



## Cotton Planting Almost Complete

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"COTTON PLANTING is almost complete in the irrigated areas, and is progressing rapidly in the southern part of Oklahoma," says Dr. J.C. Banks, Oklahoma State University extension state cotton specialist.

"Moisture has been limited in the areas around I-40 and north, but hopefully, by the time this is published, rainfall has been received. Some producers are starting dry planting with the hope rainfall will be enough to not only germinate the seed, but also to allow for good taproot growth that will be critical later in the summer.

"If not enough rainfall is received, the root system will be shallow and more sensitive to drought. A root cannot grow in dry soil. It stops growth and the root tip is terminated. Any new growth after moisture is received will be branched out at the point where growth was stopped by dry soil, resulting in a more shallow root system.

"Southern parts of the state have had a good planting season, moisture has been good and not much soil has needed to be moved to place the seed into good moisture conditions. Some small rains have occurred in some areas, and these have been very beneficial. No-till cotton that has wind protection has really started growing rapidly. Every year I become more convinced that planting into some residue is the best way to produce cotton in this area. Nearly all of the cotton planted has been Roundup Flex varieties, so weeds can be controlled throughout the season instead of relying on hand labor later."

THE NEW FARM bill includes a broadened transportation provision that calls for an immediate rural transportation study, according to the National Cotton Council. This is particularly important as a number of transportation issues are undermining the competitiveness of today's export-oriented US cotton industry.

Specifically, cotton continues to face rail access issues, constrictions placed on exports by a shortage of cargo ships and a lack of access to shipping containers when and where they are needed.

The NCC is encouraged by Congress' acknowledgement in the bill that agriculture has very limited access to Federal processes for the resolution of grievances arising within various transportation modes in rural areas.

The NCC is closely monitoring an array of flow issues including port congestion, container shortages, declining port calls by some major ocean shipping lines and calls to end the exemption from antitrust law for railroads. These affect cotton directly in the form of usage fee increases and fuel surcharges that are either absorbed by the shipper or passed back to cotton producers.

The stated reasons for imposing fee increases associated with services range from higher fuel costs and equipment shortages to the need for maintaining facility infrastructures.

#### PRICES EFFECTIVE MAY 23-29, 2008

|  |               |
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| Adjusted world price, SLM 11/16                    | 59.19 cents*  |
| Import Quotas Open                                 | 1             |
| Limited Global Import Quota (480-lb bale)          | 409,987       |
| ELS payment rate                                   | 3.89 cents    |
| *No adjustment made under step 1                   |               |
| Five day average                                   |               |
| Current 3135 cif Northern Europe                   | 76.59 cents   |
| Current US cif Northern Europe                     | 76.50 cents   |
| 2007-08 weighted marketing year average farm price |               |
| Year to date (August-March)                        | 56.37 cents** |

\*\*August- July average price used in determination of counter-cyclical payment. 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](http://okiecotton.org) and [ntokcotton.org](http://ntokcotton.org). For questions and comments on Talkin' Cotton, contact [eventerprise1@hughes.net](mailto:eventerprise1@hughes.net)

