**Title:**

**Response:**

A two-year trial consisted of four treatments with four replications of each treatment totaling 16 individual plots. The onions were clipped at specific neck lengths which formed the treatments of our research; 0-inch, one inch, two inches, and three inches. The treatments were replicated four times ending with a total of 200 bulbs per treatment and a total of 800 bulbs were evaluated after storage for 47 days. After being removed from storage each replication was evaluated by slicing open each bulb and visually inspecting it for a *Pantoea* spp. infection. The number of infected bulbs were recorded for each replication of the trial.

**Results/Impact:**

In 2021 weather conditions were favorable during harvest which created low disease pressure during harvest vs 2022 where high humidity and rain caused disease pressure to be extremely high. In year one of the study, clipping onions to a neck length of two inches or greater reduced internal rot in stored onions by five percent when compared to onions clipped flush with the top of the onion. In year two onion storage rot were more prevalent and the onions clipped with a neck length of two inches or greater reduced bacterial rots by 9 percent when compared to the onions clipped flush with the top of the onion. This research has shown a two-year

Candler and Evans County growers by $1,068,672. Based on the information from the example scenario, the economic impact for the entire Vidalia Onion crop, which usually averages around 10,000 acres, would be $7,040,000. In a recent survey of onion growers conducted by Chris Tyson Area Onion Agent, 46% of the survey participants said they were harvesting onions with longer neck lengths because they believe it is beneficial. This survey was conducted at the 2023 Vidalia Onion Grower Meeting on September 6, 2023.

**Program Function(s): __Instruction __Research _X_Extension**

**Program Area(s): _X_ANR __ FACS __4-H __Support __Admin**