

Cotton Crop Progresses Across PCG Area

Friday, July 19, 2019

By Mary Jane Buerkle

A hot and mostly dry July has set in across the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, and although some recent spotty rains have helped the crop along, growers are managing water and hoping another rainfall event comes along soon – without any severe weather.

Unfortunately, the weather forecast does not bode well for that, with only slight chances in the Lubbock area over the next several days.

Many growers report having a beautiful crop on both irrigated and dryland acreage, but the dryland especially needs another shot of precipitation or it will begin to struggle significantly. Although a good amount of cotton region-wide is late, growers have reported some blooms even in replanted fields. However, this is not the case on a general scale as some cotton may not even be squaring until next week, which could impact maturity later in the season. Heat unit accumulation is not a problem, with highs near or above 100 and lows in the mid-70s. Insect pressure so far is mostly light, save for reports of some fleahoppers, bollworms, aphids and stink bugs.

“As usual, it’s safe to say that this year’s crop is all over the map,” PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said. “You can see variability from our northern tip to our southern, but also from one field to another. It seems strange to say that we need a rain after all we had at planting time, but that benefit has pretty much come and gone, and timing is everything when it comes to rainfall on a cotton crop.”

For the first time in several days, the cotton market was trending up at press time, with December futures trading at just under 63 cents. Dr. Darren Hudson, professor and Larry Combest Chair in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Texas Tech, said a few factors are at play in the down market, including a lagging U.S. trade deal with China, the potential for a large United States crop, and mild indications of slippage in demand.

“We’re in this strange situation of at first having too much rain, and now on the verge of drought in some areas, so yield predictions are guiding the market, but with a lot of uncertainty, so there’s a lot of room for movement,” Hudson said.

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Annual Conference

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019

Bayer Museum of Agriculture, Lubbock

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Texas Growers to Participate in NCC's Producer Information Exchange

Thursday, July 18, 2019

From the National Cotton Council

Ten cotton producers from Texas and Oklahoma will observe cotton and other agricultural operations in California’s San Joaquin Valley while nine Southeast cotton producers will see the same in Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee during the week of July 28 as part of the National Cotton Council’s 2019 Producer Information Exchange (P.I.E.) Program.

Sponsored by Bayer through a grant to The Cotton Foundation, the P.I.E. is now in its 31st year and has exposed nearly 1,200 U.S. cotton producers to innovative production practices in Cotton Belt regions different than their own.

Specifically, the program aims to help the cotton producer participants boost their farming efficiency by: 1) gaining new perspectives in such fundamental practices as land preparation, planting, fertilization, pest control, irrigation and harvesting; and 2) observing firsthand the unique ways in which their innovative peers are using current technology. A unique program benefit is that the participants get to ask questions of both the producers they visit on the tours and the producers from their own region that they travel with during the week.

NCC’s Member Services staff, in conjunction with local producer interest organizations, conducts the program, including participant selection.

Participants on the Western tour are Shelby Long, Hollis, Okla.; and Texans – Mark Wright, Roscoe; Curtis Wilde, Wall; Justin Cave, Ackerly; Ciera Ware, Ralls; Russell Williams, Dalhart; Sam Stanley, Levelland; Ty Vardeman, Slaton; Dannie Morris, Wellington; and Spence Pennington, Raymondville.

These Southwest cotton producers will begin their San Joaquin Valley activities in Fresno on July 29 with a briefing from the California Cotton Ginners/Growers Association and then a tour of Bayer’s research facility. They also will tour Don Cameron’s Terra Nova Ranch in Helm and observe extra-long staple cotton production in the Tranquillity area.

The next day, the group will see Gilkey Enterprises’ cotton operations in Corcoran and visit other area cotton farms before traveling to Laton to see cotton at Jovie & Mark Rosa Farms.

On July 31, the producers will tour the Quady Winery in Madera, then go to Los Banos for a look at tomato processing at the Ingomar Packing Company and a tour of Delta Farms’ cotton operation and visits with other area cotton producers. The group will conclude their California tour on August 1 with a look at table grape harvesting at the Kirschenmann Farms in Bakersfield prior to touring Farmers Cooperative Almond Huller in Wasco.