



# The Agriculture Program

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Heep Center for Soil and Crop Sciences and Entomology  
TAMU 2474  
College Station, Texas 77843-2474  
Phone 979.845.8505 Fax 979.862.7011  
E-mail: [Croptest@tamu.edu](mailto:Croptest@tamu.edu)  
[www.tamu.edu/croptesting](http://www.tamu.edu/croptesting)

*Department of Soil and Crop Sciences  
Crop Testing*

## MEMORANDUM:

**TO:** Seedsmen, Plant Breeders, and Cooperators participating in the Texas Corn and Grain Sorghum Performance Testing Program and Disease Observation Plantings

**DATE:** January 6, 2006

**FROM:** Dennis Pietsch, Jurg Blumenthal, and Ted Dusek

**SUBJECT:** 2006 Crop Testing Program (CTP)

## INTRODUCTION

Each year farmers must continue to make sound decisions when selecting corn and grain sorghum hybrids to be used in their farming operations. Agronomists, county agents and seed companies also use this information extensively in determining which hybrids are adapted to a particular region or area. All performance tests are replicated three or four times depending on availability of land area and are usually planted in two-row plots. Data is statistically analyzed and made available in a timely manner shortly after harvest. Each participant has access to a location sketch and directions to the test site via Internet and is encouraged to monitor the sites during the growing season. All plots are labeled in the field by plot number and hybrid designation.

Most of the corn and grain sorghum sites are located on farmers' land. This gives farmers in a surrounding area an opportunity to observe and evaluate hybrids first-hand. Also, these sites are used extensively for county field days or tours. Breeders or seed company representatives have an opportunity to discuss a particular hybrid or hybrids at the tour stop.

## 2006 CROP TESTING PROGRAM

### **NEW INFORMATION:**

- 1. Please note that entry fees will increase approximately 10% for all tests in 2006. This is the first increase in fees since 1997. With the new fee structure, performance tests will increase from \$150/entry/location to \$165/entry/location; for corn and grain sorghum supplemental tests, a 3 rep-2 row test will increase from \$50 to \$55; a 2 rep-2 row test will increase from \$40 to \$45, and a 1 rep-2 row test will increase from \$30 to \$35; all corn and grain sorghum disease observation tests will increase from \$50 to \$55; and the corn and grain sorghum silage tests will increase from \$210/entry to \$230/entry.**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- 1. Once again, we are requesting seed for entries submitted into the Texas Corn and Grain Sorghum Performance Tests to be treated with an insecticide. For Corn, please use a product such as Poncho or Cruiser at the 1250 rate. For grain sorghum, please use a product such as Cruiser or Gaucho. We will not apply a soil insecticide at planting; therefore if seed comes to us untreated, it will be planted accordingly. However, for corn and grain sorghum supplemental tests, we realize you may have limited seed supplies; especially of experimental entries and they may not be treated with an insecticide. In order to provide protection, we are prepared to apply a soil insecticide at planting regardless if an insecticide has or has not been used on the seed. We are still requesting sorghum seed to be safened to facilitate herbicides used for grass and weed control.**
- 2. The corn and grain sorghum entry forms included in this mailing are for the South, Central, and North Texas test sites only. Entry forms for the High Plains locations will be mailed and also put on the web at a later date.**
- 3. Due to the success we have had with corn and grain sorghum supplemental tests over the past several years, we will continue offering supplemental tests at all performance test sites. As in the past, we are still requesting a minimum of 20 entries per site. If the minimum cannot be achieved, please contact me and I still may be able to accommodate your needs. Please note the fee structure for the supplemental tests below. The fee for these tests are:**
  - i. 3 reps - 2 row plots = \$55/entry**
  - ii. 2 reps - 2 row plots = \$45/entry**
  - iii. 1 rep - 2 row plots = \$35/entry**

One set of data such as flowering will be secured in addition to the harvest data (plot weight, moisture, and test weight). After harvest, data will be sent by email to you. **RESULTS FROM THE SUPPLEMENTAL TESTS ARE TO BE USED FOR “IN-HOUSE” PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.**

