High Inputs Garner Big Cotton Yield

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Chris Edens, County Extension Agent, Levelland, Texas, in Hockley County helped to showcase a field of NexGen cotton during an Americot Field Day recently.

"I'll give you a little history about this field," he began. "We had a variety trial here in 2008. It was a unique trial because, according to Randy Boman, Cotton Specialist, Texas AgriLife, this was the first drip field that had been harvested with the new round bale picker, the 7720.

"The field used to be on a center pivot. Five years ago producer Mike Henson put it in drip and again we had a cotton race trial here two years ago. We were going to do it again last year but it got hailed out and, incidentally, he went back with milo. This particular field placed third in the yield contest of the National Grain Sorghum Yield Contest."

However, as far as fertility goes, he put down 80 units of phosphorus, 160 units of nitrogen delivered by subsurface drip. He put about 20 ounces of picks on it. He went 80/12. That 12 ounces went in about the first of August.

Edens' take-home message is NexGen is sponsoring some high quality research that producers can use, and this particular field is a pretty good representation here in Hockley County. The producer is certainly applying a lot of inputs.

"I think that the data coming off this test is very, very beneficial to producers, because it really does showcase what we're doing here on the high plains," Edens said.

Chris Edens, County Extension Agent, Levelland, Texas, in Hockley County showcasing a field of NexGen cotton during an Americot Field Day recently. This was the first drip field that had been harvested with the new round bale picker, the 7720.

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

The 2008 results were as follows: PhytoGen375WRF had a 34.3 percent Lint turnout, with 3,669 lb/acre of seed cotton yield, 1,258 lb/acre lint yield with a net value of $678.28 acre.

The NexGen 3348B2RF was next with a 33.3 percent lint turnout and a 3,504 seed cotton yield, and a 1,170 lb/acre lint yield with a $667.87 net value per acre. The test average was a 33.2 percent lint turnout, 3,462 lb/acre seed cotton yield, 1,149 lb/acre lint yield, 0.5122 lint loan value per pound, $590.06 per acre and a net value of $612.83 per acre.

"You know, it's data like this that really helps producers make variety choices," he continued. "Obviously, yield is very important especially when you have such high inputs.

"Mike has invested a lot of money in the drip and I think that it is very important, especially with higher cotton prices, that we do the very best we can in terms of educating producers on what varieties are going to give them the maximum yield." Δ

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