WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about Integrated Pest Management in Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties from Kerry Siders

January 10, 2023

Vol. 28 – No. 1

WELCOME TO 2023!

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Barker Research Farm comes to life near Morton

Texas A&M AgriLife granted research rights to Barker farm in Cochran County

Texas A&M AgriLife is gaining new ground in the South Plains to conduct research on, thanks to the generosity of Dolle Barker.
Stephen Cisneros, Texas A&M AgriLife Research associate director of operations and development, Bryan-College Station, said Barker has entered into a multi-year agreement to grant Texas A&M AgriLife personnel the right to utilize the property in Cochran County, to be known as the Barker Research Farm, to conduct research on irrigated and non-irrigated cropland.

"We're excited and thankful to Dolle for allowing us to take our research from the lab to the field and being able to engage with our stakeholders and continuing to develop relationships within the community," Cisneros said.

The project will involve both AgriLife Research and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service personnel from the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Lubbock, according to Kerry Siders, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management agent in Hockley, Cochran and Lamb counties.

New research acreage

Siders said Barker contacted him about allowing Texas A&M AgriLife to conduct long-term research and educational programs on an approximate 200-acre farm just east of Morton. This farm currently has 156 acres under center pivot irrigation, 34-acres in sub-surface drip irrigation, and about 40-acres of non-irrigated corners.

Siders said Texas A&M AgriLife personnel, including Craig Bednarz, Ph.D., a crop physiologist who has a dual appointment with AgriLife Research and West Texas A&M University in Canyon, have met to explore the research and extension possibilities that may be accomplished at this farm.

After the current crop is harvested, Texas A&M AgriLife personnel will begin conducting field projects. A weather station has already been put in place. The High Plains Water District will measure and log the current wells on the property and preliminary soil sampling has been conducted to evaluate the health of the farm.

"Our primary goal as research scientists is to determine and communicate solutions to key issues producers are facing across the South Plains region before the problem results in a decline of profitability," Cisneros said.

"The Barker Research Farm will provide us an opportunity to develop regionally specific management practices aimed at optimizing production, conserving non-renewable natural resources, and improving the longevity of farming operations," Siders said.

Cotton farming needs to change

Barker, born in Lubbock and raised near the new research farm, said she moved away and spent over 35 years as an agronomist and as the owner of an ag input company in Colorado that provided both ground and aerial custom chemical and fertilizer application. When she returned to her family land, she knew one thing: there had been such a change in everything, but especially the quality of the soil and the available water.

She had invested with her business partner, Curtis Griffith, in Willingham Southwest Cotton Gin, purchased Module Truck Systems, and built her company, Grey Hare Analytics. Barker said she decided she wanted to do some research because she knew the conventional tillage farming practices that had been utilized for years were not beneficial to the ecosystem or the farmer.

"If we are going to remain cotton farmers and retain the ability to maintain that way of life, we have to do something different," she said. "There are so many practices producers would like to look at, but they don't have the ability to forego profits for an experiment in any year. I am fortunate that I don't have to depend on the

income off this land, so I thought if I donated it, we could allow the Texas A&M AgriLife scientists to create restorative projects out here to discover how to farm today within this ecosystem."

Barker said that won't be all organic, it won't be monoculture, and it will be regenerative.

"It will be focused on cotton, because that is what we do best," she said. "But there will be other practices that we can use to improve the soil, we can take what Mother Nature provides and feed it with new nutrients, through alternate rotational cropping system, including livestock rotation."

Cotton today has so many different genetic traits stacked. Every time another one is stacked, some vigor of the plant is lost, Barker said, causing a yield drag.

"Maybe there are some chemical resistance traits we can pull off and make it a stronger plant with a greater drought tolerance. We have irrigation, but you can't grow a crop solely on irrigation. We must make the best use of every drop of water, whether that is irrigation or rainfall. Maybe we need to include mob grazing. Maybe we only water in the mornings. We want to look at a wide variety of practices to see what benefits they provide."

Barker said they will "take all the things we've learned from no-till, minimum till, organics and put them all together. We'll look at carbon sequestration credits and other things we can incorporate with these cropping systems. We can do a lot of things here that can make a difference."

