

Collingsworth County Ag Access

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Designation as a Primary Natural Disaster Area

On January 7, 2015 the USDA designated Collingsworth County as a primary natural disaster area, along with 155 other counties across Texas and contiguous counties in surrounding states. This designation came as a result of damages and losses due to the drought that we have been suffering through since January 1, 2014. This declaration makes qualified farm operators eligible for low interest emergency loans from the FSA if all criteria are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the declaration date to apply for the loan to help cover part of their actual losses. There also other programs offered that may provide assistance during this difficult time. Some of these programs include the Emergency Conservation Program, The Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program, and the Tree Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. More information is also available at the following websites <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> and <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

Private Applicator Training Course
Friday, February 20, 2015
Collingsworth County Courthouse, 2nd Floor
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Workroom
Training begins at 8 AM
Cost: \$60

Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 18

Top Five Tips for More Efficient and Profitable Cotton

By: Jim Steadman
From: cottongrower.com
January 20, 2015

During 2014, the Raising More Profit series explored many aspects of cotton production, with an eye on improving or enhancing grower profitability.

Overall, five key points for profitability stood out during the year. And a little attention to these details could give growers a better shot at maximizing their cotton bottom line for 2015.

Start Clean and Treat Weeds Early

Profitable weed management - especially for pigweed - starts with clean fields at planting, followed by a regimented application schedule of residual herbicides and timely post-emergence products. Since most pigweed emerges within 18 to 21 days after planting, focus on the first three weeks of the crop to help maximize control and, ultimately, reduce herbicide and labor costs.

Choose Varieties That Fit Your Operation

Variety selection is the biggest decision a grower will make all year, especially with the technology options available for weed, insect and nematode management. As always, growers should select varieties based on yield. But they also need to evaluate their field conditions (soil texture and type, irrigated or dryland, weed and pest pressure), review data from several variety tests, and consider planting multiple varieties and maturities to help spread risk and smooth out harvest timing.

Manage Irrigation Rates and Timing

Fine tuning irrigation plans can help growers maximize both yield and profit. Water use efficiency studies have shown that higher yields and better water value from irrigation came from using higher water rates during cotton's later growth periods, especially during the maturation period.

Don't Skimp on Insect Control

Cutting inputs for insect infestations, regardless of cotton market prices, is never a good idea, especially if insects reach threshold levels that could cause an economic loss. To help save costs, look at opportunities to plant early and try to isolate cotton fields from corn or other crops that serve as hosts for problem insect pests.

Quality. Quality. Quality!

High quality cotton is in limited supply on the world market, and U.S. grower profitability may very well be directly proportional to the quality of cotton produced. Selection and careful management of varieties with proven quality characteristics can help growers minimize dockage or optimize their premiums.



**Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension
Collingsworth County**

800 West Ave. Box 12
Wellington, TX 79095

Phone: 806-447-2313

Fax: 806-447-5418

E-mail:

katy.white@ag.tamu.edu

The Rolling Plains Repl-
icated Agronomic Cotton
Evaluation Booklet is in-
pick up a copy at the
County Extension Office
or if you'd like a copy
emailed to you let me
know at
katy.white@ag.tamu.edu!

Due to postage budget, if you
are willing to receive this
newsletter via email please
call our office
806-447-2313 or send an
email to collings@ag.tamu.edu

Weed Management Strategies

One of the most important steps to take in an effective weed management system is to start clean- a clean field starting out is far easier to maintain than having to remedy a field that starts with a weedy mess. This can be accomplished by utilizing mechanical and chemical methods. Here are a few key items to think about:

- Mechanical tillage- removing initial weeds can reduce continued infestation and pressure throughout the growing season
- Herbicide programs- utilizing preplant burndown (PPB), preplant incorporated (PPI) and preemergence (PRE) herbicides help to keep early season weeds controlled
- Manage diligently- meaning staying on top of checking fields for weeds and getting a jump on dealing with them once they are found

"History and Biology of Palmer Amaranth"

<http://youtu.be/QbA45TgJEgg>

Watch this you-tube made with the help of
specialists, researchers, IPM agents and
commodity leaders!

This video is the first in a four-part series targeting resistant
weed management

The Texas Wheat Producers Board biennial election is coming up

- The last day for a producer to file to have their name placed on the ballot is March 4, 2015.
- Ballots may be obtained at the County Extension Office between March 20- April 3 for voting purposes
- All ballots must be postmarked by April 3, 2015 to be considered