural community..

Team members from VCE and the ESAREC maintain a standing monthly meeting to discuss each upcoming edition of The Stalk. Meetings cover an overview of each member’s responsibility for content and lead to further valuable collaboration opportunities between each organization beyond the creation of the newsletter.

Content Creation

The Stalk Newsletter production adheres to a structured workflow. Following content brainstorming, roles and deadlines are assigned, with contributions expected from agents, specialists, and students. Collaborators work through Microsoft Teams for calendar settings, task reminders, file and photo sharing options. Clear deadlines are established for all assets to be submitted to the graphic design team, ensuring timely production. Writing emphasizes clarity, conciseness, and engaging language, with a mandatory peer-review process for editing and proofreading to maintain high-quality standards. Visual appeal is enhanced through the incorporation of high-quality images, prioritizing photos that capture the essence of events by showcasing attendees, award winners, and engaging activities. Members of the team have standing features such as “Agent Question of the Month” or “What’s That Bug?” providing engaging educational snippets for all stakeholders on a variety of agricultural topics.

Design and Layout

The Stalk Newsletter adheres to a rigorous design process to ensure optimal dissemination of information. A visually appealing and easily readable template is selected, incorporating VCE branding through consistent use of designated colors, fonts, and stylistic elements. Content organization is paramount, with a structured layout and flow tailored to each edition. Some months prioritize Specialist research findings, while others focus on agriculture awareness initiatives or upcoming events. To enhance readability, clear headings, subheadings, and bullet points are employed. Strategic placement of high-quality photos and graphics breaks up text, maintains visual interest, and complements the overall message. Each edition is reviewed for ADA and accessibility compliance.

Canva

The Stalk is created through the online design platform Canva for the design of the newsletter. This platform facilitates seamless collaboration among designers. The platform allows for easy sharing of design drafts, enabling team members to provide feedback and make real-time edits. Additionally, Canva’s sharing options ensure that the newsletter can be publicly shared while still allowing for necessary adjustments before final publication.

Distribution and Promotion

The Stalk Newsletter employs a multi-faceted distribution strategy to ensure maximum reach and accessibility. Distribution methods include print copies disseminated through targeted mailings, email broadcasts to stakeholders, and online publication on the Accomack/Northampton VCE and ESAREC websites, and relevant social media platforms. To enhance accessibility, the newsletter utilizes Canva, a design tool that allows for careful consideration of font choices, color contrasts, image proportions, and the inclusion of alternative text for all images. This ensures readability for individuals with visual impairments. Continuous improvement is fostered through a robust feedback collection process. Surveys, questionnaires, and informal conversations with readers are actively sought to gather valuable insights and identify areas for enhancement in future editions. This data-driven approach ensures that the Stalk Newsletter remains an effective communication tool that meets the evolving needs and preferences of its diverse readership.

Conclusion

The creation of the Stalk Newsletter is a testament to the power of collaboration and shared responsibility. Teamwork is essential, with each member contributing their unique skills and perspectives. We actively involve specialists and students in writing, photography, and design, providing valuable hands-on experience and fostering creativity. Clear and consistent communication among all team members ensures that the process runs smoothly and efficiently. We maintain a high standard of professionalism, focusing on quality and attention to detail in every aspect of the newsletter. Finally, we celebrate our successes, recognizing the hard work and dedication that goes into each edition and the positive impact it has on our community.

Impact

“The Stalk has really helped my business, allowing for opportunities to stay aware of educational programs and providing information I can take to the fields”

“I appreciate the collaboration between research and extension. The Stalk shows me that all agents are working together well for the ultimate benefit of our local agriculture”

“I look forward to reading the Stalk to stay informed on the latest research and extension work on the Eastern Shore and beyond”

“As a retired farmer, staying connected to the community and the latest agricultural developments is important to me. Reading ‘The Stalk’ keeps me informed about local happenings and innovations in farming. It’s like having a conversation with old friends and staying rooted in the land I love.”

YOU CAN ACCESS THE MOST RECENT AS WELL AS HISTORICAL EDITIONS ON OUR WEBSITE:



Vol. 5 | April 2024

The Stalk

Accomack & Northampton County Cooperative Extension
Eastern Shore Agricultural Research & Extension Center

Meet the Candidates Interview for Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences!

