

Turn Row Talk

HALE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

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POTENTIAL INCOME LOSSES FROM HARVESTING DRY WHEAT GRAIN

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The standard moisture for wheat grain at harvest time is 13.5%. If your wheat moisture is above 13.5% you will be docked for the moisture. If you are too much above standard moisture content for wheat your delivery point may reject the grain, especially if they do not have the capacity to dry grain.

Common incentives that drive harvesting wheat as soon as possible include minimizing potential storm damage every day wheat remains in the field, avoiding increasing weed issues, and possible double cropping scenarios where the sooner the next crop is in the more time it has for

growth and maturation.

There is another potential downside to harvesting dry wheat—or any grain—when the crop remains in the field too long. Delayed harvest leads to further drying and final moisture percentage well below the standard content. Namely, the drier the grain, the more grain it takes to make a 60-lb. pay unit, or bushel. In effect, being able to deliver wheat grain as close as you can up to 13.5% enables you to “sell water.” Conversely, as noted above, if grain moisture is above 13.5%, you don’t get paid—you get docked.

But how much is the potential income reduction in selling wheat grain that perhaps you could have harvested sooner at slightly higher moisture? Is it a little? Is it a lot?

We have compiled a table for wheat grain with different moisture contents

at a range of wheat prices (\$/bu) to help you understand what the potential reduction in your effective per-bushel wheat price is as you sell further and further below 13.5%. A link to this table, entitled “Wheat Grain Moisture Calculator—Potential Income Loss” is posted under the Marketing section at <http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/wheat/index.htm>

You can estimate your potential reduction in effective per-bushel price for wheat <13.5% moisture from the table. Also, you can use the calculator to determine reduction in potential income per bushel with your actual % moisture and market grain price (\$/bu). Furthermore, with grain yield (actual or estimated) you can also calculate your potential reduction in income per acre and per field or farm.

HORN FLIES IN CATTLE

Horn flies reproduce in fresh cattle manure from early spring to late fall. Horn fly populations usually peak in late spring and again in late summer or early fall. Hot, dry conditions may naturally reduce horn fly numbers during mid-summer. Thousands of flies may infest a single animal, causing extreme nervousness and energy loss. Horn flies suck blood, irritate and annoy, reduce weight gains and cause weight losses. The annoyance

and irritation interfere with cattle’s feeding and resting. Treatment is economically justified when horn fly populations reach 250 per head. To control them satisfactorily throughout the season, use self-treatment insecticides or routinely apply spray, pour-on, spot-on or dust chemicals. Used properly, self-treatment devices are more effective than hand application in controlling horn flies and lice. Such devices

include oil back rubbers, dust bags and tubes, liquid wicks and impregnated ear tags. Insecticide-impregnated ear tags control horn flies well for 2 to 5 months if they are properly attached to the ear and if pyrethroid resistance is not a factor. Currently labeled ear tags contain a pyrethroid, an organophosphate or a pyrethroid/organophosphate/synergist mixture. Pyrethroid ear tags



"The new charts reflect the unique market environment into which much of the previous year's crop was sold. ."

(permethrin, fenvalerate) have induced widespread horn fly resistance. Vary the types of ear tag insecticides rather than using the same kind year after year. Remove tags as soon as possible once they have lost their effectiveness in killing horn flies. Tags used 4 to 5 months emit too little insecticide to control fly populations adequately. Tags emitting reduced doses seem to add to the resistance problem by prolonging fly exposure, thus making the surviving population more resistant to the insecticide.

Biting lice and blood-sucking lice are transmitted between cattle by contact, especially in the fall, winter and spring when egg production increases in cool weather. Because cattle tend to bunch up more in cold weather, uncontrolled lice spread easily from animal to animal and quickly

infest an entire herd. Lice cause a condition called lousy, an itching skin disease with possible anemia. Clinical signs are dry, scaly skin, hair loss and itching exhibited by biting, rubbing and scratching. Lice bites and allergies to lice cause the itching. The allergic dermatitis may persist after the lice are gone. These signs may be confused with malnutrition and allergies caused by horn flies, mosquitoes and gnats. Although chemicals do not harm lice eggs, cattle can be treated effectively by administering insecticides twice at a 2-week interval or once with avermectins (Ivomec®, Eprinex®, Dectomax®) or milbemycin (Cydectin®). Use spray, dust, pour-on, spot-on, injection or self-treatment methods in fall and winter for control. Injection does not work for biting lice.

