



# COTTON TRENDS

Winter 2010

## NC Cotton Producers Assn. to hold Annual Meeting at the Joint Commodity Conference in New Bern

Mark your calendar now for the 60th Annual Meeting of the NC Cotton Producers Association. It will take place Thurs., Jan. 13 to Friday, Jan. 14, 2011 during the Annual Joint Commodity Conference at the New Bern Convention Center in New Bern.



During the Conference, members of the four commodity groups – cotton, corn, soybeans, and small grains -- will hear two national cotton leaders address the U.S. Cotton Research & Promotion Program and provide an update on Farm Bill proceedings and the vastly changed Washington, D.C. political scene. Producers won't want to miss "Commodity Outlook for 2011 & Beyond" by noted ag economist Dennis Gartman.

Please register for the event at [www.ncgrainsconference.org](http://www.ncgrainsconference.org).

Here's an overview of the 2011 Joint Commodity Conference agenda:

### Thursday, Jan. 13 a.m.

- NC Cotton Producers Assn. Annual Business Meeting
- Overview of U.S. Cotton Research & Promotion Program
- Update on Farm Bill Proceedings & the Washington, D.C. Political Scene

### Thursday, Jan. 13 p.m.

- "Commodity Outlook for 2011 & Beyond"
- "Our Focus - Our Future" panel
- Registration & Truck Inspection demo
- Commercial Display & Poster Area open

#### Optional Events:

Social Hour, Awards Banquet & Entertainment

### Friday, Jan. 14 a.m.

- Commercial Display & Poster Area Open w/Sausage & Ham Biscuit Breakfast
- Production Research Updates - NCDA&CS Agronomy Division
- NC State Specialists' Presentations: Cotton, Soybeans, Small Grains, and Corn



### Cotton Trends

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

# First NC Cotton Field Day in Blacklands Area Deemed Successful

Hoping to connect with cotton producers in the Blacklands region of the state, the North Carolina Cotton Producers Association Cotton Field Day planning committee moved this year's field day to Gary Respass' Flatland Farms & Associates 2,000 acre cotton farming operation near Pantego, NC.

The Blacklands is a relatively new area in the field of cotton production, but N.C. cotton growers got a chance to see and hear the latest in production information from North Carolina State cotton specialists, growers, and ag industry representatives.

"Our field day turned out to be probably one of the best in recent years," says NCCPA Executive VP Billy Carter. "I'm not sure where we'll go in the future, but this year has proven that moving at least occasionally is a good idea," he adds.

Among the hot topics at this year's NC Cotton Field Day were new options for controlling glyphosate-resistant pigweed, management strategies for stink bugs in cotton, and an innovative look at cotton pickers by a North Carolina cotton grower.



make the decision on whether to spray for stinkbugs.

NC State cotton specialist Keith Edmisten told growers that conventional methods of determining when to

defoliate just won't work on cotton that has been subjected to record daytime and nighttime temperatures and, in some cases, prolonged drought.

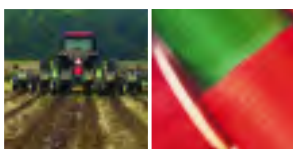
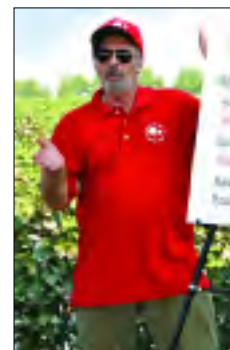


NC State Crop Science's Alan York told growers a very aggressive pre-plant and/or pre-emergence program is essential to control glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth in cotton.

Other tour stops included a look at different fungicide seed treatments used in cotton, a comparison of organic and inorganic soil fertility inputs, and a discussion on the development of variable rate tillage capabilities in the future.



One of the most popular stops on the tour was a talk by NC State entomologist Jack Bacheler who outlined ways to manage stinkbugs. The method uses a template that allows growers to check bolls in the field and apply a few observational variables to help





## Grower's Financial Analysis on OMBM's Thorough and Enlightening

Blacklands cotton grower Danny Clayton has had a great deal of experience operating a conventional module building unit and both the John Deere and Case IH on-board module building systems in recent years.

The Beaufort Co. producer crunched some numbers to compare conventional systems with the new, on-board module building systems and shared them with a very interested crowd of growers attending the recent NC Cotton Field Day.

Danny compared the cost of a new John Deere picker equipped with an on-board, on-the-go module builder, a Case IH picker with a similar system, and old and new conventional cotton pickers.



Here are his findings and recommendations:

- The advantage of the John Deere system is its seamless picking, packing, and stacking speed. While it can run 20 hours a day, the optimum sized operation for this type cotton harvester is about 2,000 acres.
- The advantage of the Case IH system is that it uses permanent tarps, rather than disposable ones, for moduling cotton. It is also significantly lighter in weight than the John Deere system and costs about \$20,000 less (approximately \$540,000 vs. \$560,000).
- Danny's figures suggest a big advantage for used pickers over the new, on-board moduling-building machines and new conventional cotton pickers.



## County Agents have Played Vital Roles in Blacklands' Cotton Growth & Success

Beaufort Co. cotton grower Gary Respass credits a lot of the Blacklands' success in producing cotton to three county agents who serve the area: Gaylon Ambrose of Beaufort Co., Mac Gibbs in Hyde Co., and Frank Winslow in Tyrrell and Washington Counties.

Gary says, "All three agents have worked diligently over the years to conduct numerous test plots and farm tours to educate growers on the research, equipment, and technology that would help them successfully grow cotton in the Blacklands. This area is up and coming in the field of cotton production because of their hard work and dedication." And, they were also key planners for the NC Cotton Field Day.

Of his praise for his own county agent, Gary says, "Gaylon has also been the driving force behind the establishment of the various tests at Flatland Farms. His hundreds of pro-active, on-farm tests have demonstrated to me and other growers which crop inputs and production practices would add extra dollars to our bottom lines."

Gaylon, (left) who's been in his Beaufort Co. post

for twenty years, has enjoyed working with Gary, (right). "In addition to providing a number of acres of his land each year since 1995 to our on-farm tests, Gary was instrumental in getting Blacklands growers to invest in equipment to set out the plots, which allowed us to hold numerous farm tours over the last 15 years," Gaylon says.



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## New Cotton Export Brochure Promotes NC Cotton

North Carolina is the fastest-growing cotton region in the U.S., using the most sophisticated technologies to bring the highest-quality fibers at the lowest cost to our international trading partners.

That's the thrust of a new cotton export brochure produced recently by the NCDA&CS International Marketing Group with guidance and direction from the NC Cotton Producers Assn. Copies of the brochure have been printed in four languages: English, Spanish, Sanskrit, and Chinese.

The brochure details why North Carolina cotton is among the best available in the U.S.:

- NC growers use efficient and environmentally-sound practices in planting and caring for their cotton crop.
- NC growers employ innovative mechanical technology in harvesting their cotton crop.

- NC ginners use state-of-the-art technology to gin their cotton.
- USDA licensed and bonded warehouses can trace a cotton bale throughout the supply chain.
- NC's reputation for delivery and sanctity of contract is second to none.
- NC has infrastructure in place to ship cotton anywhere in the world from three deep-water ports.



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