The Provost of Virginia Tech has announced several Open Forum and opportunities for stakeholders across Virginia to meet with the 3 Candidates interviewing for dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech. A full description of happenings, candidate biographies, and the search process can be found [HERE](#)

THE FOLLOWING OPEN FORUMS ARE BEING OFFERED:

Tracy Rutherford
• Monday, April 15, in 145 Siegel Hall on the Blacksburg campus and on Zoom. Open forum: 2:00-3:00 p.m. for presentation and Q&A. Reception: 3:30-5:00 p.m.
• Wednesday, April 17, at the Virginia Farm Bureau Auditorium, 12580 West Creek Parkway in Richmond, and on WebEx. Open forum: 2:30 p.m. for presentation and Q&A. Reception: 3:40 p.m.

Scha Killefer
• Thursday, April 18, in the Holzman Alumni Center Assembly Hall on the Blacksburg campus and on Zoom. Open forum: 2:00-3:00 p.m. for presentation and Q&A. Reception: 3:40 p.m.
• Friday, April 19, in the Virginia Farm Bureau Auditorium, 12580 West Creek Parkway in Richmond, and on WebEx. Open forum: 2:30 p.m. for presentation and Q&A. Reception: 3:40 p.m.

Mario Fauruzzi
• Monday, April 22, in the Holzman Alumni Center Assembly Hall on the Blacksburg campus and on Zoom. Open forum: 2:00-3:00 p.m. for presentation and Q&A. Reception: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
• Wednesday, April 24, at the Virginia Farm Bureau Auditorium, 12580 West Creek Parkway in Richmond, and on WebEx. Open forum: 2:30 p.m. for presentation and Q&A. Reception: 3:40 p.m.

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THE AGENT'S CORNER
Theresa Pittman - Accomack County ANR Agent
Helene Doughty - Northampton County ANR Agent

Agents' Calendar:
“Working for the Wellbeing of Our Communities!”

On-Going VCE Efforts in April

- April 2nd: Eastern Shore Master Gardener Volunteer meeting
- April 10th: VCE DRLT Fiscal Training
- April 20th: 4H/ESAREC Eastern Shore Science Fair Judging AREC
- April 23rd-24th: Agent Training: Pesticides (Southern Piedmont)
- Slug Trapping Research to evaluate slug population density.
- Wireworm bait damage evaluation following seed treated wheat
- Field corn variety trial planting at the ESAREC.
- Fair Competition Workshop
- Interson Interviews for ESAREC Assistant Entomology Professor
- Hiring Committee
- Finalizing presentations and planning for Commercial Pesticide License Course
- Graphic design projects for food safety website
- Surveying field corn on plant planning on the Eastern Shore
- Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair Planning Committee Meeting
- Regional Shared-use Kitchen Needs Assessment and Comprehensive Study
- International Soil Tillage Research Conference Project Management (2024 ISTRO, Virginia Beach Sept. 23-27)

Follow Us on Social Media

Northampton
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Accomack
@vce-accomack

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

EASTERN SHORE COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE RECOGNITION

