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Viewing Impact Statement

'Snap beans and drought in Southwest Georgia'

Statement

- **Title** : Snap beans and drought in Southwest Georgia
- **Brief Title** : [Snap beans and drought](#)
- **Author** : Griffeth, Laura
- **Year** : 2007
- **State Issue** : Agricultural Profitability and Sustainability
- **County** : Webster
- **Group** : Southwest District
- **Scope** : County

Summary

Timely identification of snap bean problems saved Webster County growers significant costs due to the recommendation to delay replanting until soil temperatures had declined.

Situation

Snap beans is an alternative crop three growers in Webster County have begun growing, spreading the risk from traditional crops, such as cotton and peanuts. Snap beans are a quick crop, lasting only about 6 weeks, so timeliness is crucial. The 2007 spring crop of snap beans in Webster County was prolific and profitable; however the fall crop had extreme difficulties. Intense temperatures along with an exceptional drought combined to cause near disaster. Even with irrigation the soil temperatures were not favorable for germination and growth.

Response

The Extension Coordinator worked with the three snap bean growers in the county when the snap beans began dying. Samples were taken and shipped to the Tifton Plant Disease Clinic, while digital images were sent by DDDI to appropriate specialists.

Impact

Specialists quickly determined that the death of the snap beans was the result of the intense soil temperatures literally burning the sprouting plants. These findings resulted in two growers halting replant procedures. Since it costs approximately \$200/acre just for seed, this decision saved these growers \$22,600 just in seed cost alone. The replants were completed two weeks later.

A third grower continued with his planting. Approximately two weeks later, he replanted the majority of the plots due to continued death of the snap beans. In addition to the expense of the replant, he also had issues with the broker he contracted with not picking his entire snap bean crop due to harvest timing problems and the small acreage. This abandonment of approximately 15 acres resulted in a lost value of \$6,000 (or \$400/acre).

Because the two growers who delayed replanting represented 113 acres, the broker was able to send pickers at the appropriate time to result in near maximum yield. In addition no acreage was abandoned.

Program Function(s)

Funding Source(s)

-
- Extension

Program Area(s)

- Agriculture & Natural Resources

Topic(s)

- Agronomic Crops

Keyword(s)

- No relevant keyword available

- Smith Lever Act Funds

Collaborator(s)

CAES Collaborator(s)

(None)

Non-CAES Collaborator(s)

(None)

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