



COTTON TRENDS

Spring 2010

Tee Up for the 5th Annual Cotton Cup Golf Tournament on June 21st

Cotton Trends

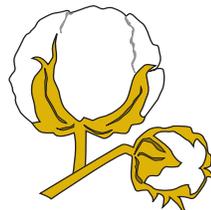
For Members of The North Carolina Cotton Producers Association, Inc.

It's time to get your golf clubs out and GPS beamed on the Pine Hollow Golf Club near Clayton for the 5th Annual Cotton Cup Golf Tournament on June 21. It's a good time to play on a great golf course, chat with fellow members of the cotton industry, have a chance to win some great prizes, and eat some great food, too.

Let's make the 5th annual event even more successful than the previous four. Last year's 23 teams marked the highest number of four-somes playing to date. Remember, the Cotton Cup Golf Tournament is the key fund-raising effort of the NCC-PAC, which enables and supports members of the NC cotton production and ginning industry in communicating their views to decision makers in Congress.



NCCPAC



For more information on the 5th Annual Cotton Cup Golf Tournament and/or how to make an individual contribution to the NCC-PAC, please contact Billy Carter at: bcarter@nccotton.org or 252-459-3130.

NC Cotton Field Day To Be Held Sept. 23 at Gary Respress Farm

Usually held at the Upper Coastal Plains Research Farm near Rocky Mount, this year's bi-Annual Cotton Field Day will also see a venue change. The event will be held Sept. 23rd at the Gary Respress farm in Beaufort Co. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the function, which essentially will follow the same schedule as previous cotton field days. Look for more information from the NCCPA office to be released in August.



59th Annual Meeting Format and Location Deemed Positive

As many of you know, the annual meeting of the NC Cotton Producers Assn. took on a new format and was held in a new location. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Joint Annual Conference of Corn, Soybean, and Wheat commodity organizations in mid-January in New Bern.

During the Joint Conference, the NCCPA and the three other groups met together to conduct their annual business meetings, attend marketing and research seminars, and hold an awards dinner and trade show. A large number of cotton growers attended the conference, which drew a total crowd of over 500 people from throughout NC.

At the annual meeting, the following members became leaders of the NCCPA for 2010-2011:



Incoming NCCPA President Gary Respass (left) presents outgoing President Ronnie Bureson with a commemorative cotton painting for serving a two-year term leading the organization.



Lassiter Grant Respass Dunlow

President **Gary Respass** is a Beaufort Co. cotton grower. Vice-President **David Grant** grows cotton in Northampton Co.

Donny Lassiter, secretary, farms with his dad and brother in Northampton Co.

Northampton Co. grower, **David Dunlow** will serve as treasurer.

Past president **Ronnie Bureson**, is a Stanly Co. cotton grower.

Executive Committee at-large members include:

Edgar Edens is a cotton grower in Hoke Co.

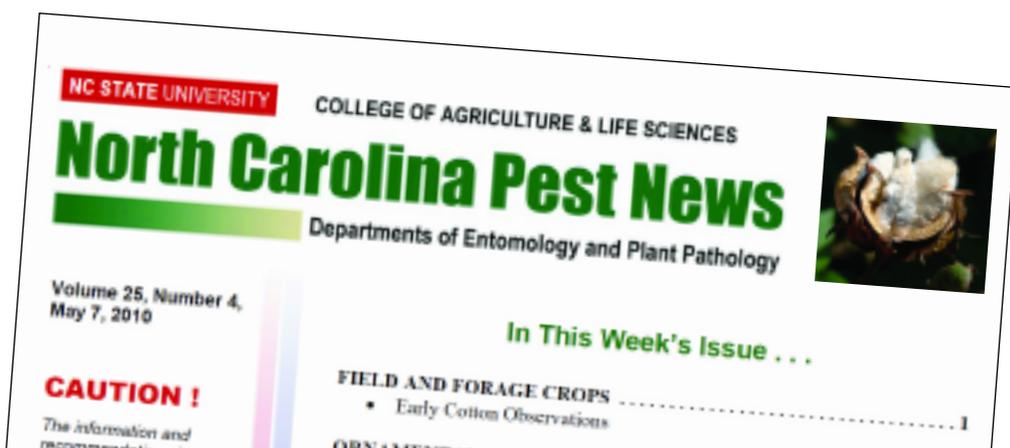
Taylor Slade is a Martin Co. cotton producer.

