

Crop Scan AgReport – Managing a Good, but Behind Schedule Crop

Monday, July 19, 2021 From Cotton Grower Staff

Cotton Grower® magazine's Crop Scan AgReport for mid-July shows growers are continuing weed, insect, and crop management, that overall is in good shape but still running behind.

Kerry Siders, Texas A&M AgriLife extension insect pest management agent for Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb counties was featured in this week's report stating that we have been through the wringer the last several weeks here on the Southern High Plains of Texas and now praying that we have good open weather from here on out with gentle, timely rains, and a great long fall. He also noted that we have good soil moisture for mid-summer, and the temperatures are generating good heat units.

Based on the IPM scouting program fields here is what our average upland cotton plant looks like on the Southern High Plains of Texas:

- Average number of total nodes is 13 (range 6 to 16)
- 1st fruiting branch at node 7 (range 5-9)
- Square retention of 1st positions is 91% (range 67-100%)
- Node length is 0.9" (range of 0.4"-1.8")
- Plant populations average 32,650 per acre (range 17,300 to 48,000)
- Nodes above white flower 9 (only one field has started to bloom)

Siders stated he began finding blooms on July 16 and projects we should go into bloom with 8.5 nodes above white flower. He noted that this places first bloom on early fields, which have escaped much weather damage, near July 24 and the remaining fields should be at or near first bloom hopefully before August 1. Siders also noted that August 20 is the date when we say with some confidence that a boll formed on that day will have time to mature out, and anything formed after that point, the odds of it having time to mature decreases greatly.

Siders' priority list for the rest of July:

1. Keep a close watch on fleahoppers and Lygus, especially on young squaring cotton.

2. Scout for aphids and larvae pests on blooming cotton.
3. Stay on top of weed control – cultivate, hoe, whatever it takes to keep the pigweed from going to seed. It is a numbers game.
4. If you still have fertilizer to go out, get it in place before the end of this month. This applies even to late cotton. Late fertilizer applications will only delay maturity and can encourage cotton aphids.
5. Look at the top 3 to 4 nodes on your cotton. If the internode length is longer than 1.5", consider a plant growth regulator.

To read the full report visit <https://bit.ly/3eztuC3>.

PCG Advocates for Extension of USDA WHIP+ Program

Friday, July 23, 2021

By Kody Bessent

The 2020-2021 crop year will be remembered for years to come as the global economy experienced one of the most prolific and unprecedented pandemics in history coupled with adverse weather conditions related to drought, hurricanes, high winds, derechos, and a polar vortex to name a few across the U.S. This week, Plains Cotton Growers (PCG), traveled to Washington, D.C. and met with key Congressional leaders to advocate for the extension of the WHIP+ program to address recent natural disasters our region and the U.S. have incurred.

Currently, legislation such as H.R. 1692 by Congressman Ronny Jackson (TX13) and Congressman Henry Cuellar (TX28) and H.R. 267 by Congressman Mike Thompson (CA05) have been introduced which would extend the USDA Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP+) to cover crop losses related to natural disaster events for 2020 and 2021 respectively.

PCG supports these legislative initiatives, however, based on producer and industry assessments of the previous WHIP+ program, in our advocacy, we recommended the following improvements for a future program:

- Previous implementation of the WHIP+ program was very strenuous and data intensive on producers,

insurance agencies, and local farm service agencies which caused delays in providing much needed assistance. Disaster based programs should be implemented in a way that is user friendly for all parties involved so assistance can be provided in a timely manner.

- Currently, under the implementation guidelines for WHIP+ assistance, a covered commodity followed by a different covered commodity does not meet the double-cropping definition “also known as the J Code”, which renders applicants ineligible for the program even if the producer experiences a disaster. PCG recommended that secondary or subsequent crop acres that are insured should be made eligible for WHIP+.
- The current WHIP+ program assistance is determined by taking the expected value of the crop (x) the WHIP factor (-) the actual value of the crop harvested (x) the payment factor (-) the NAP payment or crop insurance indemnity received by the producer. It is our understanding the formula as written today when determining a producer’s crop insurance indemnity, it also includes the producer’s paid insurance premium which inadvertently penalizes a producer when buying a higher level of insurance coverage. In our briefing with Congressional members, PCG recommended netting out the producer paid premium in the WHIP+ formula which is consistent with previous disaster-based programs.

As Congress prepares to consider legislation in the coming weeks related to natural disasters, PCG stands ready to work with them and other allied organizations to ensure the program is implemented efficiently and effectively in order to provide needed assistance to agriculture when disasters occur.

PCG Reminds Consumers to Buy Cotton for Back-to-School

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

By Whitney Curry

With back-to-school shopping season upon us, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. would like to remind consumers to choose cotton for style and comfort this year. Whether it is a trendy pair of jeans, a stylish pair of socks, a long-sleeve button-down shirt, or even activewear, cotton has you covered.

According to Cotton Incorporated’s *Lifestyle Monitor*TM survey, parents are planning on spending an average of \$368 on back-to-school shopping this year, up by eight percent from 2020. Of the total amount estimated to be spent on back-to-school clothes, parents say they’ll buy clothes both online and in-store in 2021. Shoppers plan to buy an average of seven pairs of socks, seven shirts, three pairs of pants, three sets of activewear items, and three pairs of jeans with 56% of parents planning to buy in-store and 44% online.

This year, 88% of parents say that they prefer their children to be dressed in cotton, and many shoppers say they prefer their children’s apparel to be made of cotton rather than manmade fibers such as polyester or rayon.

Don’t forget while you are out shopping for back-to-school clothes that many of your local shops, family-owned stores, and boutiques carry cotton products. Consider shopping local this back-to-school season!

To read the entire Cotton Incorporated *Lifestyle Monitor*TM survey, visit <https://bit.ly/3eHbyoT>.

Mark Your Calendars!

*West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute
Annual Conference*

**Tuesday, September 14, 2021
FiberMax Center for Discovery, Lubbock**

Editor’s Note:

“Cotton News”, a weekly service of Plains Cotton Growers to the cotton industry and news media in the 42-county High Plains area, is mailed from Lubbock each Friday. Its contents are confined to news items and comments pertaining to the High Plains cotton industry which is so vital to U.S. all. Anyone interested in making comments about the contents of this column can call 806-792-4904 or Email PCG at: editor@plainscotton.org