



Arkansas Cotton Update

U of A
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

October 3, 2009

Tom Barber - Editor

Number 22

Special Interest Articles: - [Crop Status](#) - [Market Update](#) - [Contact List](#)

Crop Status (Tom Barber – Cotton Specialist)

Cotton harvest resumed this week following a clear forecast and cooler weather. Yield reports that I have heard based on module numbers range from 700 lbs to over 1200 lbs/A. It seems the damage from the previous rainfall is variable to say the least depending on field location, rainfall amounts and cotton maturity. Yield losses are believed to be as high as 40 to 50%, in some fields based on harvest estimates before the rain and cotton harvested this week. Again, the highest yield loss will be in those fields that were more mature with many bolls lost to hardlock. At first glance, the cotton appears to look good, but once the



picker spindles hit the plant, these hardlock bolls are shattering to the ground. Cotton fields with more leaf seemed to be affected less than those with most of the leaves removed. The later cotton has made major moves toward maturity this week with many bolls beginning to open, due to the cooler weather that has shut the younger cotton down. More rain is forecasted for the upcoming week and defoliation applications have been made on a large portion of this crop, at least the first application. As we move further into October, the chance for a frost will increase. With this in mind I think everyone should consider making the first application on the youngest cotton by the first of next week if the weather allows. Base harvest aid product choices on temperature, maturity of the crop and rainfall chances. During the cool spell, combinations of Dep (8-10oz) and Prep (8-10 oz) looked pretty good, especially in Northeast Arkansas. Further south Dropp (2 – 2.5 oz) + Def (5oz) + Prepp (8 oz) or Finish (5 oz) was more of a standard. Dropp will continue to work in the three-way mixture if temperatures will allow. In second applications a boll opening rate of Prep (32 oz) or Finish (25 oz) with either Def (8-12 oz) or Aim (.5-.75oz) has looked the best.

Arkansas Cotton Update

Special Interest Articles: - [Crop Status](#) - [Market Update](#) - [Contact List](#)

Fields with late or young cotton should be defoliated in a 2 shot approach. Most producers make two applications, but some may use the full boll opening rate of ethephon (Prep) in the first application. My counterpart Chris Main in Tennessee sprayed some really young cotton (no bolls opened) last week with the boll opening rate of Prep in the first application. The result was frozen or “frosted” bolls in the top of the plant that will not open. The term “frosted” is used here because the bolls turned black with a soft middle, similar to what occurs after a freeze or frost. The take home message on the late planted or younger cotton, is to use a set up rate of harvest aids on the first application like has been previously mentioned, and use the boll opening rates on the second application, once the plant has time to physically begin the boll opening process.



Figure 1. ‘Frosted’ bolls from too much ethephon in a first pass defoliation. Courtesy – Chris Main

Market Update (Scott Stiles – Instructor, Economics)

After posting impressive gains for most of September the December '09 contract crashed last Friday (9/25). This came after testing the mid July and August highs just above 65 cents. Technical indicators turned bearish after last Friday's close. December futures were already technically overbought, but last Friday's trading range left a “triple top”, a “key reversal down”, and a close below trend-line support—the coffin nails for any bull market. From a fundamental perspective, new export business is slow, especially when prices are near 65 cents. This price level also generates heavy trade selling. It's a difficult ceiling to break as has been proven for the third time since mid July.



2301 South University Avenue, P.O. Box 391, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

PHONE: (501) 671-2186 FAX: (501) 671-2297

E-MAIL: tbarber@uaex.edu CELL: 501-944-0549

We're on the Web! See us at: <http://www.aragriculture.org/>

To view other newsletters follow the following link: [Newsletters](#)

To subscribe to this newsletter email: Paula Long

Arkansas Cotton Update

Special Interest Articles: - [Crop Status](#) - [Market Update](#) - [Contact List](#)

For the current week, bulls and bears have battled back and forth, with the December contract trading as high as 63.35 on Tuesday, to as low as 60.65 on Wednesday. Below is a summary of this week's trading activity through Thursday.



