



THROUGH THE ROOF: A hurricane that hit Eastern North Carolina in 2003 caused extensive damage.

U.S. dodges hurricane strike on coasts in '06

By RICHARD DAVIS

WE arrived at the end of October without a hurricane making landfall on the U.S. coast, and researchers at Colorado State University now say the chances of a hurricane striking this year are virtually nil.

In the September forecast, CSU researchers Philip Klotzbach and William Gray said there was a 14% chance a hurricane would hit the U.S. coastline in October, but they forecast no activity at all for November.

There had been great trepidation and dire predictions from many at the beginning of the season in the wake of the

Key Points

- Forecasters have lowered their hurricane predictions this year.
- Forecasters say U.S. will likely escape hurricanes in 2006.
- So far there have been nine named storms in the Atlantic.

devastating hurricane year in 2005.

The forecasters lowered their forecasts for hurricanes a number of times this season, including twice in August.

They later explained that an unexpected amount of dry air “choked off” the predicted hurricanes at the earlier part of the year and that an El Niño was developing — which is an extremely rare event for

November. They said the El Niño would head off hurricanes in the Atlantic later in the season.

In total, there have been nine named storms and five hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin this year, but none of those five made U.S. landfall. In 2005, there were 23 named storms and 13 hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin, six of which made U.S. landfall. Among them was Hurricane Katrina, which will long be remembered for her intensity, damage to property and for the number of deaths, as well as for the political fallout.

In 2005 and 2006 combined, seven hurricanes struck the United States.

SCDA Market Bulletin celebrates anniversary

THE year 2007 marks the 100th anniversary for the South Carolina Department of Agriculture’s “Market Bulletin,” a publication designed to assist farmers and nonfarmers with selling their agriculturally related items.

First published in 1917 and mailed to farmers weekly starting in 1917, the “South Carolina Market Bulletin” is the oldest publication in the eight states that now have market bulletins. Today, it is mailed out on the first and third Thursdays of the month. It fea-

tures all kinds of agricultural subjects, including aquaculture, cattle, dogs, equipment, ratites and more.

There is no charge to advertise products in the “Market Bulletin,” but the items must be agriculturally related. Send ads to Advertisements, Market Bulletin, P.O. Box 1120, Columbia, SC 29211.

You can subscribe to the publication by calling (803) 734-2536 or by writing Market Bulletin, P.O. Box 11280,



A CENTURY OLD: The South Carolina Department of Agriculture’s “Market Bulletin.”

Columbia, SC 29211. Cost for the mailed subscription is \$10 per year.

The “Market Bulletin” is also available as a free download online. Visit www.scd.a.state.sc.us/marketbulletin/marketbulletin.htm.

Two receive distinguished alumni award from NCSU

NORTH Carolina State University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences recently honored 15 alumni, a number of them involved in agriculture as farmers or agribusiness people, by naming them distinguished alumni, outstanding alumni or outstanding young alumni. Among the honorees:

■ **Larry Wooten** of Raleigh, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, ag leader and member of innumerable agriculture boards and associations, was named outstanding alumni.

■ **Kendall Hill**, a farmer from Kinston, N.C., was named a distinguished alumni. Hill is a co-owner of Tull Hill Farms, an operation of more than 4,500 acres producing tobacco, sweetpotatoes, soybeans, cotton and other crops.

■ **James Hill**, president and co-owner of Tull Hill Farms, was named outstanding alumni.

■ **Windell Talley**, a farmer and poultry producer from Stanfield, N.C., received the outstanding alumni award. He is owner of Talley Farms Inc., which consists of a diversified farming operation of 7,500 acres of cropland. Talley Farms produces 9

million hatching eggs and 800,000 meat birds annually.

■ **Vernon Leroy Jackson** of Raleigh is an agribusinessman who has worked with a number of fertilizer companies and who is or has been associated with the National Cotton Council, the Carolina Cotton Growers Association and the Plant Food Association of North Carolina. He received the outstanding alumni award.

■ **Robert Kornegay** of Mount Olive, co-owner of Kornegay Farms, received the outstanding alumni award.

■ **William Lamm** of Goldsboro worked for 30 years with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension and during that time has received numerous awards. CALS named Lamm an outstanding alumni.



LARRY WOOTEN, president, North Carolina Farm Bureau

Ventria plant slated for Kansas

APRESS release posted by Ventria on Sept. 29 announced that the company has signed an agreement with Kansas state officials to build a biopharmaceutical processing plant in Junction City, Kan. The Junction City facility will process a rice variety developed by Ventria, and the extract will be used in the company’s solutions to treat childhood diarrhea. Ventria is also developing other products using the human proteins in the rice.

North Carolina State University crop scientist Ron Heiniger, who has been researching conventional rice plots in Plymouth, where the company also has about 70 acres of transgenic rice growing in private plots, says he has been reassured by Ventria’s officers that the announcement does not diminish any opportunity for growers in this region (see related story on Page 10).

Still, Kansas Agriculture Secretary Adrian Polansky said that Kansas farmers were among the biopharmaceutical plant project’s major beneficiaries, as those who grow the rice that supply the facility can earn a substantial premium compared to other rice growers or to farmers growing other crops in the area.

That means, at the very least, that growers here will have some competition from growers in Kansas. It is uncertain how much advantage proximity would give to Kansas farmers, but Heiniger said since rice grown here could easily and safely be sent to the plant, it shouldn’t be a bar to growers here producing pharmaceutical rice for the company.



TO BUILD PLANT: Scott Deeter, CEO of Ventria Bioscience, has announced plans to build a rice-processing plant in Junction City, Kan. Ventria has developed genetically modified rice used to improve children’s health. Farmers who grow the rice will earn up to \$200 per acre more than their most lucrative current crop offers, he says.