



Arkansas Cotton Update

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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Tom Barber - Editor

Number 16

Special Interest Articles: - [Cotton Status](#) - [Cotton Verification](#) - [Market Update](#)

Newsletter Archive: <http://www.aragriculture.org/News/cotton/default.htm>

Cotton Status, (Tom Barber - Cotton Specialist)

The Arkansas Statistical service indicated that as of Sunday, August 04 the majority of the cotton crop (60%) is in good to excellent condition, 34% fair, 5% poor and 1% in very poor condition. The progress report also indicated that 100% of the crop was setting bolls and 4% contained open bolls. This is slightly behind the five year average of 9% setting bolls.

Rainfall has blessed the state in many areas from well over 15 inches in Southeast Arkansas to 0.5 inches or less throughout the northern counties. However, overall most cotton growers have received a little relief at the pump (irrigation pump) this week. Will this rainfall carry us through the remainder of the boll fill period? In some fields I believe it will, but it is a field by field call. Cotton that cutout the end of July and First week of August should have accumulated from 350 to 450 heat units or more. This cotton crop is still green and filling a lot of bolls in most areas and the last thing we want to do is cause water stress at the end. That being said the slow soaking rains that have fallen over many areas has replenished much needed subsoil moisture and cotton that is close to 350-400 heat units is only using moisture to fill the upper third of the plant. Therefore, moisture needs by the cotton plant are decreasing by the day and the replenished soil moisture, where accumulated will carry these fields for several days depending again on the temperatures received next week. I believe many of these fields will make it without another irrigation but the soil moisture should be checked on a field by field basis to make that decision.

The frequent rainfall is beginning to cause some problems with regrowth issues and boll rot in the southern part of the state. Dryland cotton in most counties this year has had little to no rainfall at this point and a high percentage of fertility, therefore regrowth should be expected on most of this acreage. Plant growth regulators should be used where warranted to prevent excessive regrowth on much of this cotton. Keep in mind that at this point in the season, low rates of the plant growth regulators will do no good. For most applications at least 20-24 oz/A of a standard growth regulator such as Mepex will be needed if terminal growth becomes a problem. Most of the time we will not see a yield increase from these late season applications of growth regulator. However, it may decrease incidence of boll rot, and may help reduce the cost of the defoliation bill.

According to Gus Lorenz, fall armyworms continue to be showing up across the state. Conversations with Don Johnson and Chuck Farr this week indicate that we may not be out of the woods yet, especially with the later cotton. Monitor fields closely for these late season pests before terminating insect sprays for these late season pests.

Cotton Leaf Spots: Tom Barber and Scott Monfort

I have had several calls within the last week concerning foliar leaf diseases in cotton. Most of the time the disease has been alternaria leaf spot, but the spots can actually be a disease complex of alternaria, cercospera and stemphyllium leaf spot. Leaf spot diseases are present every year and most of the time they do not cause any

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detrimental yield loss. Only in a few select cases have leaf spots been severe enough to cause yield loss due to premature defoliation. This typically happens when the crop is stressed (water and/or nutrient) early in the season allowing the disease to develop and aid in defoliation. However, in almost all situations where yields are reduced by pre-mature defoliation plants also show signs of potassium deficiency. Hot spots of leaf spots have been observed in some fields where nematodes such as Root Knot nematode are problematic resulting in fewer nutrients like potassium being taken up by the plant. Can we spray a fungicide such as Headline or Quadris to control this disease? Both of these products are preventative and neither one will reduce the level of leaf spot present at the time of application. However they may be able to prevent further infection to non-infected leaves. Will this keep the leaves on the plant in severe infestations? Most of the severe infestations are the result of other stresses such as potassium deficiency and therefore would not directly improve the situation. Scott Monfort and I have several on-farm and experiment station locations this year testing the effects of Headline and Quadris on plant health and effectiveness on leaf spots and how both of these questions result in yield at the end of the season. Previous University research with these compounds have resulted in little to no yield improvements over the untreated check. However, in a few instances yield was improved when the disease developed very early in the growing season. The question is what situation will result in the best application of these compounds for improved yield and I don't think anyone knows the answer yet.



Verification Program Update - (Frank Groves – Area Agronomist)

The continued rainfall has answered the question of irrigation termination for much of the state. However, a few fields have yet to acquire sufficient heat units beyond cutout to justify terminating any practice (Table 1). The cooler weather makes the calculation of heat units more relevant. Simply estimating 22 per day could overestimate accumulation and lead to premature insecticide and irrigation termination or premature defoliation initiation. The DD60 or heat unit calculation is simply the daily low temperature added to the daily high temperature. This number should be divided by two then have 60 subtracted from it. For example a high temperature of 100 and a low temperature of 80 would give a mean temperature of 90 and provide 30 DD60's. Daily temperature information is included in Table 2 or is available online at <http://www.aragriculture.org/weather/default.asp>.

