

NC Cotton Grower's Support of CASC Wins Him a John Deere Gator®!

A large number of North Carolina cotton growers helped establish CASC, the political action committee (PAC) for the Southeastern cotton industry. Their goal was to pool their resources towards supporting candidates whose views and voting records were in step with the needs of the Southeast cotton industry.

Since then, even more growers and individuals in the cotton industry have become regular contributors to CASC. One of the reasons that caused them to act was the raffle of a John Deere Gator® (4x2) at last January's Southern-Southeastern Cotton Annual Meeting.

The winner of that raffle, Northampton County cotton grower Tim Phelps, says his \$100 contribution, along with lots of others to CASC, "enables our industry to communicate its views to decision makers at every level of government."

Phelps is grateful to his neighbor and good friend David Dunlow and NC Cotton

Producers Assn. Executive Billy Carter for convincing him that his support was needed.

So, he made his contribution and got his raffle ticket at the Southern-Southeastern Cotton meeting. "Being a cotton grower, I realize the association's importance and am thankful for having them voice my opinions in Washington, DC," says Phelps.

Phelps, 39, grows 2,000 acres of cotton on his 4,000-acre farming operation in Northampton County, as well as Greensville County, Virginia. He's been growing cotton since 1986, when he took over the farming operation of a neighbor with whom he'd worked for a number of years.

Since he wasn't born and raised on a farm, Phelps says, "I grew one step at a time and

learned a lot from the school of hard knocks." Friends in his community, like Marshall and David Grant and Dunlow, provided a lot of help and encouragement, Phelps adds.

Phelps is a member of the Gaston Cooperative and markets most of his cotton through the Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative. He's pleased that his 2004 cotton is perhaps the best crop, yield and quality-wise, that he's ever grown.

Looking ahead to next year, he says, "I'll probably grow about the same acreage; I'm going to stay with cotton because it's been good to me."

Of the John Deere Gator® (4x2) that he won from the CASC raffle, Phelps says, "We use it on a daily basis to run around the farm. To be honest, the best thing about it is that my children (Cole, 9, pictured with his dad) and younger sister, Taylor really enjoy themselves. It's a real good help when I've got to baby-sit the kids."

Phelps plans to go to Southern-Southeastern

Cotton's Annual Meeting again this January in Destin, FL. And, he plans on contributing once again to the CASC whether he's eligible to win another Gator® or not.



If you have any questions about CASC and the Southern Southeastern Annual Meeting, please visit www.southern-southeastern.org or call 706-344-1212.

Site Provides "How-To" for Local Cotton Promotion

The International Forum for Cotton Promotion (IFCP) has announced the launch of www.cottonpromotion.org, a web site designed to enlighten and empower cotton organizations in the service of increasing consumption of cotton within their own markets.

Launched in December 2003, the web site provides members of cotton organizations with a forum for exchanging ideas about boosting demand for cotton products. The new interactive site includes news essential to cotton organizations, including articles by industry experts on promotion strategies and techniques, updated worldwide cotton news bulletins, and IFCP member updates.

"Our goal is to avail cotton organizations the world over with the tools to increase consumption locally," said Jeffrey P. Silberman, executive direc-

tor of IFCP and assistant chairperson to the Textile Development and Marketing department at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York.

"IFCP is a united effort among interested organizations and companies from countries that produce, trade, and consume cotton to compete globally with chemical fiber producers.

Based on past experience, we believe the declining market share for cotton can be reversed. This web site is of great importance, as it helps members stimulate demand and, ultimately, helps to sustain the world cotton market."



NC Cotton Producers Association Leadership - 2004

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Rick Holder, Treasurer
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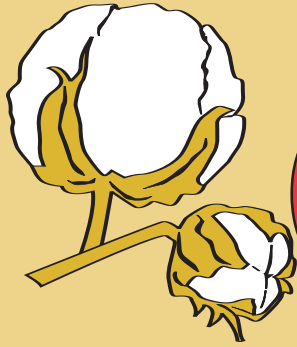
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Cotton Trends

December 2004

54th NC Cotton Producers Assn. Annual Meeting Slated For January 11, 2005 In Rocky Mount

The North Carolina Cotton Producers Association's 54th Annual Meeting will be held again this year at the Gateway Convention Center in Rocky Mount on January 11, 2005.

In addition to the NCCPA business meeting, slated to start at 10:00 a.m., cotton growers and industry members will hear from two featured speakers, National Cotton Council President Mark Lange and Cotton Incorporated President Barry Worsham.

Following a buffet lunch, this year's meeting will also include an expanded Cotton and Production Marketing Seminar. "We're excited to offer our members and cotton industry guests a full day of insights on how to grow and market cotton in the greatly expanded North Carolina marketplace," says NCCPA President Taylor Slade.

Starting with cotton marketing, Dr. O.A. Cleveland of Mississippi State University will give growers a beltwide perspective on the 2004 and 2005 cotton crop. NC State Keiger Professor of Agriculture & Resource Economics Dr. Blake Brown will also provide a North Carolina-specific perspective to cotton marketing.

