



## Jerry Stuckey, Anthony, KS & Roger Sewell, Pratt, KS

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COTTON GROWERS along the Kansas-Oklahoma border continue to have weather problems while trying to get a stand on their 2008 cotton crop.

This week, we have brief reports from Jerry Stuckey, manager of the Northwest Cotton Growers Cooperative, Anthony, KS, and Roger Sewell, manager-business development, at the High-Tech Gin, Inc., Pratt, KS.

Here is Stuckey's report:

"We started out with around 14,000 acres of cotton that was going to be planted, 10,000 acres irrigated and 4,200 dryland. Half of the dryland cotton did not get planted because of lack of moisture. Two thousand acres got planted but most of has not germinated yet, so it will probably not make. We have lost over 2,000 acres that blew out because of high winds. This past week, we are down to 7,500 acres of irrigated cotton planted. It was a rough weekend. The wind was really bad. I was able to save most of my own cotton on my own ground."

This is the report from Sewell:

"Most of the cotton in the Pratt, KS, area is planted and is in pretty good shape. We have cotton from the two-leaf stage to just being planted. We are at the end of our planting window. Our acres are up approximately 20 percent over 2007. The ground temperature has been too cool for early planting and now we have wet ground. We just can't seem to win this year.

"We have had to replant about 800 acres of cotton around Pratt. Some of it was drowned out and some blew out with high winds. There are also a few thrips problems showing up as the wheat as ripened."

NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL meetings concerning the effects of the new Farm Law will be taking place the latter part of June, 2008.

Meetings affecting cotton growers in Kansas will be held June 23, Wellington, Ks., at the Raymond Frye Complex, at 8 a.m. and at Hugoton, Ks., at Memorial Hall at 4 p.m.

Oklahoma growers are urged to attend a meeting in Altus, Ok., June 26 at 10 a.m. at the Oklahoma Cotton Cooperative Assn. headquarters.

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](http://okiecotton.org) and [ntokcotton.org](http://ntokcotton.org). For questions and comments on Talkin' Cotton, contact [enterprise1@hughes.net](mailto:enterprise1@hughes.net)

Abernathy has found drip irrigation to be the most efficient type of irrigation he has used. Since plants are watered at the root, there is little or no evaporation of water into the atmosphere. The ground surface stays dry, allowing any necessary field work to be done.

Abernathy's farming is almost entirely no-till now. He moved from minimum tillage to no-till gradually, but he is hopeful to go all the way soon. His farming program calls for wheat and cotton rotation.

This practice allows him to clean up weeds in the wheat. "We do a lot of double cropping," he said. "In our dryland wheat, we will plant cotton right behind the wheat harvester."

Abernathy is in a constant decision-making process as to what cotton varieties he will be using each year. "We are using all BGII flex varieties," he said. "We get all the advantages of weed control and keeping down any plant or soil diseases affecting the cotton.

"Really, we need about three consecutive crops to really evaluate a cotton variety to see if it is the right one for us in different cropping systems and soils, but there are so many new ones coming out each year, we are always testing a few new ones on limited acreage."

Abernathy and his two sons who farm with him will harvest in excess of 7,000 acres of wheat this spring. They are excited and a little nervous about weather and market conditions, to say the least. Most of their wheat acreage this year is planted to the Jagger variety, he says.

Equally important, he is watching the cotton market situation. Ag economists earlier this year predicted cotton may bring 95 cents or better in the fall and they also say 2009 could see \$1 per pound cotton.

Abernathy is ready to take advantage of better prices, he says. His farming program is evidence of his ability to farm in the southern plains.

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