Table 1. CRVP crop progression through August 20, 2008

County	Grower	NAWF	Date	DD60's
Drew	Appleberry	4.9	July 24	548
Greene	Reddick	5.0	July 31	415
Lee	Parten	4.9	July 30	429
Lincoln	Keeter	6.9	July 24	548
Mississippi	Edwards	5.0	July 28	491
Monroe	Hall	5.0	August 05	280
Phillips	Jackson	5.0	August 05	111
St. Francis	McDaniel	5.0	July 24	570

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Table 2. University of Arkansas Experiment Station weather data

	Keiser			Marianna			Rohwer		
	max	min	DD60	max	min	DD60	max	min	DD60
24-Jul-08	90	70	20	92	72	22	96	71	23.5
25-Jul-08	91	69	20	92	70	21	92	70	21
26-Jul-08	95	77	26	95	78	26.5	93	75	24
27-Jul-08	96	78	27	97	78	27.5	94	75	24.5
28-Jul-08	89	74	21.5	88	69	18.5	94	71	22.5
29-Jul-08	94	75	24.5	95	76	25.5	96	71	23.5
30-Jul-08	101	78	29.5	98	75	26.5	97	76	26.5
31-Jul-08	97	79	28	94	75	24.5	95	76	25.5
1-Aug-08	94	72	23	96	71	23.5	95	74	24.5
2-Aug-08	96	76	26	96	71	23.5	94	73	23.5
3-Aug-08	101	78	29.5	99	74	26.5	98	72	25
4-Aug-08	95	73	24	96	71	23.5	94	71	22.5
5-Aug-08	97	74	25.5	93	73	23	92	73	22.5
6-Aug-08	97	75	26	93	73	23	91	72	21.5
7-Aug-08	95	79	27	93	73	23	92	74	23
8-Aug-08	85	68	16.5	94	67	20.5	89	70	19.5
9-Aug-08	87	65	16	94	66	20	88	65	16.5
10-Aug-08	86	71	18.5	87	66	16.5	89	67	18
11-Aug-08	81	66	13.5	71	64	7.5	72	68	10
12-Aug-08	85	67	16	82	70	16	74	68	11
13-Aug-08	84	63	13.5	91	68	19.5	78	66	12
14-Aug-08	88	67	17.5	87	66	16.5	86	67	16.5
15-Aug-08	90	71	20.5	89	69	19	88	70	19
16-Aug-08	80	66	13	84	67	15.5	88	67	17.5
17-Aug-08	86	61	13.5	83	65	14	76	68	12
18-Aug-08	87	61	14	86	64	15	84	65	14.5
19-Aug-08	88	65	16.5	87	67	17	87	65	16
20-Aug-08	87	68	17.5	79	70	14.5	76	69	12.5

Market update - (Scott Stiles – Extension Economist)

U.S. Cotton Supply & Demand:



Tuesday's USDA supply and demand report was very supportive for the December '08 contract. The USDA estimated the U.S. cotton crop at 13.77 million bales (smallest since 1989), down from 14 million bales in the July estimate. It also raised export projections to 15 million bales--up from last month's 14.5 million bales. Another bullish aspect of the report was the cut in the 2008-09 world ending stocks projection to 50.98 million bales (5-year low), down from 53.24 million estimated last month. World cotton production is estimated to be 112.2 million bales. World production will be a full 7 million bales less than last year.

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	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09 July	2008/09 August
U.S. Planted Acreage	15.3	10.8		9.3
U.S. Harv. Acreage	12.7	10.5		7.9
Abandonment %	17%	3%		15%
Beginning Stocks	6.1	9.5	10.20	10.20
Production	21.69	19.2	14	13.8
Mill Use	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.4
Exports	13.0	13.9	14.5	15.0
Ending Stocks	9.5	10.2	5.3	4.6

Texas acreage abandonment is projected to be 28% versus 6% last year. Only 3.4 million of the 4.7 million acres planted will be harvested. Nationally, abandonment will be 15%, leaving harvested acres at 7.9 million (a 25 year low). NASS estimates indicate that 700,000 acres were planted in Arkansas. The Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Program indicates planted acres being closer to 605,000. There will be variances in final acreage numbers, both up and down, across the cotton belt.



AgMarketNetwork.net

You can access a discussion of Tuesday's USDA supply and demand report on the Ag Market Network website. The web address is www.agmarketnetwork.net. Click on the link titled: *Recording of AMNCC - August 14, 2008*.



Outlook:

Which way will cotton prices head for the balance of the year. With no major weather problems at harvest, December futures will trade in a narrow range of 68 to 73 cents. Concern about Atlantic hurricanes and the final size of the 2008 crop builds solid support in the 69 cent area. Price moves into mid-70s tend to slow demand.

Cotton is also part of the larger commodity investment world. The question most posed over the past few weeks is "has the commodity bubble burst?" The steep decline in many commodities that started in early July is slowing. Crude oil is consolidating at \$114 and the U.S. Dollar is slowing up at the 76.50 level. Trading activity in the Chicago grain complex has been mostly positive this week. These factors will also have a supportive influence on cotton prices.

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