Attendees will also get updated on the latest research in cotton insect and weed control from a number of NC State "Cotton Team" members including: entomologists Dr. Jack Bacheler and Dr. J.R. Bradley; crop science specialist Dr. Keith Edmisten; and Dr. Alan York, a William Neal Reynolds professor of crop science, on weed control.

Beaufort County Cooperative Extension Service agent Gaylon Ambrose and Stan Winslow, a private crop consultant, will also offer their advice on how to grow the best cotton crop in 2005.

One lucky NCCPA member will walk away from the meeting with a door prize of a \$500 savings bond, courtesy of the NC Cotton Producers Assn. Plan now to attend the day-long Jan. 11 annual meeting in Rocky Mount.

Cotton Production & Marketing Seminar

You won't want to miss this new, expanded agenda of the NC Cotton Producers Assn. Annual Meeting. You'll get many ideas on how to both produce and market a successful cotton crop in 2005!



Mark Lange



Berrye Worsham

Directions To The Gateway Convention Center

Take US 64 to Rocky Mount. Take the Winstead Avenue/Hospital exit. Turn into Winstead Avenue (left coming from Tarboro, right coming from Raleigh), turn left at the next stoplight after the exit. Take the first immediate left, you will see the Holiday Inn on your left and the Gateway Convention Center on your right.

2004 Cotton Day - Research Tour & Exhibition Recap

Cotton Yield Monitors

Crowell Bowers – Biological and Ag Engineering

Cotton yield monitors are starting to be adopted in North Carolina to monitor and record yields.

When used with a global positioning system, the spatial variability of yield in a field can be determined, yield potential maps developed, prescription application maps for seed and fertilizer computed, and production management decisions made. Producers can farm their cotton “by the foot.”

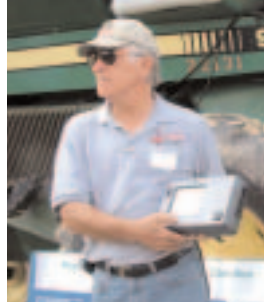
Cotton yield monitors utilize infrared light sensors on the chutes to count cotton bolls/flow and then convert these pulse counts to cotton-seed or lint weight. Using swath width and ground speed, yields are measured in pounds per acre and a location latitude and longitude is assigned by the GPS. This data is recorded on a data card. Yield maps are then computed from the data with appropriate software. The accuracy of a well-calibrated yield monitor is 95% or better. Calibration requires harvesting three loads, accurately weighing the loads, and then entering this data into the yield monitor.

Using the best three years’ yield out of a five-year period, a potential yield map is computed by averaging these three years of yields. Prescription maps are developed for seed and/or fertilizer, based on yield potential and soil series. Variable rate technology is then utilized to optimize cotton production by applying the appropriate input for each area of the field.

Cotton Agronomics

Keith Edmisten - Crop Science

We have seen fairly consistent yield responses to reduced row width. Unfortunately, fiber quality and mill acceptance has been a problem with ultra-narrow rows because they have to be harvested with a broadcast (or finger) stripper. Broadcast strippers have the tendency to contaminate the cotton with more bark and, because



of this stripper, harvested cotton is generally discounted due to quality.

John Deere developed an interest in reducing row widths and started looking for a way to do so with a spindle harvester. They developed a prototype that will harvest a 15-inch row. Due to earlier canopy coverage it appears that we can see yield increases with 15-inch cotton compared to conventional row widths. It also appears that the earlier canopy coverage we see in 15-inch cotton allows the cotton to be harvested earlier. So far we have seen the greatest increase in 15-inch row yields with later plantings. This could be very important in years where weather delays cotton planting into late May.

Official Cotton Variety Tests

Daryl Bowman – Crop Science

The number one factor in choosing cotton varieties is the system. Over 90% of NC cotton is RR cotton; over 80% is stacked cotton (Bt plus RR). Of 31 entries in the early OVT only one is a conventional variety; of the 30 entries in the medium OVT only two are conventional varieties. Stacked versions perform better than either RR or Bt cottons.

When choosing cotton varieties, look at two-year averages over multiple locations. There is a strong variety-by-year effect so avoid looking at single-year data. Two factors are involved in the year effect and they are heat tolerance and tight/hard lock conditions. There are varietal differences for both.

Maturity potential is rated by percent boll opening over many environments. It is important to know that the differences in maturity between the varieties may be only a tenth of a percent point in boll opening over years if they are listed next to each other in the table

Most of the cotton varieties we grow were developed in the mid-south. The FiberMax® varieties and Deltapine 555® and its derivatives were developed in Australia.



Insect Management

J.R. Bradley, Jack Bacheler and John W. VanDuyun
– Entomology

Cotton refuges must supply bollworm moths to mate with those from Bollgard®. Research indicates that refuges may produce enough moths but that moths emerge too early. A survey of NC crops showed that resistance-delaying moths mainly come from crops other than cotton. Corn, peanuts, and soybeans produce a flood of moths, and by comparison, refuges have little effect.

As many cotton producers witnessed first hand in 2004, management of bug pests will be a top priority in the coming years, especially with the newer “worm-proof” Bt cotton technologies. Applied research by our group, and funded by CI, should help provide cotton producers with answers to many perplexing bug questions.