• Cancellation: 15, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H, 3I, 3J, 3K, 3L, 3M, 3N, 3O, 3P, 3Q, 3R, 3S, 3T, 3U, 3V, 3W, 3X, 3Y, 3Z, 3AA, 3AB, 3AC, 3AD, 3AE, 3AF, 3AG, 3AH, 3AI, 3AJ, 3AK, 3AL, 3AM, 3AN, 3AO, 3AP, 3AQ, 3AR, 3AS, 3AT, 3AU, 3AV, 3AW, 3AX, 3AY, 3AZ, 3BA, 3BB, 3BC, 3BD, 3BE, 3BF, 3BG, 3BH, 3BI, 3BJ, 3BK, 3BL, 3BM, 3BN, 3BO, 3BP, 3BQ, 3BR, 3BS, 3BT, 3BU, 3BV, 3BW, 3BX, 3BY, 3BZ, 3CA, 3CB, 3CC, 3CD, 3CE, 3CF, 3CG, 3CH, 3CI, 3CJ, 3CK, 3CL, 3CM, 3CN, 3CO, 3CP, 3CQ, 3CR, 3CS, 3CT, 3CU, 3CV, 3CW, 3CX, 3CY, 3CZ, 3DA, 3DB, 3DC, 3DD, 3DE, 3DF, 3DG, 3DH, 3DI, 3DJ, 3DK, 3DL, 3DM, 3DN, 3DO, 3DP, 3DQ, 3DR, 3DS, 3DT, 3DU, 3DV, 3DW, 3DX, 3DY, 3DZ, 3EA, 3EB, 3EC, 3ED, 3EE, 3EF, 3EG, 3EH, 3EI, 3EJ, 3EK, 3EL, 3EM, 3EN, 3EO, 3EP, 3EQ, 3ER, 3ES, 3ET, 3EU, 3EV, 3EW, 3EX, 3EY, 3EZ, 3FA, 3FB, 3FC, 3FD, 3FE, 3FF, 3FG, 3FH, 3FI, 3FJ, 3FK, 3FL, 3FM, 3FN, 3FO, 3FP, 3FQ, 3FR, 3FS, 3FT, 3FU, 3FV, 3FW, 3FX, 3FY, 3FZ, 3GA, 3GB, 3GC, 3GD, 3GE, 3GF, 3GG, 3GH, 3GI, 3GJ, 3GK, 3GL, 3GM, 3GN, 3GO, 3GP, 3GQ, 3GR, 3GS, 3GT, 3GU, 3GV, 3GW, 3GX, 3GY, 3GZ, 3HA, 3HB, 3HC, 3HD, 3HE, 3HF, 3HG, 3HH, 3HI, 3HJ, 3HK, 3HL, 3HM, 3HN, 3HO, 3HP, 3HQ, 3HR, 3HS, 3HT, 3HU, 3HV, 3HW, 3HX, 3HY, 3HZ, 3IA, 3IB, 3IC, 3ID, 3IE, 3IF, 3IG, 3IH, 3II, 3IJ, 3IK, 3IL, 3IM, 3IN, 3IO, 3IP, 3IQ, 3IR, 3IS, 3IT, 3IU, 3IV, 3IW, 3IX, 3IY, 3IZ, 3JA, 3JB, 3JC, 3JD, 3JE, 3JF, 3JG, 3JH, 3JI, 3JJ, 3JK, 3JL, 3JM, 3JN, 3JO, 3JP, 3JQ, 3JR, 3JS, 3JT, 3JU, 3JV, 3JW, 3JX, 3JY, 3JZ, 3KA, 3KB, 3KC, 3KD, 3KE, 3KF, 3KG, 3KH, 3KI, 3KJ, 3KK, 3KL, 3KM, 3KN, 3KO, 3KP, 3KQ, 3KR, 3KS, 3KT, 3KU, 3KV, 3KW, 3KX, 3KY, 3KZ, 3LA, 3LB, 3LC, 3LD, 3LE, 3LF, 3LG, 3LH, 3LI, 3LJ, 3LK, 3LL, 3LM, 3LN, 3LO, 3LP, 3LQ, 3LR, 3LS, 3LT, 3LU, 3LV, 3LW, 3LX, 3LY, 3LZ, 3MA, 3MB, 3MC, 3MD, 3ME, 3MF, 3MG, 3MH, 3MI, 3MJ, 