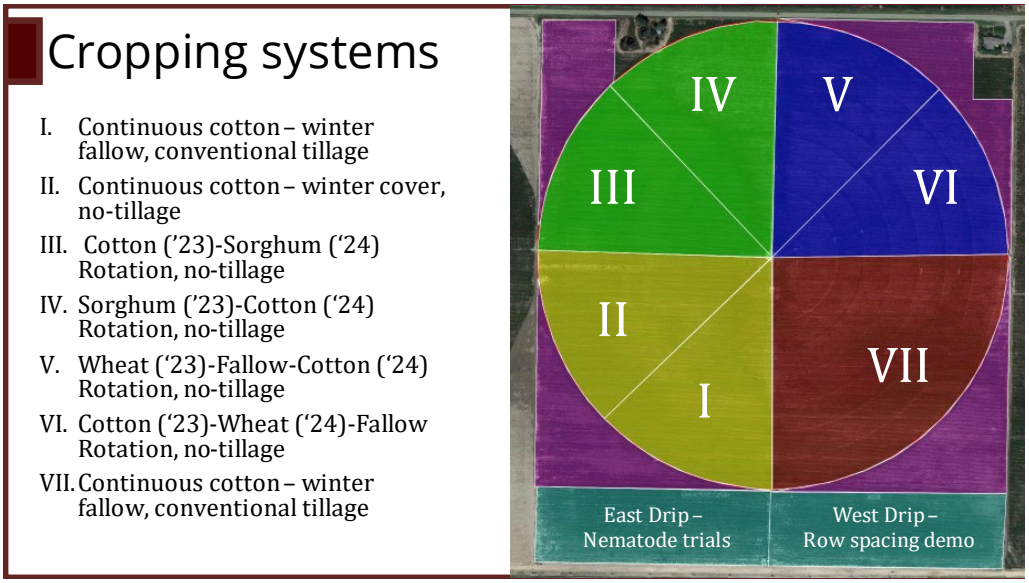
Research objectives

After several meetings, the research team has determined their goals for the property:

•Demonstrate and quantify the impact of regenerative farming practices on carbon capture, greenhouse gas emissions, soil health and water use and availability.

•Test the performance of commercially available cotton varieties in large, replicated trials.

•Evaluate strategies to overcome weed, disease, and insect pests.



•Determine variety performance in a challenging environment.

•Determine the production efficiency of cropping systems to maintain economic sustainability.

A farm manager, employed by Barker, will do the large tractor work, while researchers will conduct small-plot planting and harvesting. Most of the research work will be large plot systems and rotation efforts, though, Siders said.

There will be a local steering committee composed of Siders, Barker, Scotty Simpson with Frontier Valley, Todd Willingham with Willingham Southwest Gin, Steve Harris, a gin employee, and farmer; David Holland, AgriLife

Extension agriculture and natural resources agent in Cochran County; and additional producers.

Planning for the long-term future

In addition to having an advisory board made up of farmers, other agricultural industries investing time and effort into the Barker Research Farm include Capital Farm Credit, High Plains Water District, Plains Cotton Growers, Horizon Builders, Frontier Valley Inc., and Semi-Arid Agricultural Systems Institute.

Barker said all the research projects will be written about and posted at the gin office so that any producer can pick up the information to see what is going on and learn as things are happening.

"It's brought a lot of hope and excitement to Cochran County that has not been here before," Barker said. "We will learn a lot not only here locally, but maybe learn things that can help other places like Israel that have a similar ecosystem."

She said her family has agreed that they are committed to allowing this land to be utilized for research for the next 30 or more years, so the projects can continue to evolve, and the learning will be long-term.

2023 CEU Allowances

Agricultural Applicators - Beginning in 2023, applicators must have all the required CEUs to renew their private, commercial, and noncommercial applicators licenses. No Covid considerations are in play. Upon receipt of a renewal notice in 2023, submit the appropriate renewal fee(s). If you have any questions, ask Kerry, or contact a TDA representative.

Auxin Training Update

AgriLife Extension will again provide training to satisfy the federal and state requirements for Auxin herbicide use. This allows licensed applicators to apply or use in Xtend and Enlist Technologies. This continues to be an annual requirement. Extension provides this training for certification to apply these technologies along with a TDA CEU of 1-hour in Laws & Regulations category.

