



120 MPH Winds

120 MPH WINDS and rain have done much damage to cotton planted in the Winfield, Kansas, area, according to Gene Latham, public relations and consultant for the Southern Kansas Cotton Growers Cooperative Assn., with cotton gins at Winfield and Anthony, KS.

"We had 28,000 acres planted in this vicinity until extremely high straight winds and dashing rain caused us to lose about 8-10,000 acres overnight," Latham said. "Right now, there is no replanting being attempted because it is too wet. The ground around here is juicy and smells like a swamp."

Latham says cotton growers in the northern counties serviced by his gins could start planting in a day or two if no more rain comes.

"Our best cotton planting time extends to June 15 here," he said. "With some sunshine, we should be able to get most of the acreage replanted."

Latham says availability of cotton varieties will be another factor in getting the damaged fields replanted. "Most of our cotton varieties are Roundup Flex varieties and they are both expensive and in short supply now," he said.

On the night of June 3, 112 mph winds were recorded at an air field between Arkansas City and Winfield, Ks. "We have osage orange trees here that are two feet around and they were blown down," he said. "The water-saturated ground couldn't hold the roots."

The Southern Kansas Cotton Grower Cooperative is also working with Oklahoma cotton producers as far south as Kingfisher, Ok., Latham said. "We have 10 Oklahoma cotton producers working with us from the Kansas state line to Kingfieher. We harvested 1,000 acres of cotton in that area in 2007." Availability of cottonseed to plant is not the only limiting factor facing cotton growers in the southern Kansas area, Latham said. Soaring costs of fertilizer and fuel has created sharp increased in farmer expenses as well.

"Just as a reference," Latham said, "it is estimated planting a fall wheat crop in 2008 will cost Kansas wheat farmers \$200 per acre. Such expenses will demand at least \$7 per bushel wheat to break even."

CARNEGIE COTTON farmers are looking forward to a good season this year, according to Jeannie Hileman, gin manager of the Carnegie Farmers Cooperative. "Our anticipated acres are near last year," said Jeannie Hileman, Carnegie Farmers Cooperative gin manager. "We will have a little more dryland and a little less irrigated cotton this year.

"Our irrigated cotton is approximately 90 percent planted and all is up to a good stand and looking good. Hail and heavy rainfall really beat up 100 acres of cotton in the Hydro area.

"The dryland cotton is about 60 percent planted and most of it looks good. Everything could use a rain if we could get one without the abuse. The remaining dryland will be planted as soon as we get enough moisture. We will begin planting the remaining irrigated cotton the first of the week. It will be behind wheat.

"More and more of our farmers are getting into a real rotation program and cotton will play an important part in that program."

TALKIN' COTTON is produced by NTOK Cotton, a cotton industry partnership which supports and encourages cotton production in North Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. For more information on the cotton scene, see okiecotton.org. and ntokcotton.org. For questions and comments on Talkin' Cotton, contact eventer-prise1@hughes.net.

