

Peanut Maturity Workshop Results and the Adoption of Recommended Cultural Practices in Pitt County, North Carolina Contributing to Peanut Yields from 2021

M. SMITH* and D.L. JORDAN, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695.

Six workshops were conducted in September to assist Pitt County peanut farmers in determining optimal maturity and to gain perspectives on factors contributing to peanut yields and adoption of recommended cultural practices. Based on surveys representing 84% of county peanut farmers, the average reported gain per acre was 468 pounds compared to the 2020 production year. Among the factors perceived by growers contributing to higher yields were improved weather patterns (44%) and pod maturity workshops (33%). The percentage of peanut farmers reporting improved peanut yields in 2021 compared with 2020 was 86%. The percentage of producer indicating that digging at optimal maturity was 93%. Among the recommended practices adopted by growers, 60% applied Apogee (89% making a single application), improved variety selection (47%), and higher seeding rates (42%).