Upcoming opportunities in Hockley County are as follows:

- Feb. 23, Extension office Levelland (1212 Houston), 9am; RSVP 894-3159
- March 29, Extension office Levelland, 9am; RSVP 894-3159

Paraquat Training Update

The Paraquat stewardship training is facilitated by the National Pesticide Safety Education Center, to help licensed applicators nationwide satisfy the EPA mandated stewardship training. If you have not received this training or your three-year training certification period expires you need to complete this if you use any paraquat formulation. Here is the link for the training website: https://npsec.us/paraquat . This training is only available online.

Private Pesticide Applicators Training, Levelland January 27th

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Levelland on January 27. This training is required by Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam for obtaining the license. A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state limited-use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. This license is not for those receiving monetary compensation for a pesticide application.

To participate in the training individuals must call 806-894-3159 by noon the day before 26th. The training will begin promptly at 1pm at the Extension Office in Levelland at 1212 Houston Street. There is a $60 fee for training materials. This is only the required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any educational meetings. Please contact us to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require a week in advance of training.

Texas Crop and Livestock Budgets

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service enterprise budgets for major crops and livestock are a valuable tool used to help Texas agricultural producers generate their own budgets. These enterprise budgets are developed and updated each year by January 31. Over 180 enterprise budgets for major crops and alternative production systems are available from the 12 Extension districts which represent a wide range of geographical regions throughout the State. Click on the following link: https://agecoext.tamu.edu/resources/crop-livestock-budgets/budgets-by-extension-district/ We are in the South Plains Extension District #2. Follow directions from that point on to build dryland or irrigated crop budgets. Contact Will Keeling, Extension Risk Management Specialist at 806-746-6101 for more information.

2023 Seed Cost Calculator Now Available!

The 2023 version of the Plains Cotton Growers Inc. Seed Cost Calculator is available for download on the PCG website at the bottom of the "Resources" page.
The PCG seed cost calculator is an interactive Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that allows producers to calculate an estimated cost per acre, for both seed and technology, based on published suggested retail prices.
Questions about the tool can be directed to PCG Director of Policy Analysis and Research Shawn Wade.

2022 Cotton Variety Demonstrations

It is that time of year when producers are making those cotton variety selection decisions. The following links will take you to cotton variety demonstrations/trials I conducted in Hockley or Cochran County in 2022.

If you have any questions give me a call and we can visit. I would like to thank our cooperators: David & Anthony Albus, Raymond Marek, Zane Thrash, Pug Lyon, and Sammy Harris.

FiberMax Cotton

BASF ASA:
Marie Pierce
(806) 549-5967
marie.pierce@basf.com

On Farm Trial Results

David Albus
Hockley County TX
near Levelland

Planting Date: 5/31/2022
Harvest Date: 11/16/2022
Tillage: Conventional
Soil Texture: Sandy Loam

Seeding Rate: 26000
Row Spacing: 40
Irrigation: Dryland
Yield Env. <1 bale

Variety	Lint Yield	Value Rank	Value / Acre	Lint %	Length	Staple	Strength	Mic	Unif.	Color	Leaf	Loan Value	Plant Ht. (in)	% Open	Storm Tolerance*
FM 2498GLT	496	1	$283	36.5%	1.16	37	29.8	4.85	82.3	21.0	1.0	57.1	20.9	57.6	8
ST 4595B3XF	486	2	$274	33.2%	1.13	36	27.1	3.90	81.6	11.0	2.0	56.5	16.5	50.4	7
BX 2398B3XF	476	3	$269	33.7%	1.13	36	27.4	3.96	81.7	11.0	1.0	56.5	18.7	71.4	8
FM 2202GL	470	4	$267	35.9%	1.13	36	31.0	4.12	82.8	21.0	1.0	56.8	16.9	82.7	8
BX 2392B3XF	477	5	$263	36.8%	1.10	35	26.8	3.94	82.1	21.0	1.0	55.1	14.5	53.3	8
BX 2396B3XF	455	6	$251	31.5%	1.10	35	26.9	4.05	80.0	11.0	1.0	55.1	19.3	54.1	8
ST 5707B2XF	436	7	$246	30.4%	1.13	36	29.8	3.82	81.9	11.0	1.0	56.5	16.1	52.7	6
FM 1830GLT	393	8	$225	35.3%	1.18	38	29.6	4.45	81.6	21.0	1.0	57.1	19.3	69.8	8
FM 1621GL	426	9	$221	35.4%	1.10	35	29.6	5.12	81.2	31.0	3.0	51.9	15.8	65.5	8
ST 4993B3XF	383	10	$211	34.4%	1.08	35	28.7	4.68	81.7	11.0	1.0	55.0	18.8	63.2	8
FM 1888GL	375	11	$206	33.5%	1.10	35	28.3	4.18	81.4	21.0	2.0	55.1	18.9	51.0	8
ST 5600B2XF	358	12	$204	31.7%	1.15	37	28.5	4.14	82.1	11.0	2.0	57.1	17.9	55.3	7
BX 2394B3XF	370	13	$198	33.4%	1.06	34	26.9	4.41	80.5	21.0	1.0	53.5	18.6	54.9	7
Test Mean	431		$240	34.0%	1.1	36	28.5	4.3	81.6	17.2	1.4	55.6	17.9	60.14	7.6