3MK, 3ML, 3MN, 3MO, 3MP, 3MQ, 3MR, 3MS, 3MT, 3MU, 3MV, 3MW, 3MX, 3MY, 3MZ, 3NA, 3NB, 3NC, 3ND, 3NE, 3NF, 3NG, 3NH, 3NI, 3NJ, 3NK, 3NL, 3NM, 3NO, 3NP, 3NQ, 3NR, 3NS, 3NT, 3NU, 3NV, 3NW, 3NX, 3NY, 3NZ, 3OA, 3OB, 3OC, 3OD, 3OE, 3OF, 3OG, 3OH, 3OI, 3OJ, 3OK, 3OL, 3OM, 3ON, 3OO, 3OP, 3OQ, 3OR, 3OS, 3OT, 3OU, 3OV, 3OW, 3OX, 3OY, 3OZ, 3PA, 3PB, 3PC, 3PD, 3PE, 3PF, 3PG, 3PH, 3PI, 3PJ, 3PK, 3PL, 3PM, 3PN, 3PO, 3PP, 3PQ, 3PR, 3PS, 3PT, 3PU, 3PV, 3PW, 3PX, 3PY, 3PZ, 3QA, 3QB, 3QC, 3QD, 3QE, 3QF, 3QG, 3QH, 3QI, 3QJ, 3QK, 3QL, 3QM, 3QN, 3QO, 3QP, 3QQ, 3QR, 3QS, 3QT, 3QU, 3QV, 3QW, 3QX, 3QY, 3QZ, 3RA, 3RB, 3RC, 3RD, 3RE, 3RF, 3RG, 3RH, 3RI, 3RJ, 3RK, 3RL, 3RM, 3RN, 3RO, 3RP, 3RQ, 3RR, 3RS, 3RT, 3RU, 3RV, 3RW, 3RX, 3RY, 3RZ, 3SA, 3SB, 3SC, 3SD, 3SE, 3SF, 3SG, 3SH, 3SI, 3SJ, 3SK, 3SL, 3SM, 3SN, 3SO, 3SP, 3SQ, 3SR, 3SS, 3ST, 3SU, 3SV, 3SW, 3SX, 3SY, 3SZ, 3TA, 3TB, 3TC, 3TD, 3TE, 3TF, 3TG, 3TH, 3TI, 3TJ, 3TK, 3TL, 3TM, 3TN, 3TO, 3TP, 3TQ, 3TR, 3TS, 3TT, 3TU, 3TV, 3TW, 3TX, 3TY, 3TZ, 3UA, 3UB, 3UC, 3UD, 3UE, 3UF, 3UG, 3UH, 3UI, 3UJ, 3UK, 3UL, 3UM, 3UN, 3UO, 3UP, 3UQ, 3UR, 3US, 3UT, 3UU, 3UV, 3UW, 3UX, 3UY, 3UZ, 3VA, 3VB, 3VC, 3VD, 3VE, 3VF, 3VG, 3VH, 3VI, 3VJ, 3VK, 3VL, 3VM, 3VN, 3VO, 3VP, 3VQ, 3VR, 3VS, 3VT, 3VU, 3VV, 3VW, 3VX, 3VY, 3VZ, 3WA, 3WB, 3WC, 3WD, 3WE, 3WF, 3WG, 3WH, 3WI, 3WJ, 3WK, 3WL, 3WM, 3WN, 3WO, 3WP, 3WQ, 3WR, 3WS, 3WT, 3WU, 3WV, 3WW, 3WX, 3WY, 3WZ, 3XA, 3XB, 3XC, 3XD, 3XE, 3XF, 3XG, 3XH, 3XI, 3XJ, 3XK, 3XL, 3XM, 3XN, 3XO, 3XP, 3XQ, 3XR, 3XS, 3XT, 3XU, 3XV, 3XW, 3XX, 3XY, 3XZ, 3YA, 3YB, 3YC, 3YD, 3YE, 3YF, 3YG, 3YH, 3YI, 3YJ, 3YK, 3YL, 3YM, 3YN, 3YO, 3YP, 3YQ, 3YR, 3YS, 3YT, 3YU, 3YV, 3YW, 3YX, 3YY, 3YZ, 3ZA, 3ZB, 3ZC, 3ZD, 3ZE, 3ZF, 3ZG, 3ZH, 3ZI, 3ZJ, 3ZK, 3ZL, 3ZM, 3ZN, 3ZO, 3ZP, 3ZQ, 3ZR, 3ZS, 3ZT, 3ZU, 3ZV, 3ZW, 3ZX, 3ZY, 3ZZ

