

Agronomic Division — 2003 Annual Report

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During 1997, the Agronomic Division achieved the following milestones in its various capacities as a service, education, and research agency.

SERVICE

- increased the laboratory's capacity to analyze a record-breaking number of samples: approximately 2,400 per day [an 85% increase since 1993];
- increased grower usability of agronomic reports by providing for downloads from the internet in multiple data file formats;
- initiated the process of increasing its regional agronomist program from eight to fourteen personnel to better serve citizens throughout North Carolina; and
- [Dr. Donald W. Eaddy, director of the Agronomic Division] was awarded the 1997 service award from the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture at that organization's annual meeting in Wilmington, Delaware.

EDUCATION

- participated in Nutrient Management Training sponsored by the N.C. Plant Food Association;
- participated in the Waste Management Symposium sponsored by the Soil Science Society of North Carolina;
- helped develop training materials for certification of animal-waste-management-system operators;
- assisted in conducting a state-wide series of animal-waste-management certification programs;
- worked with DENR's Division of Water Quality to provide operator training for wastewater systems and biosolid management;
- hosted the Stone Producers Association meeting in August, 1997;
- provided advice through consultations to nearly 14,000 producers;
- conducted 133 lab tours for students, agricultural professionals, and 107 scientific visitors from out of state; and
- presented information about Division services through farm shows, conferences, TV, radio, and printed media [>300 presentations];

RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS

- conducted 147 research/demonstration projects throughout the state;
- updated its internet home page links to cover its entire range of publications.
- completely revised the publications *Crop Fertilization based on North Carolina Soil Tests* and *Understanding the Soil Test Report*;
- developed several new management notes;
- developed a series of seven flyers on agronomic sampling procedures (to be published in early 1998); and
- issued a brochure describing the Division's solution analysis service.