Cattle grubs (warbles, wolves) are larvae of heel flies, which lay eggs on hairs of the lower legs of cattle in late

winter and spring. Grubs appear in the backs of cattle in winter. The migratory damage by the grubs in cattle causes weight losses and reduces weight gains and milk production. To control grubs, administer systemic organophosphate insecticides (CoRal®, Warbex®, Spotton®, Neguvon®, Tiguvon®, Prolate®), avermectins (Ivomec®, Eprinex®, Dectomax®) or milbemycin (Cydectin®) to cattle no later than 3 months before grubs appear in the back. Use pour-on, spot-on, spray or injection methods to kill migrating grubs before they reach the esophagus. If cattle are not treated for cattle grubs in the summer, the systemic organophosphate insecticides and avermectins used in the fall and winter for control of lice, horn flies, and worms may cause reactions in the esophagus if many grubs are present.

2016 UPLAND COTTON LOAN CHART NOW AVAILABLE

Friday, April 22, 2016
By Shawn Wade

The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency released the 2016-Crop Upland Cotton Loan Premium and Discount tables on April 15. The new charts reflect the unique market environment into which much of the previous year's crop was sold. A general lowering of premiums for Staple 34 and longer cotton with Leaf grades 1-4 as well as lower discounts for Leaf grades 5-7 highlighted the changes.

The 2016 table also can be found at <http://www.plainscotton.org/16UpCotLC.pdf>.

The end result for producers in 2016 is that low-leaf, high-grade cotton with Color grades 11, 21 and 31 and Leaf Grades 1-3 will have slightly lower loan values compared

to the previous year, while higher leaf cotton will see increased values.

Although not severe, virtually all of the declines occurred in the 20 or so Color/Leaf/Staple combinations that are typically the most coveted by the market and the improvements were in quality combinations that were slightly more prevalent in 2015.

Shorter staple cotton with Leaf grades 4 and lower in the 11, 21 and 31 Color grades will see minimal change in 2016 compared to the previous year.

Changes in the 2016 premium and discount tables for Bark and Extraneous matter, Micronaire, Strength, and Length Uniformity were mixed with higher value measurements seeing little to no change, while lower value measurements in these categories will be penalized less in 2016 due to dis-

counts getting smaller by 5-30 points. One exception to the trend is Level One Bark in the Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma region that will garner a slightly higher discount in 2016.

Highlights from this section include: a continuation of the trend toward lower discounts for strength readings below 26; lower discounts for Micronaire readings above 4.9 and higher discounts for Micronaire readings below 3.5; and static premium and discount values for all Length Uniformity readings.

The table at <http://www.plainscotton.org/16UpCotLC.pdf> provides comparisons between 2015 and 2016 loan values for White Grades 11-41 and Light Spot grades 12-42, Staple 34 through 38 and higher.

Complete 2016 Loan Premium and Discount tables and loan charts with calculated values based on the 2016 schedule of premiums and discounts will be posted on the Plains Cotton Growers website at:

<http://www.plainscotton.org>.



PRESERVING OUR WEED MANAGEMENT TOOLS THROUGH GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Posted on May 6, 2016 by linda.francis
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Large farms and erratic weather makes it difficult for producers to cover all their acres for nutrient and pest management. So, everyone is looking for ways to cut trips across the fields to save money and time. However, if we are not careful, we could be doing more harm than good and costing ourselves money in the short-term and/or long-term. The information below is targeted toward weed management, but some of the information will be true for insecticides and fungicides.

It all starts with the herbicide label. When tankmixing herbicides or herbicides with other products (fertilizer, insecticides, and fungicides) always read and follow the label for allowed tankmixtures and mixing order. Tankmixtures can enhance activity (synergism), have no impact (neutral), or can decrease activity (antagonism). Antagonism can be due to chemical interactions in the spray tank, incompatibility in the tank due to poor mixing capabilities, or inhibition of herbicide once it is sprayed on the weeds. Approved tankmix part-

ners are clearly stated on the label and often included specific rates, if different than either of the individual herbicide labels. As an example, Liberty® 280 (glufosinate) herbicide does not list Roundup® (glyphosate) as a tankmix partner in cotton, because of some slight antagonism observed with this tankmixture. Another example of antagonism includes tank mixtures of Staple® (pyrithiobac) with grass only herbicides (clethodim, fluzifop, quizalofop, or sethoxydim), which are not recommended because reduced grass control is often observed.