WEEED SCIENCE WORKING LUNCH

VCE is hosting a working lunch for focus on pest management options for corn and soybean and control of herbicide-resistant weeds.

RSVP

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from experts and share your experiences. Space is limited. Register today!

Registration: April 22, 2024
Time: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Location: ESAREC, 12580 West Creek Parkway, Richmond, VA 23290

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Theresa Pittman at 757-995-0780 or Helene Doughty at 757-995-0780

ESAREC/VCE COLLABORATION

Virginia Cooperative Extension and WESR Celebrate National Agriculture Week

VCE agents/specialists and partners celebrated National Agriculture Week with local agricultural facts and a positive message. The week's focus was on the importance of agriculture in our lives and the role of the ESAREC in supporting the agricultural community.

Agriultural Facts shared on FM 100.3 for National Ag Week

- Consider this: just about everything we eat, wear and use comes from American agriculture. Agriculture is Virginia's largest economic industry and contributes \$2.3 billion dollars annually in sales and provides more than 300,000 jobs in the Commonwealth.
- Individual farmers provide food for 6 times as many people as they did in the 1950s.
- We rely on agriculture for the very necessities of life: from food and fuel to cotton and corn, agriculture is working harder than ever to meet the needs of Americans and others around the world. Our industry is dedicated to providing plentiful and safe food and fiber for consumption.
- Did you know American agriculture not only provides you food and clothing, but also helps meet needs around the world? Plus, American agriculture is not just producing more food, it's producing higher quality food.
- 90% of Virginia farms are owned by families or individuals, not corporations.
- According to the most recent U.S. Agricultural Census, farmers in Northampton and Accomack Counties produced over 435 million dollars in total.
- New technology means farmers are more environmentally friendly than ever before. Eastern Shore growers utilize natural management plans for over 65,000 acres of crops and plant over 500,000 acres of cover crops to ensure to preserve the natural resources for which the Shore is so well known.

CLICK HERE FOR SOURCES

UPDATES FROM THE ESAREC DIRECTOR
Dr. Mark Reiter, Director, Extension Specialist

Together, we raised over \$13 million on Giving Day!

You made a difference this Giving Day! Thank you for joining thousands of Hokies in supporting what you love most about Virginia Tech and the Eastern Shore AREC. Because of you, our future is filled with promise. We hope you enjoy this update regarding some of our key results.

Giving Day has a long-lasting impact on our university, Hokies everywhere, and the communities we serve. By coming together in the spirit of UP Hokies (that's May Serve), we can achieve more than we ever thought possible - and we did.

In just 24 hours, 18,945 Hokies raised more than \$13 million from 22,125 gifts. More than 700 Hokies raised more than \$1 million for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences! That's an accomplishment worth celebrating.

We couldn't do it without you! Thank you for being a game-changer this Giving Day. In addition, the Eastern Shore AREC was hit place for number of gifts, earning a bonus prize thanks to our ambassador, Belinda Sterling, and all our Eastern Shore AREC supporters! Thank you for all you do!

NAME	PRIZE	AREC	CHANGES
1	\$25,000	Eastern Shore Experiment Station	65%
2	\$17,500	Southern Piedmont Experiment Station	37%
3	\$12,500	Virginia Seafood Experiment Station	15%
4	\$7,500	Eastern Virginia Experiment Station	9%

LEADERBOARD

The top 4 ARECs that received the most unique donors during Giving Day and received bonus prizes

BE ON THE LOOKOUT for emails and social media posts reminding opportunities to interact with our Fair Applied Entomology Extension Specialist Candidates!

Candidates will be at the ESAREC on April 16, 22, 24, and 30th. Candidates will present an Extension and applied research seminar, followed by an Open House to answer questions and for you to dig deeper into their interests. Zoom information will be available to you once all are working in the field while participating. All comments given by stakeholders will be heavily weighed by the search committee in deliberations.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: Spreading the cheer of the Eastern Shore

RESEARCH FROM ESAREC FACULTY & STAFF

Pay attention to the weather during flowering for economic disease control in wheat.

Dr. Doug Higgins, Plant Pathologist, Eastern Shore AREC, Painter, VA

Wheat heads are susceptible to Fusarium head blight during flowering. While some varieties of wheat are less susceptible to Fusarium head blight than others, none are immune to the disease. A well-timed fungicide application can help reduce disease and lower mycotoxin (deoxynivalenol) levels but fungicides are most beneficial when weather conditions favor disease.

Essentially, dry and cool weather during flowering are low risk conditions for Fusarium head blight. However, conditions can change rapidly. The highest disease risk is when there is 2-3 days of high humidity and warm (25-85°F) temperatures just before, during and after flowering. To get the most up-to-date disease forecasts for the Eastern Shore refer to the [FusariumRiskTool](#).

