



Cotton Meeting—Altus April 10, 2008

ALTUS, Ok.--Approximately 60 Oklahoma and North Texas cotton producers attended a meeting last week on cotton pest control, plant mapping and growth regulators hosted by the Oklahoma State University Research and Extension Center south of here.

OSU Center personnel giving presentations were Dr. J.C.Banks, Jerry Goodson, Shane Osborne and Terry Pitts.

With cotton production, as well as other spring crops grown in Oklahoma, achieving greater potential harvest prices, as well as production costs, OSU's staff pointed out the importance of proper preparation for planting the 2008 cotton crop. Agricultural economists are predicting .95 cents per pound of cotton lint in 2008 and \$1 per pound in 2009. But, with the tantalizing rewards of good prices comes increasing costs of fertilizer, seed and pesticides.

Dr. Banks explained the advantages, as well as the shortcomings, of using growth regulators on the 2008 cotton crop. Goodson pointed out the need for proper insect identification and cautioned about interfering with the work of beneficial insects that feed on other insects devouring the crop. Osborne explained how producers can map their cotton plants and be able to identify what is happening in the plants to be able to defend against growth problems. Pitts covered diseases affecting cotton plants and fungicide treatments to combat these diseases as well as the importance of cotton planting dates and cold chilling injury to cotton plants.

Joe Harris, executive director of the Oklahoma Boll Weevil Eradication Organization, explained some factors on the OBWEO annual report. He told the farmers the 2008 OBWEO assessment will be \$4 per acre of harvested cotton. The last two seasons producers have paid an assessment of \$2 per acre and .0065 cent per pound of cotton sold. This equated to \$5.12 per acre on a yield of one bale, he said.

Dr. Banks explained all of the information covered in the meeting is available online at www.ntokcotton.org.