The effectiveness of both conventional and newer bollworm insecticides was illustrated. Pyrethroids remain effective against bollworms, North Carolina’s number one insect pest on conventional cotton, but alternatives must be available to manage tobacco budworms. Newly registered Bollgard II® and Widestrike®, as well as experimental stage VIP® cottons, will improve not only bollworm control but also other species such as armyworms and loopers.

Weed Management Systems for Cotton

Alan York, Andrew Gardner – Crop Science

Davie Wilson, graduate student with Alan York, discussed weed management in Roundup Ready® and Liberty Link® cotton planted in 15-inch rows. Keith Edmisten, using Davie’s plots, discussed mepiquat chloride use and plant populations in 15-inch vs. conventional row spacing. Alan York focused on weed management systems in Roundup Ready Flex® cotton (scheduled for commercialization in 2006) and Liberty Link® cotton. He discussed advantages and disadvantages of each system, the need for residual herbicides, and tank mixes. He also discussed new post-emergence

directed herbicides and showed plots on residual activity from the various directed options. Andrew Gardner, another of York’s students, discussed his work on interactions between post-emergence grass control herbicides and Ignite® herbicide.

John Wilcut and Ian Burke – Crop Science

Our stop on the Cotton Field Day showed weed management with Liberty Link and Roundup Ready Flex cotton. Both technologies offer expanded postemergence application flexibility past the 4-leaf growth stage of cotton. Both Roundup Weathermax and Ignite offer broad-spectrum control of numerous annual grass and broadleaf species and are nonresidual herbicides that allow maximum rotational flexibility for subsequent crops.

All herbicides offer strengths and have some weaknesses. Early application timing is critical for good morningglory control with Roundup Weathermax while early applications are necessary for good goosegrass and Palmer amaranth control. The use of Dual Magnum in an early post-emergence tank mixture with Roundup Weathermax or Ignite should be considered for resistance management of annual grasses including goosegrass, and for pigweed species, including Palmer amaranth.

Disease Management

Steve Koenning – Plant Pathology

Considerable interest has been expressed in the use of fungicides on cotton, largely because of a report from Florida that fungicides provided large yield increases that could be attributed to a reduction in the number of hard-locked bolls. A crisis exemption for the use of Topsin M fungicide on cotton was issued for Florida this year.

Researchers across the Southeast have studied the effects of fungicides on cotton for the past two years. Research data indicated increased leaf area and a reduction in foliar diseases in 2003, but yield increases were not significant. In the current study there is less leaf disease and some delay in maturity with an increasing number of fungicide applications.



Carter on Cotton

Support CASC–Southeast's Cotton PAC

Sponsored by the Southern Cotton Growers Inc., the Committee for the Advancement of Southeast Cotton (CASC) was established to encourage participation in government by individuals in the cotton production and ginning industries in the Southeast.

The purpose of the committee is to enable and support channels through which members of the industry can communicate their views to decision makers at every level of government.

Through CASC, industry members voluntarily pool their resources and support candidates whose views and voting records are in step with the needs of the Southeast cotton industry.

Why CASC?

Election costs have skyrocketed. For the last election, the winner of a NC House of Representatives seat spent an average of \$700,000. For the Senate campaign, winner Richard Burr and challenger Erskine Bowles spent a whopping \$16.2 million.

Funding has been a necessary part of political campaigns for some time. PACs like CASC, which is one of more than 4,000 in the nation, were formed to help support candidates in key congressional leadership positions who are friends of the U.S. cotton industry.

The approach to fund raising used by PACs - soliciting small contributions and combining them into larger amounts - allows far more voices to be heard in determining who will become our nation's elected officials.

Participation in Campaigns is Vital!

The 2002 farm bill, for which cotton growers worked so diligently, is now under attack in Congress. Much of the rest of the world has the momentum, enthusiasm, a legal/economic team, and perceived righteousness on their side.

Their efforts could force an end to the U.S. cotton program, as it currently exists, and significantly damage U.S. cotton's profitability.

CASC will continue to urge Congress to treat the domestic industry justly and fairly in all future trade arenas. We must protect our investments by supporting the campaigns of our friends in Congress.

While elections are held only every two years, it takes time to build the war chest needed to allow our PAC to make meaningful contributions to key congressional campaigns.

Therefore, CASC will once again be holding a raffle for a John Deere Gator® (4 x 2) at the Southern-Southeastern Cotton Growers Annual Meeting in Destin, FL from Jan. 19 to 22, 2005. You can make your contribution anytime up to the January 22 drawing, and the winner need not be present to win the Gator®.

Contributions or gifts to CASC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. As a reminder, contributions to CASC must be from individuals, partnerships, or LLCs. No corporate contributions can be accepted.



CASC

Committee For The
Advancement of
Southeast Cotton

Fundraiser:
JOHN DEERE
GATOR
(4X2)



Southern Southeastern

If you have questions about CASC and the Southern Southeastern Annual Meeting, please contact the NCCPA office at 252-459-3130 or bcarter@nccotton.org or visit www.southern-southeastern.org or call 706-344-1212.