4. In 2006, we will offer a Grain Sorghum Downy Mildew Pathotype 3 and Pathotype 6 Greenhouse Test. Dr. Tom Isakeit, Plant Pathologist, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas will be conducting this test. Seed for the entries to be evaluated should be at College Station by February 15, 2006.
5. Due to a lack of participation in the food corn tests over the past several years, we will again offer only one (1) food corn test this year. This site will be located at Castroville (Medina Co.), which is still considered a major food corn growing area in Texas.
6. We will again offer a corn silage test to be located in the Blacklands of Texas, near Hillsboro. Both agronomic and quality data will be obtained.
7. If your entry is a GE hybrid, please identify your entries with a Y (Yes) or N (No) and then identify what type of GE the entry has. For instance, if it is a B.t. hybrid, please indicate on the appropriate line on the corn and food corn entry form. Also, if the entry is a herbicide resistant/tolerant hybrid, indicate the specific herbicide the hybrid is designed for. For instance, use LL for Liberty Link; RR for Roundup Ready; or CL for Clearfield (not a transgenic gene). Furthermore, if the hybrid has combinations, indicate traits stacked.
8. We will again offer a Grain Sorghum Downy Mildew Pathotype 3 field test in Wharton County, Texas. This site has a history of disease pressure. The only corn observation test we will offer will be the Corn Head Smut Test at Halfway, Texas, located in the High Plains.
9. We can be reached by E-Mail. Our E-Mail address is: [croptest@tamu.edu](mailto:croptest@tamu.edu) as indicated on the letterhead. Our web page address is: <http://www.tamu.edu/croptesting/>. Entry forms for tests we offer may also be accessed at our web address.
10. This year grain sorghum tests will be planted to a population recommended or used in that area plus a 10% over plant. Corn will be planted to the population recommended for that area. The desired population for corn is shown after each location on the entry form.

11. During the course of the growing season, some of these tests are used by county agents or agronomists as stops at their field tours. Generally we provide the date of a respective county tour if it is given to us. We encourage you to visit and participate in these tour stops.
12. Hybrids that are commonly grown in an area and have not been entered by a commercial company may be added to a test site at our discretion. These will be designated as "CHECK" hybrids.

**REMEMBER, ENTRY FORMS FOR THE HIGH PLAINS CORN AND GRAIN SORGHUM TESTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT A LATER DATE.**

**GRAIN SORGHUM PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS**

Weslaco Full (I)  
 Weslaco Limited (I)  
 Gregory (NI)  
 Castroville/Hondo Area (I)

Danevang (NI)  
 College Station (I)  
 Granger (NI)  
 Prosper (NI)

I = Irrigated

NI= Non-irrigated

**CORN PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS**

Weslaco (I)  
 Castroville/Hondo (I)  
 Corpus Christi (NI)

Wharton (NI)  
 Granger (NI)  
 Bardwell (NI)

Prosper (NI)  
 College Station (I)

I = Irrigated

NI= Non-irrigated

## **FOOD CORN PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS**

**Castroville/Hondo Area (I)**

**I = Irrigated**

## **SUPPLEMENTAL CORN AND GRAIN SORGHUM LOCATIONS**

**Supplemental tests are offered where performance tests are located.**

## **CORN DISEASE OBSERVATION PLANTING**

**Head Smut - Halfway**

## **GRAIN SORGHUM DISEASE OBSERVATION PLANTINGS**

**Head Smut (Race 4 ) - Corpus Christi  
Downy Mildew (Pathotype 3) - Wharton  
Downy Mildew (Pathotype 3) - Greenhouse, College Station  
Downy Mildew (Pathotype 6) - Greenhouse, College Station  
Anthracnose - College Station**

## **SILAGE TESTS**

**Corn Silage – Blacklands (Hillsboro)  
Sorghum Silage – Bushland (Entry forms to be sent a later date)**

## **ENTRY FORMS, ENTRY FEES, SEED AMOUNTS, AND DUE DATES**

Entry forms are color coded as follows:

Yellow	= Corn Performance
Pink	= Grain Sorghum Performance
Cream	= Corn Disease Observation Test
Gold	= Grain Sorghum Disease Observation Tests
Blue	= Texas Food Corn Tests
Green	= Corn and Grain Sorghum Supplemental
White	= Blackland Silage Test

One copy of each entry form is enclosed. If you need additional sheets, please photocopy the desired sheets, or go to our web site and click on "2006 Entry Forms". Our web address is <http://www.tamu.edu/croptesting/>. Your entry fee may be paid at one time or when you have completed your entries. The number of entries per location is not limited. Please note entry fees, seed amounts and due dates for each respective test on the entry forms.

## **SEED**

The Crop Testing Advisory Committee has recommended that we request you to send seed, which is representative of seed that you will sell for planting. This does not apply for experimentals that you may want to enter. At your request, we will make adjustments in amounts of seed packaged for experimental material.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Sometimes getting seed to us in time presents a problem. If you cannot use UPS, we encourage you to use the bus service. Throughout the years, the bus service has been very dependable and timely.

We appreciate your participation in and support of the testing program, and look forward to having a successful crop year. Thanks to you as seedsmen and to all cooperators, this program has provided farmers, agronomists, and breeders with timely and unbiased information whereby decisions can be made regarding hybrid determination. If you have any questions regarding the 2006 Crop Testing Program, please do not hesitate to contact us.