BASF Agronomist: **Cody Mull**
(806) 548-1409
cody.mull@basf.com

*Storm Tolerance 1 = No Storm Tol, 9 = Very Storm Tol

11/29/2022

FiberMax Cotton

On Farm Trial Results

BASF ASA:
Marie Pierce
(806) 549-5967
marie.pierce@basf.com

Raymond Marek
Hockley County TX
near Pep

Planting Date: 6/1/2022
Harvest Date: 11/17/2022
Tillage: Conventional
Soil Texture: Sandy Loam

Seeding Rate: 43000
Row Spacing: 40
Irrigation: Irrigated
Yield Env. 3-4 bales

Variety	Lint Yield	Value Rank	Value / Acre	Lint %	Length	Staple	Strength	Mic	Unif.	Color	Leaf	Loan Value	Plant Ht. (in)	% Open	Storm Tolerance*
ST 5091B3XF	1602	1	$905	38.7%	1.17	37	27.3	3.98	80.7	21.0	3.0	56.5	28.7	66.6	7
BX 2396B3XF	1559	2	$889	38.2%	1.17	37	27.0	3.95	82.0	11.0	1.0	57.1	27.8	37.4	7
ST 5600B2XF	1529	3	$874	37.0%	1.19	38	29.1	4.51	82.7	11.0	2.0	57.2	26.9	50.7	6
ST 5707B2XF	1530	4	$873	34.3%	1.17	37	30.2	3.59	81.7	11.0	2.0	57.1	29.1	63.7	6
ST 4993B3XF	1541	5	$872	36.4%	1.16	37	29.3	3.83	82.9	21.0	3.0	56.6	25.4	72.7	8
BX 2394B3XF	1545	6	$866	35.1%	1.13	36	27.1	3.91	81.4	21.0	3.0	56.1	26.0	52.3	7
BX 2398B3XF	1464	7	$837	36.8%	1.20	38	27.5	4.04	83.1	21.0	1.0	57.2	28.2	42.7	8
BX 2392B3XF	1453	8	$829	37.1%	1.17	37	27.1	4.16	82.3	21.0	1.0	57.1	29.6	68.7	7
ST 4595B3XF	1456	9	$824	36.6%	1.19	38	27.3	4.14	81.2	21.0	3.0	56.6	22.9	68.9	7
NG 4098 B3XF	1441	10	$812	34.7%	1.28	41	30.2	3.89	81.8	31.0	3.0	56.4	22.8	55.4	8
Test Mean	1512		$858	36.5%	1.2	38	28.2	4.0	82.0	19.0	2.2	56.8	26.7	57.91	7.1

FiberMax Cotton

On Farm Trial Results

BASF ASA:
Marie Pierce
(806) 549-5967
marie.pierce@basf.com

Zane Thrash
Hockley County TX
near Ropesville

Planting Date: 5/6/2022
Harvest Date: 10/22/2022
Tillage: Conventional
Soil Texture: Loam

