

NexGen Performs Well On Smith Farm

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ROPESVILLE, TEXAS

Randy Smith, farmer near Ropesville, Texas, likes what he is seeing in the new Americot NexGen varieties. Smith is primarily a cotton grower, with 1,100 acres of subsurface irrigation, 1,000 acres of pivots and 1,800 acres of dryland. He also raises some cattle.

Looking back on his 33 years of cotton production, he said the biggest changes have been the Bollgard and the Roundup Ready traits.

"The genetic changes in the physiological side of the cotton plant have been tremendous for us," he said. "It has kept us in business. It's

as the Fiber Max 9170. Yields for NexGen 4012 averaged 1,564 lbs. NexGen 3348 was 1,301 lbs. and the Fiber Max yielded 1,282 lbs.

"All three varieties were excellent quality, all above \$0.565 in the loan," he said. "As for the rest of the crop, nearly all of the drip-irrigated ground would have yielded in the 1,500 to 1,800 lb. range were it not for the hail. One field was appraised at 70 percent loss, probably because close to 1,000 lbs. of cotton was on the ground. The hail affected 420 acres of drip, 165 pivot acres and 450 acres of dryland cotton.

"One drip field that received very light hail damage yielded 2,013 lbs. per acre," Smith continued. "Still, it was a good year, but obviously the hail hurt, and I probably lost 700 to 800



Photo by John LaRose, Jr.
Inspecting a crop of NexGen cotton grown on the Smith farm are Doug Fairbanks, Americot Cotton Seed Company Sales Representative, and Randy Smith, producer, at Randy Smith Farms.

only been 15 years ago we thought if we made 1,000 pounds to the acre that we had really done something great; and now we're offended if it's less than 1,500, and we're shooting, trying to top that 2,000 pound mark. It's difficult to do, but we've been able to do it a few times. So the

genetic changes in cotton have been tremendous."

Smith used NexGen seed for the first time this year. Varieties include 3348 and 4012, both of which looked good this fall.

"I was pleased with both NexGen varieties," he said. "Unfortunately, on Oct. 21 we had a hail storm right in the middle of some of my best cotton. On the particular farm where there were NexGen varieties, the hail adjuster appraised a 55 percent loss on the entire field."

However, the damage on the NexGen varieties, which are more storm-proof, was not as severe

bales. I am very thankful we didn't lose more and that the price is so good."

Smith plans to plant more NexGen in the future. For one thing, the support from the company is terrific.

"Doug Fairbanks and Terry Campbell, they've been excellent, they've been great," he said. "I knew Doug before he went to work for NexGen and there's not a more knowledgeable individual as far as cotton physiology that's out there in my opinion. The guy also has a tremendous work ethic, very sincere; he spends a tremendous amount of time with his growers out in the field and just that moral support and his expertise are invaluable."

Smith is farming the land his grandfather bought in the mid-1940s.

"We just added to it over the years," he said. "We lease several acres and I've been fortunate enough to own several acres now; but this is just a small farm here and this is where I got my start."

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