

High Plains Cotton Crop Progressing

Friday, June 24, 2016

By Mary Jane Buerkle

For the most part, the 2016 Texas High Plains cotton crop is off to a relatively good start, although producers certainly would appreciate a timely rainfall event sometime over the next week.

Some producers had to replant, thanks to severe weather and heavy rainfall events during the past few weeks. Large hail damaged some acreage, while other young cotton plants were washed out. However, the window for replanting in the northern portions of the PCG service area has passed, and the window for southern areas is rapidly approaching.

Extension entomologist Suhas Vyavhare said in a report for AgFax.com that thrips are a problem from Hale County northward, but not so far in central and southern counties. Weed pressure is relatively low so far, especially considering the recent rains, but producers are attacking what weeds are there as quickly as possible.

December futures have inched up over the past few weeks, but tumbled early Friday to just below 65 cents at press time after trading at a high of more than 66 cents on Thursday, thanks to plummeting world financial markets after Britain's vote to leave the European Union, analyst Duane Howell said in a DTN report.

Producers are reminded to sign up for the Cotton Ginning Cost-Share Program and to watch for a pre-filled form in the mail indicating certified planted acres. Any disputed acres must be reconciled in person at the FSA office. The signed form must be returned to the FSA office either in person, fax, or e-mail no later than August 5, 2016. There will be no extension of the deadline. Payments will be made periodically as signup takes place with expected payments to begin in early July.

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<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

Additional Time Granted to Comment on Triazine Registration Review

Thursday, June 23, 2016

From National Sorghum Producers

Growers across the country will have until October 4, 2016, to submit comments regarding the re-registration of Atrazine, Simazine and Propazine. The additional time reflects a 60-day extension of the public comment period by the Environmental Protection Agency following requests by the National Sorghum Producers, other agricultural organizations and House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-Minn.).

"We appreciate EPA's recognizing growers are currently in the busiest season of planting, managing and harvesting the nation's food, fiber and fuel stocks," James Born, NSP chairman and farmer from Booker, Texas, said. "We thank Ranking Member Peterson for his supportive efforts in securing the extended comment period. Growers will now have adequate time to thoroughly review and respond to the draft EPA assessment of these important crop protection tools."

EPA's Draft Triazine Ecological Risk Assessments, released on June 2, determined the herbicides atrazine, simazine and propazine pose an ecological risk to plants and animals. As a result, proposed level of concern (LOC) for aquatic life would be lowered to about one-third of the current level for atrazine, slashing average field application rates down to 8 ounces (half pound) per acre.

However, the methodology used to arrive at these recommendations departs from sound science, including 50 years of use and almost 7,000 science-based studies consistently demonstrating atrazine's safety as well as the recommendations of EPA's own Scientific Advisory Panels.

"Logic and science will not return to EPA's risk assessment process without growers sharing why these tools are essential to their operations," Tim Lust, NSP CEO, said. "Without action, the proposed restrictions on atrazine in the EPA's assessment would render the top herbicide used in sorghum useless in controlling weeds on 90 percent of the acres in the U.S."

Other agricultural organizations joined NSP in requesting the 60-day extension for public comment, including National Corn Growers Association, Triazine Network, National Farmers Union, Texas Grain Sorghum Association, Missouri Corn Growers Association and Kansas Corn Growers Association.

Growers must submit comments on the draft assessments by October 4, 2016. After receiving and reviewing comments, the EPA will amend the assessments, as appropriate, according to the agency. Learn more or submit comments at <http://sorghumgrowers.com/sorghumalert/>.

Texas FSA Selects Eddie Trevino as Agency's Executive Officer

June 2016

From the Farm Service Agency

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency recently announced the selection of Erasmo "Eddie" Trevino as the Texas FSA's Executive Officer.

Trevino serves as the principal staff advisor to Texas State Executive Director Judith A. Canales on administrative and management issues and develops policies, operating procedures and systems for the overall management of Texas FSA state and county office operations.

Trevino has served Texas FSA as the farm loan division chief since 2008. In addition to his Executive Officer responsibilities, Trevino will continue to serve as the interim farm loan division chief until a successor is named.

SIGNUPS HAPPENING NOW
For the Cotton Ginning Cost-Share Program!
Watch for your forms in the mail.
Questions? Contact us or your local FSA Office.
Signup runs through August 5
THERE WILL BE NO EXTENSIONS!