



Cotton Growers Coop.—Altus, OK December 22, 2008

TALKIN' COTTON wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

COTTON GROWERS Cooperative cotton gin, Altus, Ok., has ginned 71,000 bales so far during the 2008 season and will finish with approximately 92,000 bales, according to Mike Berry, cooperative manager.

"We ginned 85,000 bales last year," Berry said. "While the start of the 2008 growing season had some problems with storms causing high winds and dashing winds, the end of the season was a good one."

From early September on, the fall season brought warm, dry days and cool nights, helping the cotton to mature well, he said. All of the cotton has graded well, too, he said.

"The new cotton varieties really turn out high quality cotton," he said. Ginners at the Cotton Growers facility started processing cotton in early October, Berry said, and the gin has been running 24 hours a day, seven days a week since to take care of the 2008 crop.

"Actually, that should be 22 hours a day," he explained. "We take one hour in each 12 hour shift to clean up the gin and to check out the machinery. I think we will be done ginning by Jan. 15, 2009."

A high capacity facility, recently the Cotton Growers gin processed 1,209 bales in one 22 hour period, Berry said.

A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE has been made in the way the USDA Farm Service Agency makes payments to farmers, according to a report from the National Cotton Council.

Lynn Tjeerdsma, FSA asst. deputy administrator for farm programs, says producers who want to receive farm program payments in calendar 2008 must contact their county office immediately.

Apparently, all checks come from Kansas City and some county offices are far more efficient at processing loan requests and other paperwork. The result is a vast disparity in timing for producers. For example, producers in Hale County, Tx., have been told a loan must be requested by close of business on Monday, Dec. 22 in order for a check to have a 2008 date. However, producers in Floyd County, Tx., have until close of business Monday, Dec. 29, 2008.

Tjeerdsma recommends producers check their bank accounts to make sure the money has been deposited. For more details, go to Agri-Pulse Communications website at <http://agri-pulse.com> and click on the News Network tab.

COTTON PRODUCTION CONFERENCE workshops offered Jan. 6-7 at the Belt-wide Cotton Conferences will feature precision agriculture, irrigation, spider mite management, pest resistance, best management practices, recordkeeping and foliar pathogen management as well as a cotton specialists working group, new developments from industry, cotton utilization, an economic outlook, Extension specialists' outlook and producer roundtables.

Bill Robinson, National Cotton Council's manager, agronomy, soils and physiology and coordinator of BWCC programming, said another unique workshop, "BMP Scoreboard," will enable participants to actively engage anonymously in an exercise to evaluate their use of best management practices during the first 40 days of growth after cotton is planted.

TALKIN' COTTON is produced by NTOK Cotton, a cotton industry partnership which supports and encourages cotton production in the Rolling Plains of North Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. For more information on the cotton scene, see okiecotton.org and ntokcotton.org. For questions or comments about Talkin' Cotton, contact eventerprise1@hughes.net.

