

# El Nino Forecasts Focus Of December Agronomy Meetings

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A favorable winter for growing wheat could be one of El Nino's early impacts on the Midwest, said James Newman, climatologist professor emeritus of Purdue University's agronomy department.

Normal temperatures, less rain, and increased snowfall may provide a warm blanket of snow to protect Midwestern wheat from freezing this winter. Colder win-

ters with less snow, such as last year's, often damage wheat.

"A winter can have drier-than-normal precipitation and still have above-normal snowfall," Newman said. "It takes 10 to 12 inches of snow to create 1 inch of water, and this winter is likely to be just that, a drier-than-normal winter with above-normal snowfall in much of the Corn Belt."

Newman will discuss seasonal

climate forecasting and the potential impacts of El Nino on world grain markets and U.S. agriculture during Ohio State University Extension regional agronomy meetings held at five different locations in Ohio, Dec. 15-19.

Other scheduled meeting topics include: nitrogen management in corn; biotechnology management of corn and soybeans; present site specific management systems;

new corn, soybean and forage insecticides for 1998; integrated weed management systems; corn and soybean disease management; precision farming; new corn and soybean herbicides for 1998; and corn marketing opportunities and management concerns.

The first regional agronomy meeting was held last year at Ohio State University's Lima Campus to bring the most up-to-date Ohio State agronomy information to farmers, agribusiness representatives and other members of the agricultural community, said Max Mohler, co-coordinator of extension's agronomy team.

"We decided to increase from one to five locations, so the information is more available to the agricultural community," Mohler said.

There will be some local specialization by site, but all five programs will be mostly the same, he said.

Attendees can earn private and commercial applicator credits and certified crop adviser credits. Meeting participants also will receive a program proceedings and a booklet containing results from this year's Ohio State agronomic test plots throughout the state.

"Information has to pass from researcher to user quicker than it has in the past, and that's what we're trying to do with these meetings," Mohler said. "If you want to stay up on the latest crop production information in Ohio, these are the meetings to attend."

All the meetings will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Preregistration for each meeting is \$15 and includes lunch. On-site registration is \$30 per person.

Meeting sites and who to contact for more information are:

• Dec. 15 — Archbold, Ohio, Northwest State Community College, Contact: Greg LaBarge, Fulton County Extension, (419) 337-9210.

• Dec. 16 — Bucyrus, Ohio, Crawford County Fairgrounds, Youth Building, Contact: Steve Prochaska, Crawford County Extension, (419) 562-7531.

• Dec. 17 — Washington C.H., Ohio, Fayette County Extension Meeting Room, Contact: Larry Lotz, Fayette County Extension, (614) 335-1150.

• Dec. 18 — Lima, Ohio, Ohio State University Lima Campus, Reed Hall, Contact: Dave Jones, Allen County Extension, (419) 222-9946.

• Dec. 19 — Plain City, Ohio, Tolles Technical Center, Contact: John Hixon, Union County Extension, (937) 644-8117.

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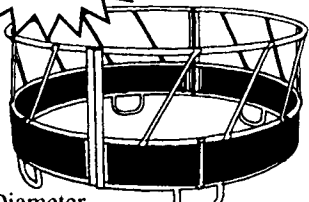


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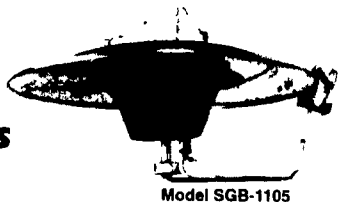


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