

Terrell County Extension

Terrell Co. Cooperative Extension Office, 955 Forrester Dr., Dawson, Ga. 39842

Work: (229) 995-2165; **Cell: (229) 881-1212**

E-mail; arturner@uga.edu

Terrell County Web Site, Ag Updates & Newsletters:

<http://www.ugaextension.com/terrell>

Don't Forget NRCS EQIP Program Signup! – Many opportunities:

CONTROLLED BURNING, IRRIGATION RETROFITS, DIESEL CONVERSIONS, NATIVE GRASS & LONGLEAF PINE ESTABLISHMENT, GRAZING LAND ESTABLISHMENT, THINNING AND BURNING FORESTRY LAND. **November 19 is the deadline for “batching” requests for this year. If you have need to use any of these EQUIP programs, please sign-up NOW.**

COTTON

University of Georgia

Don Shurley, UGA Cooperative Extension cotton economist.

Cotton prices right now are the highest in history. Prices for other Georgia-grown row crops are riding high, too. And the ride could last well into next year, say University of Georgia farm economists.

Cotton prices for the 2010 crop are currently around \$1.20 per pound, the highest ever in 134 years of records, said Don Shurley.

Commodity economics can be complicated. But the simple reasons why cotton prices skyrocketed are because:

World cotton acreage decreased over the last three years, reducing production.

There is uncertainty in the status of the 2010 crops in China, India and Pakistan.

Economic recovery has increased global demand for cotton-made items.

“The demand side is growing very well, and the supply side has yet to catch up with it.

So, that really set the stage for higher prices, the supply-and-demand situation that has developed over the last several years,” Shurley said.

Cotton harvest started a few weeks ago in Georgia and will end later this fall. But most farmers won't get the record prices for this year's crop, he said. Current prices are what farmers could get if they sold their cotton now. Farmers typically contract cotton in the winter or spring before the crop is planted. At that time this year, prices were 40 cents to 45 cents per pound lower than they are now.

“We can talk about a \$1 (per pound) cotton, but it's a moot point really as far as most producers are concerned because they've already sold their crop,” he said.

Cotton prices will likely go down for next year's crop. But a pound of cotton should still sell for 85 cents to 90 cents, he said. These are still good prices.

Farmers are harvesting soybeans and peanuts now, too. Corn harvest ended during summer. Prices for these other major Georgia commodities are looking good next year. Such an across-the-board outlook is rare, said Nathan Smith, a UGA Extension agricultural economist.

Georgia and other southeastern farmers can produce a wide range of crops, unlike Midwest farmers who typically grow only one or two crops in a year. Georgia farmers can decide more freely what and how much they plant, he said.

“This year is looking at competition between the major crops grown in Georgia, in terms of peanuts, corn, soybean and cotton, where all the prices are going to be higher than they’ve been in the last two seasons,” Smith said.

Peanuts prices next year may reach \$500 per ton, \$50 more per ton than this year. Corn could jump as high as \$5.25 a bushel, \$1 per bushel more than this year. Soybeans could reach \$11 per bushel, \$2 per bushel more than this year, he said.

Though prices next year look good, the cost to make the crops doesn’t, Smith said. Energy prices will climb. Seed costs will be higher. Fertilizer will be 10 percent to 15 percent higher next year, too. And weather, as is always the case, must cooperate to make a crop.

COTTON MATURITY & WEATHER

It looks as if any chances for continued cotton boll maturity are at an end for 2010. As a rule if we have not had a frost by November 4 of any given year we can safely assume that the window of cotton boll maturity has closed and defoliation needs to be considered.

Frost on bolls mature enough to open can do three things depending on how long the frost is present on the surface of the bolls. 1. Nothing if it is of short duration, 2. Assist in boll opening by causing moderate boll desiccation thorough the freezing process, or 3. Partial or total damage to bolls through freezing that will sour them and prevent them from opening. Similarly, damage to leaves can be: none, an aid to the defoliation process or can cause leaf stick. Of course there may be no frost event at all given these temperature parameters and possible wind. The long range forecast does not show that temperatures for maturation will improve as we move into the month even if there is no frost event. Regardless of what happens it appears that boll development and maturity for 2010 are at an end and decisions for boll opening and defoliation should be considered. Long term weather data and cotton maturation experience based on this data tell us that the risks of leaving cotton in the field beyond this point outweigh the benefits. Therefore, it is suggested that any cotton not defoliated be sprayed for defoliation as soon as the impending rain of the next few days passes. The only exception might be those fields planted in late June (or later) with less than 50% open bolls. Such cotton can often be left without much negative impact until it is terminated by frost. However, if left until a hard freeze occurs, losses are generally greater than losses caused by premature defoliation. You just have to decide how long you want to continue to roll the dice.

Extension Website

We can “keep score” now on how many visits we have to our Extension web site. Our goal is to be a reliable resource for you and timely information is an objective. I recently learned while presenting at the latest FSA Committee meeting that DSL internet

connections are the exception outside the city limits. That means you that use the internet as an information resource need few graphics and pictures so your download time will be minimized. Beginning with the last Extension Newsletter of October, all graphics have been removed for the newsletter so download time should be faster for dial-up internet users. I hope that will help and I urge you to use our web site for more complete information about articles printed in the Dawson News.

The following are the results of our Extension website traffic for October 2010 and the definitions for hits, views, and visits;

October 2010 Terrell County Extension Website Traffic:

Hits:	939
Page Views:	476
Visits:	319

Definitions:

Hit - A single action on the Web server as it appears in the log file. A visitor downloading a single file is logged as a single hit, while a visitor requesting a Web page including two images registers as three hits on the server; one hit is the request for the .html page, and two additional hits are requests for the downloaded image files. While the volume of hits is an indicator of Web server traffic, it is not an accurate reflection of how many pages are being looked at.

Page Views - Hits to files designated as pages. Supporting graphics and other non-page files are not counted.

Visits - Number of times a visitor came to your site