Seeding Rate: 48000
Row Spacing: 40
Irrigation: Irrigated
Yield Env. 1-2 bales

Variety	Lint Yield	Value Rank	Value / Acre	Lint %	Length	Staple	Strength	Mic	Unif.	Color	Leaf	Loan Value	Plant Ht. (in)	% Open	Storm Tolerance*
ST 4595B3XF	1200	1	$616	32.9%	1.11	36	28.7	4.69	82.7	41.0	5.0	51.4	22.9		8
FM 2202GL	1043	2	$556	32.2%	1.08	35	31.1	4.56	81.9	41.0	3.0	53.3	24.1		6
ST 5600B2XF	1031	3	$552	34.5%	1.13	36	30.4	5.18	83.1	31.0	3.0	53.6	25.3		7
BX 2396B3XF	978	4	$547	34.7%	1.11	36	27.5	4.51	82.1	31.0	2.0	56.0	24.8		8
BX 2392B3XF	973	5	$531	34.8%	1.10	35	29.2	4.85	82.3	31.0	2.0	54.5	23.8		8
BX 2398B3XF	922	6	$516	35.7%	1.12	36	28.4	4.84	83.0	31.0	2.0	56.0	23.5		7
ST 4993B3XF	928	7	$506	35.2%	1.08	35	29.8	4.83	82.1	31.0	1.0	54.5	26.7		9
FM 2498GLT	956	8	$468	34.2%	1.06	34	28.3	5.30	81.1	31.0	2.0	49.0	22.3		8
BX 2394B3XF	860	9	$468	33.6%	1.10	35	28.1	4.60	81.6	31.0	2.0	54.4	24.1		7
FM 1730GLTP	854	10	$459	31.6%	1.14	36	32.0	4.78	82.2	41.0	4.0	53.8	22.5		6
FM 1830GLT	796	11	$444	32.1%	1.11	36	30.4	4.64	81.7	31.0	3.0	55.8	22.9		8
FM 1621GL	907	12	$430	31.8%	1.06	34	30.7	5.13	82.1	41.0	5.0	47.4	21.8		9
Test Mean	954		$508	33.6%	1.1	35	29.6	4.8	82.2	34.3	2.8	53.3	23.7		7.6

2022 Cotton Individual Plot Yield Report

Cooperator:
Kerry Siders
Cochran County

Planted: 5/14/2022
Harvested: 12/6/2022
Row Width: 40

Tillage: Conventional
Soil Texture:
Irrigated

Product Data			Crop Values $/Crop Yield			* Fiber Characteristics					
Entry	Brand	Product Name	Crop Value ($/Acre)	Lint Yield (Lbs/Acre)	Loan Price per Lb	Staple (32nds)	Length (inches)	Strength (g/tex)	Micronaire	% Uniformity	% Lint
1	Bayer	21R536 XF	$271.15	508	53.40	36	1.11	28.4	3.99	82.2	35.9
2	Deltapine	DP 2123 B3XF	$301.74	566	53.35	36	1.12	28.5	4.25	80.8	33.2
3	Deltapine	DP 1646 B2XF	$394.34	736	53.60	39	1.21	28.7	3.96	81.3	37.1
4	Bayer	21R635 B3XF	$231.58	493	46.95	37	1.15	28.4	3.23	80.2	34.2
5	Deltapine	DP 1820 B3XF	$297.97	553	53.90	38	1.20	31.1	3.73	81.1	36.1
6	Bayer	21R634 B3XF	$191.45	412	46.45	37	1.14	28.0	3.18	79.5	35.0
7	Deltapine	DP 1822 XF	$292.14	542	53.90	39	1.21	31.4	3.90	81.5	35.4
8	Bayer	21R618 B3XF	$258.01	530	48.70	37	1.17	28.7	3.41	80.5	34.6
9	Bayer	21R521 XF	$294.61	551	53.45	36	1.11	29.6	3.83	82.0	34.8
10	Bayer	21R622 B3XF	$247.70	463	53.50	37	1.16	28.0	4.03	81.3	35.6
TEST AVERAGE			$278.07	535	51.72	37.2	1.16	29.1	3.8	81.0	35.2

Value Calculation based on $0.52/Lb(+/-) discounts/premiums from the 2022 USDA Loan Chart (Ranked by Value $/A). All plots were assigned a base color (41) and leaf grade (4).

*Fiber Characteristics including Lint Percent for each variety based on averages obtained from similar trials in W. TX.

Entries listed as "Bayer" brand are experimental varieties, and not for sale.

Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and year whenever possible.