Also as crop budgets get tighter, the application of reduced rates (below label rates requirements) of herbicides becomes more appealing and more common. However, repeated applications of below label rates of herbicides substantially increases the likelihood for developing herbicide resistant weeds. This point has not been commonly emphasized for herbicides, but reduced rates have proven to promote insecticide and fungicide resistance multiple times over the past decades. Use of the full label rate also applies to herbicide tankmixtures, unless the label states otherwise.

As producers continue to struggle with glyphosate resistant weeds, some creative herbicide combinations have been used. Some with success and others not so much. However, I recently heard of some people that were applying reduced rates of Liberty (glufosinate) at 8-10 fl oz/ac tank-mixed with Roundup® (glyphosate)

and claiming to obtain better control of weeds. I have not found any research data that suggests any better weed kill from spiking glyphosate with Liberty®; however, if additional efficacy is being observed it is likely due to Liberty's® high surfactant load increasing glyphosate uptake. If the benefit of spiking glyphosate with Liberty® is the surfactant, then most surfactants are available at a lower price. More importantly, spiking glyphosate with Liberty® equates to application(s) of sublethal doses of Liberty®. This creates the perfect scenario for developing glufosinate (Liberty®) tolerant weeds. Liberty® herbicide is a critically important herbicide for controlling weeds in most of our current cotton varieties (LibertyLink® and Xtend-Flex®), and is one of the few postemergence options for effectively controlling glyphosate resistant weeds. It would be a huge loss of an effective herbicide and herbicide tolerant trait, if Liberty® (glufosinate) resistant weeds were to develop.

Take home message: use the full label rates of the herbicides to help prevent further development of herbicide resistant weeds. See the publication titled Weed Management in Texas Cotton as a reference for identifying label herbicides and rates for cotton.



“However, if we are not careful, we could be doing more harm than good and costing ourselves money in the short-term and/or long-term.”

CONTROLLING MOSQUITOES TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF ZIKA VIRUS

Controlling mosquitoes to reduce the spread of Zika virus would be easy if there was a perfect pesticide. However, experience has shown that pesticides alone rarely produce complete or lasting control of pests, whether battling cockroaches in kitchens, or mosquitoes in marshes. This observation is the basis of a control strate-

gy called “Integrated Mosquito Management” or IMM.

The Best Way to Control Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes are controlled most efficiently with an approach that blends the use of both chemical and non-chemical control measures. This is the essence of IMM, the preferred approach for city and county-wide

mosquito control programs. Integrated mosquito management works best when done over a large area, like a neighborhood, community or county.

“The Four D’s” – How to Manage Mosquitoes & Protect Against Bites

Dusk/Dawn – Avoid being outside





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

If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Hale County Extension Office at (806) 291-5267 or Jason Miller (806) 445-5056 prior to the program or event.

when mosquitoes are searching for a blood meal, which is usually in the early morning hours and just before the sun goes down. While some species are daytime biters, many prefer to feed at night but all can be actively feeding at dusk and dawn. Unfortunately, the mosquitoes that carry Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya and Yellow Fever also bite during the daytime.

Drain – Empty standing water from “containers” around your home and work areas, such as buckets, wheelbarrows, kiddie pools, toys, dog bowls, water troughs, tires, bottles, etc. Make improvements that allow standing water to run off following rains.

Dress – If out during mosquito feeding hours, wear long sleeves and pants in plain colors. Avoid attract-

ing them by wearing excessive amounts of perfume or aftershave.

Defend – Any time you go outside for an extended period of time, wear a mosquito repellent. DEET provides up to 6 hours of high protection from mosquitoes and has an excellent safety record. People who dislike the smell or oily feel of DEET can choose from two other excellent mosquito repellents. Lemon oil of eucalyptus (an aromatic, plant-derived natural mosquito repellent) and picaridin (odorless) provide excellent, though shorter protection than DEET. Keep a bottle or can of insect repellent just outside the doorway to remind you to spray exposed skin.

Additional measures that can be used around the house or workplace include:

- Using mosquito dunks containing

insect growth regulators or Bti

- Mowing tall weeds and grass
- Spraying labeled contact insecticides in shady mosquito resting areas
- Installing mosquito barriers such as screened windows and doors – or- making sure they are in good repair

Learn more about the different types of mosquitoes by visiting the interactive Mosquito Safari Website or by downloading the fact sheets called, “What Texans Need to Know About Zika Virus” and “Mosquitoes and the Diseases they Transmit.” There are many good links to additional information through the fact sheet, so if you have any interest in the subject, these are a must read.



<http://mosquitosafari.tamu.edu/>