

Precision Technology Workshop Will Show Farmers How To Boost Profits

MARIANNA, ARK.

It's getting harder and harder for Arkansas farmers to earn a dollar these days. "Increased costs and shrinking profit margins demand that farmers adopt new technologies that can increase their efficiency and boost their bottom line," said Dr. Dharmendra Saraswat, assistant professor/extension geospatial engineer for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Saraswat and other speakers will show farmers, crop consultants and extension personnel how to use cutting edge precision agriculture technology Feb. 18 at an all-day workshop at Lon Mann Cotton Research Station, Marianna.

Saraswat said the workshop will help farmers understand the basic concepts and application uses of various plant sensors and soil sensors, including field demonstrations of GreenSeeker, Crop Circle, Veris MSP sensor, EM-38, GEM-2 and Dualem.

Dr. Leo Espinoza, extension soil fertility spe-

cialist, will provide an overview of the potential of site-specific lime application. Dr. Subodh Kulkarni, program associate, will lead a discussion and conduct a hands-on demonstration of Crop Circle and EM-38 sensors.

Two Arkansas farmers, Andrew Oliver and Jason Felton, who adopted precision agriculture technologies early on, will share their experiences.

"We'll demonstrate the creation of field zones by using an open-source, freely available mapping GIS software. Bringing personal laptop computers is encouraged. Ten laptops will be available for use by those without a laptop," Saraswat said.

The workshop is free for extension agents and specialists. A registration fee of \$25, which includes lunch and breaks, will be charged. To register by the Feb. 17 deadline, contact Chasity Knight at (501) 671-2267.

The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. with registration until 9 a.m. It lasts until 4 p.m. Δ



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