

# Cotton Growers Advised To Learn From 2010 Mistakes

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**C**lay County Arkansas, County Extension Agent Andy Vangilder, spoke recently about the 2011 cotton crop. Vangilder discussed seed treatments, watering problems and variety performance issues encountered during 2010 in hopes growers will avoid these same problems in 2011.

"The interest in cotton has grown. We had a

gen. We had a deficiency but the nitrogen was there it just wasn't getting activated on all of it. In a normal rainfall year, this would not have been a problem."

Rainfall on the middles activated the nitrogen which eventually greened up the cotton. Vangilder stated, "we know what hurt us. We want to remind folks that they want to configure their knives of their nitrogen rigs so that they will place nitrogen in the same middles they intend to water down to ensure good activation of the nitrogen."

**Andy Vangilder, Clay County Arkansas County Extension Agent, discussed performance issues of the 2010 cotton crop to help growers avoid problems in 2011**



couple of folks last year that put some cotton seed in the ground and didn't have any seed treatments of any kind on it. We saw a resurgence of seedling disease which we hadn't seen as bad in quite a while. These folks had cotton up six, eight, 10 inches tall falling over. We are reminding folks that they need to have a good seed treatment."

Some growers saw rows of cotton with streaking. Initially growers suspected nitrogen deficiency. Vangilder explained it was a little more complicated than that.

"We thought basically, at first, nitrogen deficiency, which it was but it wasn't because the nitrogen wasn't there. Our guys had taken their knife rigs, knifed them in, like two knives in one middle and then started watering. When it was so dry, like it was, they were watering middles that didn't have the nitrogen knifed in it. Therefore, the root system wasn't getting to the nitro-

"Remember what we did wrong last year. Let's improve from it, pick good varieties that are proven and do the best we can to make a good healthy crop and a good yield. Our folks are good cotton growers and we have been fortunate, even in some adverse weather. South Arkansas has been inundated in the past with rainfall and basically getting half a crop. They have just about quit growing cotton. That is going to change I'm sure this year."

Vangilder added, "right now with the high prices, skyrocketing prices, I haven't seen it look this exciting in cotton in quite a while. I'm excited. Cotton will be big for Clay County. We normally are 25 or 30,000 acres, so I think we'll be 40 or 45,000 this year, looks that way anyway."  $\Delta$

*REGINA LAROSE: Associate Editor, MidAmerica Farmer Grower*

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