

Using the Peanut Belt Research Station to Enhance County Programs in Bertie County North Carolina

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A field day has been conducted in North Carolina at the Peanut Belt Research Station (Lewiston-Woodville, NC in Bertie county) since 2012 in late July or early August to provide information to local farmers and other members of the agricultural sector. Prior to 2012 a broader tour in the county was in place which included one or two stops at this station. Between 45 and 50 people attend the field day each year. Major crops in Bertie county in 2017 included corn (11,305 acres), cotton (21,158 acres), peanut (10,217 acres), clary sage (14,718 acres), soybean (36,465 acres), sweetpotato (1,229 acres), tobacco (5,644 acres), and wheat (8,648 acres). Topics pertaining to peanut have included disease, insect, and weed management; varieties and digging dates; plant growth regulation; and rotation sequence and diversity. Weed management in cotton and clary sage; fertility management in corn and clary sage; variety performance in corn, cotton, grain sorghum, and soybean; factors that influence cotton and soybean maturation; insect management in cotton; and the potential for industrial hemp in the state have been featured in some years. In addition to the Bertie county field tour, the annual North Carolina Peanut Field Day is conducted on this station in early September and several in-service sessions are included to help Cooperative Extension agents.