Dec. '09
+96
at 62.90

Monday, September 28, 2009

Equities pulled cotton higher with the Dow up 124 points and the S&P 500 up 18.6. The harvest uncertainty was a supportive factor. The dollar was under pressure.



Dec. '09
-145
at 61.45

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

The December contract gave back Monday's gains on speculative selling; price drops to a 2 week low. Equities and other commodities were lower / dollar was higher. Specs were trading on bearish technical indicators.



Dec. '09
+139
at 62.84

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Speculative fund buying across the commodities sector was prompted by a weaker dollar. End of the 3rd quarter commodity fund repositioning took place. December traded in a wild 250 point trading range; closed near the daily high. Strong close was a set up for profit taking on Thursday.



Dec. '09
-150
at 61.34

Thursday, October 1, 2009

The 2009 crop potential is still unknown in all of the key growing regions including the U.S., China, Pakistan and India. Production and macro-economic uncertainty keeps market bulls cautious. Equity markets post sharp losses on Thursday (Dow down 203 / S&P down 27 / \$ firm).

Summary:

Seasonally, cotton prices tend to work lower during harvest. But, at least in the Delta, harvest hasn't really started yet. Therefore, a lot of unanswered questions exist in regard to the final size and quality of the U.S. crop. Similar questions surround production in other key cotton growing regions as well. Another month and possibly two will be required to have a more accurate assessment of the 2009 crop. Given all the uncertainty, traders will be reluctant to add considerably to short (sell) futures positions.

2301 South University Avenue, P.O. Box 391, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

PHONE: (501) 671-2186 FAX: (501) 671-2297

E-MAIL: tbarber@uaex.edu CELL: 501-944-0549

We're on the Web! See us at: <http://www.aragriculture.org/>

To view other newsletters follow the following link: [Newsletters](#)

To subscribe to this newsletter email: Paula Long

Arkansas Cotton Update

Special Interest Articles: - [Crop Status](#) - [Market Update](#) - [Contact List](#)

Arkansas Division of Agriculture - Extension Cotton Specialist Contact List

Tom Barber	Cotton Specialist	501-944-0549 cell	tbarber@uaex.edu
Gus Lorenz	IPM Coordinator/ Entomologist	501-944-0942 cell	glorenz@uaex.edu
Glen Studebaker	Entomologist	501-454-1922 cell	gstudebaker@uaex.edu
Scott Akin	Entomologist	870-723-5537 cell	sakin@uaex.edu
Ken Smith	Weed Specialist	870-723-5527 cell	ksmith@uamont.edu
Cliff Coker	Plant Pathologist	870-723-5519 cell	ccoker@uamont.edu
Scott Monfort	Plant Pathologist	870-659-0648 cell	smonfort@uaex.edu
Terry Kirkpatrick	Nematologist	903-276-4484 cell	tkirkpatrick@uaex.edu
Scott Stiles	Economist/Farm Management	870-972-2481 office	sstiles@uaex.edu
Terry Griffin	Economist/Farm Management	501-249-6360 cell	tgriffin@uaex.edu
Leo Espinoza	Soil Fertility Specialist	501-837-8693 cell	lespinoza@uaex.edu
Phil Tacker	Irrigation Specialist	501-944-0708 cell	ptacker@uaex.edu
Dharmendra Saraswat	Geospatial Specialist	501-671-2191 office	dsaraswat@uaex.edu
Subodh S. Kulkarni	Machinery, Ginning, Safety	501-766-8312 cell	skulkarni@uaex.edu
Tom Barber	Verification Program Coordinator	501-944-0549 cell	tbarber@uaex.edu

2301 South University Avenue, P.O. Box 391, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

PHONE: (501) 671-2186 FAX: (501) 671-2297

E-MAIL: tbarber@uaex.edu CELL: 501-944-0549

We're on the Web! See us at: <http://www.aragriculture.org/>

To view other newsletters follow the following link: [Newsletters](#)

To subscribe to this newsletter email: Paula Long