PhytoGen W3FE Innovation Trial

Grower Cooperator:	Sammy Harris	Planting Date:	5/29/2022
PhytoGen CDS:	Scott Fuchs	Seed Treatments:	TRiO
Location:	Ropesville, TX	GPS Lat:	33.4127
Replicates:	3	GPS Long:	-102.151500
Plot Size:	8 rows x 950'	Elevation:	3360
Row Spacing:	40"	Harvest Date:	11/13/2022
Beds:	Yes	*Managed as RF/LL*	*Stripper harvested*
Previous crop(s):	Cotton		
Soil type:	Amarillo Fine Sandy Loam		
Irrigation:	Drip		

Sorted by Lint Value

Variety	Lint Yield *(lbs/A)*	Turnout *(%)*	Mic	Length *(in)*	Staple *(1/32 in)*	Strength *(g/tex)*	Uniformity *(%)*	Color Grades	Leaf Grade	Loan Value *($/lb)*	Lint Value *($/A)*
PHY400W3FE	1449	39.0	4.27	1.14	36.5	27.8	81.7	31,31,31	2.3	0.5622	$815
PHY411W3FE	1373	38.7	4.55	1.09	35.0	28.3	82.3	21,31,31	2.3	0.5490	$754
PX40A383-04W3FE	1289	37.4	4.18	1.17	37.3	28.5	83.0	31,31,31	3.0	0.5618	$724
PHY332W3FE	1223	36.2	4.19	1.17	37.5	28.1	81.7	31,21,21	2.0	0.5687	$696
PHY480W3FE	1279	34.4	4.05	1.09	35.0	26.5	82.3	21,21,21	2.3	0.5348	$684
PHY394W3FE	1145	33.0	4.01	1.13	36.2	27.7	80.8	31,31,21	2.7	0.5565	$637
Mean	*1293*	*36.5*	*4.21*	*1.13*	*36.2*	*27.8*	*82.0*		*2.4*	*0.5555*	*$718*

Variety	Final Plant Height *(in)*	Node of 1st Fruiting Branch	Final Total Nodes	Nodes Above Cracked Boll	Early Vigor* *(in/internode)*	Hight/Node Ratio
PHY394W3FE	22.2	8.3	20.2	2.6	5.30	1.10
PHY480W3FE	26.7	7.6	19.1	2.2	6.10	1.40
PHY332W3FE	27.3	7.2	18.1	2.8	6.00	1.51
PHY400W3FE	18.5	6.3	15.8	1.6	4.80	1.17
PX40A383-04W3FE	25.6	7.3	17.2	2.4	5.90	1.49
PHY411W3FE	24.4	6.8	18.7	2.0	4.80	1.30

Visit PhytoGenCottonseed.com for the latest data and information.

DO NOT USE THIS OR ANY OTHER DATA FROM A LIMITED NUMBER OF TRIALS AS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN PRODUCT SELECTION.

Product responses are variable and subject to any number of environmental, disease and pest pressures. Please use this information as only part of your product positioning decision. Refer to a PhytoGen Cotton Development Specialist for the latest information and complete listing of traits and scores for each product and for product placement and management suggestions specific to your region and local conditions.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

IPM COTTON SCOUTING & MAPPING CLINIC SERIES

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Cos. IPM Program

Opportunity to learn or refresh how to scout for pests and how to map the cotton plant.

1 hour IPM - TDA CEU

Cotton Scout School #1
May 12, 9-11 am
Extension office, Levelland

Cotton Scout & Map School #2
June 23, 9-10 am
TBA (In-field near Levelland)

Cotton Scout & Map School #3
July 21, 9-10 am
TBA (In-field near Littlefield)

Cotton Map & Harvest Aid School #4
August 25, 9-10 am
Barker Res. Farm, Morton

If questions contact Kerry Siders at 806 638-5635

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Hockley and Cochran IPM Scouting Program

1. Field scouting for insect, weed, and disease pests in cotton, peanuts, and other crops.
2. Weekly scheduled intervals.
3. Individual field pest report provided.
4. Management suggestions with emphasis on proactive IPM methods.
5. Management suggestions available upon request for irrigation, growth regulators, fertility, harvest aids, and other agronomic considerations.
6. Fall soil sampling for cotton root-knot nematode management suggestions.
7. Irrigated cotton scouting $7/acre, peanut scouting is $9/acre. Pricing for dryland and other crops available.
8. Prorated refunds of scouting fees for loss of crop due to natural causes.
9. Contact Kerry Siders, Extension Agent-IPM for more information at 638-5635(mobile) or 894-3150 (office).

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Editor: Kerry Siders, Extension Agent-IPM
Contact information:
1212 Houston St.,Suite 2 Levelland, TX 79336
(806) 894-3150 (office),
638-5635 (mobile)
ksiders@tamu.edu (E-mail)

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