Fungicide should be applied at early wheat flowering (Feekes 10.5.1) when Fusarium head blight risk is at a medium risk in the forecast tool. If the fungicide cannot be applied on exactly at early flowering, it is still worthwhile to apply the fungicide up to several days later. Do not use fungicides that contain QoIs (prothioconazole, FRAC 11) after the flag leaf stage, they can increase mycotoxin levels.

In replicated fungicide field trials conducted on the Eastern Shore in 2023 Canabara, Proline, Miravis Ace, Spheeris, Proline, and Proton Pro are among the most effective fungicides at reducing Fusarium head blight (see figure). Canabara has been discontinued by the registrant and is no longer available. If you have any questions, please reach out!

CLICK HERE FOR Fusarium Risk Tool

Consider technical applications for greater termination efficiency and burnout of other weeds. For soybean systems, Select Max (6 - 8 oz/a) can be tankmixed with glyphosate. Add 2.4-D amine (16 fl oz / a) with glyphosate (Roundup Powermax 22 - 32 fl oz/a), glufosinate (Liberty 43 fl oz/a) or paraquat (48 fl oz/a) if targeting broadleaved cover crop species in corn and soybean systems. If using 2.4-D in combination, plant corn at least 7 days after application. Considering adding AMS (3.5 fl oz/100 gallons) to glyphosate for greater efficacy. Sharp (1 fl oz/a) can be used with glyphosate for termination but maintain a window of 14 days before planting soybean. Follow label guidelines and mixing of adjuvants for herbicide safety and efficacy.

RESEARCH FROM ESAREC FACULTY & STAFF

Cover Crop Termination, Timing, and Herbicide Selection

Dr. Vijay Singh, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, Weed Science

Planting season is approaching fast, and growers who planted cover crops in past fall need to terminate them timely. In general, there are three major factors which growers need to consider when deciding time of termination. First, termination timing should allow maximizing of cover crop biomass, which suggests late termination, however, (2) timing should also consider maturity of cover crop, and cover crops should be terminated before it matures or produce seeds, especially, brassica species (e.g. rapeseed, mustard). Matured cover crop seeds can lead to volunteer issues later in the crop or next season. (3) Consider termination timing based on herbicide program, herbicide residual time period and its impact on timing of main crop planting.

In general, growers in our region can target third week of April to first week of May for termination of cover crops if they are planning to plant corn crop. For soybean and cotton cover crops can be terminated by second to third week of May.

Herbicides are the most preferred tools for termination of cover crops and glyphosate is the most common herbicide. However, our previous experiences indicate that glyphosate alone is not sufficient for terminating high biomass cover crops. Combining glyphosate with roller/crusher, and/or with 2,4-D for broadleaved cover crops (e.g. rapeseed, mustard, hairy vetch, red clover) helps in better termination. Paraquat (Gramoxone) can also be used to terminate cover crops, and has shown excellent efficacy on broadleaved cover crops, but paraquat alone may not be a good option for cereal rye termination as it may require after some time. Both glyphosate and paraquat are nonresidual herbicides, however, glyphosate may take more time to completely kill cover crop compared with paraquat. Paraquat requires greater carrier volume (15-20 gallons/a) for excellent control compared with glyphosate (10-15 gallons/a). Among other options, Liberty (glufosinate) can be used for termination of cover crops in late April or May when temperature is above 72°F accompanied with bright sunny days.

Consider technical applications for greater termination efficiency and burnout of other weeds. For soybean systems, Select Max (6 - 8 oz/a) can be tankmixed with glyphosate. Add 2.4-D amine (16 fl oz / a) with glyphosate (Roundup Powermax 22 - 32 fl oz/a), glufosinate (Liberty 43 fl oz/a) or paraquat (48 fl oz/a) if targeting broadleaved cover crop species in corn and soybean systems. If using 2.4-D in combination, plant corn at least 7 days after application. Considering adding AMS (3.5 fl oz/100 gallons) to glyphosate for greater efficacy. Sharp (1 fl oz/a) can be used with glyphosate for termination but maintain a window of 14 days before planting soybean. Follow label guidelines and mixing of adjuvants for herbicide safety and efficacy.