New Info Tool now Available

Two NC State CALS departments just recently started producing a new weekly, electronic newsletter. It is being coordinated by the departments of entomology and plant pathology. It will contain up-to-date information from extension specialists on the status of disease and insect pests on all crops grown in North Carolina.

See current and archived issues of the North Carolina Pest News on the internet at:

http://ipm.ncsu.edu/current_ipm/pest_news.html





NC Cotton Growers Learn Real-Life Skills in AgBiz Planner program

Four NC cotton growers were among 29 young, beginning, small, and minority farmers who recently completed an AgBiz Planner program, co-sponsored by AgCarolina Financial, Carolina Farm Credit, and Cape Fear Farm Credit. The innovative program was funded with a grant from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.



As part of the newly-created AgBiz Planner program, the cotton producers participated in a college-level, online course designed to help them learn how to develop business and financial plans, as well as budgeting and management skills.

Several growers often had their spouses and business partners participate in the program with them. Participants were also paired with mentors – all farm credit employees—who provided them with face-to-face support and guidance.

AgCarolina Financial CEO Eugene Charville, stated, "All three of our farm credit institutions in the state are pleased to provide this educational opportunity so our farmer-customers can benefit in ways that are certain to enhance their farming operations."

Andrew Burluson, 32, who farms in partnership with his father Ronnie, uncle, and cousin in the southern Piedmont region of the state says, "Participating in the program encouraged me to look more thoroughly at our farming operation and ask important questions about where we're headed and how we're going to get there. It also gave us some valuable resources and tools to help answer those questions."

"This program definitely gave me a better understanding of our farm's finances and the way in which we make decisions regarding major purchases. It certainly has helped me be a better manager," says 29-year-old Sam Walton of Lumber Bridge, who farms with his dad, David, his mother, and a younger brother on their family operation in Robeson and Hoke Counties.

Two mentors of AgBiz Planner program participants made these observations:

Sam Johnson, a senior financial services officer in AgCarolina Financial's Rocky Mount branch office, says, "The program really helped me develop a closer working relationship with Brent." His mentee is Brent Leggett, a 35-year old operator of a diversified cropping operation in Nash County.

Jay Darden, the manager of Cape Fear Farm Credit's Clinton branch office, says of his 26-year old mentee, Josh Hudson of Newton Grove, "Josh now has a better understanding of how to prepare documents to apply for loans and credit for future expansion."

Since the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission grant was for a two-year AgBiz Planner program, the three farm credit entities will soon be accepting applications from more interested young, beginning, small, and minority farmers.

If you are interested in being a participant in the upcoming year's program, please visit the websites of AgCarolina Financial (www.agcarolina.com), Carolina Farm Credit (www.carolinafarmcredit.com), or Cape Fear Farm Credit (www.capefearfarmcredit.com). Applications must be submitted by September 1, 2010.



Sam Walton



Josh Hudson



Commissioner Steve Troxler visits with young cotton growers, Andrew Burluson (left) and Brent Leggett (right) at the AgBiz Planner Conference.

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NCCPA's Cotton Bolls and Brochure Reaches Students in PA

In any given year, the NCCPA office is contacted by educators from around the country who, after visiting our website, contact us requesting educational materials to teach their students all about cotton. This year, Billy Carter sent some cotton bolls and copies of the NCCPA brochure, "Cotton is a Miracle of Nature" to an educator in PA.

A few weeks later, the educator reported back: "After our quilt exhibition at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, we sent the cotton bolls and cotton gin to a Montessori School for the children to explore. We sure got a lot of mileage from those cotton bolls." -- Janet O'Leary, Director



Boll Weevil Eradication Status for 2010

The board of the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation of North Carolina has set the boll weevil assessment for 2010 at \$1.25 per acre of cotton. The amount is unchanged from 2009.

Mark your calendar now!

Aug. 11 Northeast Ag Expo and Precision Ag Field Day
Gates Co. Extension Center

Sept. 23 NC Cotton Field Day
Gary Respass Farm, Beaufort Co.

2010 NC COTTON PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

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David Grant, Vice President
Donny Lassiter, Secretary
David Dunlow, Treasurer
Ronnie Burleson, Past President
Edgar Edens
Taylor Slade

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