

Curb *The* Inputs

Trial Focuses On Reducing Input Costs While Boosting Bottom Line

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Minimizing inputs for growing cotton is a trial that Bobby Golden of Red River Research Station in Bossier City, La., has been participating in this year with several LSU AgCenter scientists.

"As many traditional input prices have fluctuated recently, there have also been increases in technology fees associated with seed purchasing on the front end," he began. "Basically what we're looking at in this study, sponsored by Cotton, Inc., and the Louisiana Cotton State Support Committee, is a way to minimize costs of inputs for seed, fertilizers, PGRs, herbicides and insecticides compared to current standard recommended practices. It's a multi discipline approach that includes several agronomists, an economist, entomologist and a weed scientist. We're also looking at growing conventional varieties and how that might decrease input costs by not having to buy the transgenic seed. We're focused on how we can minimize our inputs and how far back we can scale our inputs and still produce optimum lint yields."

This is the first year of a multi-year study, with basically three principle objectives. One is

to look at a low fertility input system imposed on top of various seeding rates that range anywhere from 20,000 to 45,000 seeds per acre for cotton production. The other objectives involve studying the conventional systems in comparison to the Bt, Roundup Ready and LibertyLink systems.

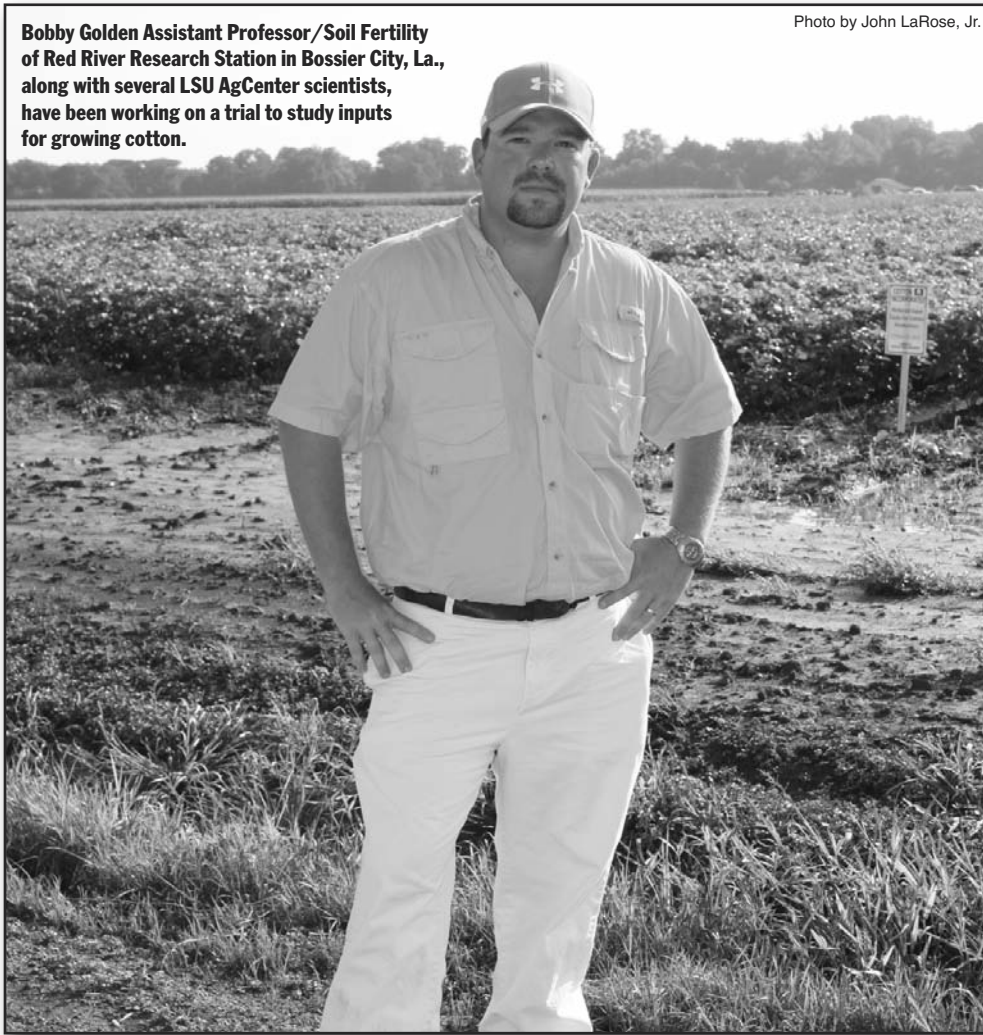
"We should have some preliminary results this year," Golden said. "The research is being conducted at several LSU AgCenter research stations, Dean Lee, Macon Ridge, Red River and here at Northeast Research Station. It was a difficult year to establish experiments at the Red River and Northeast stations because of very dry weather in May and June; at the Red River Research Station our stand is variable. We got it in late, had a less than optimal stand, but we think we can salvage some data off of it.

"We do have excellent plant density and nitrogen rate experiments here and at the Dean Lee and Macon Ridge research stations, and a conventional technology vs. Bt, Roundup Ready technology experiment at the Dean Lee Research Station, all of which will give us good initial information on the potential of reduced input systems. Δ

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Bobby Golden Assistant Professor/Soil Fertility of Red River Research Station in Bossier City, La., along with several LSU AgCenter scientists, have been working on a trial to study inputs for growing cotton.

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.




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