



Bi-State Cotton Producers announces Joshua Atchley Completed Ginner's Certificate

BI-STATE COTTON Producers, a cotton producer-owned cooperative located at Blackwell, Oklahoma and with operations in Kansas and Oklahoma, announces one of their employees has completed certification by the National Cotton Ginners Assn.

Joshua Atchley, 31, currently yard and maintenance supervisor for the cooperative, completed his ginner's certification while attending the 2008 National Cotton Conference at Nashville, Tenn.

To be a certified ginner, you must complete three different levels of training. The first level consists of such subjects as basic hydraulics, gin safety, adjustments and maintenance of cotton seed cleaners, gin stands and lint cleaners, air utilization and drying and electricity in the gin.

Level three contains has training programs about cotton seed handling and unloading systems, bale presses and hydraulic systems, safety programs and regulations. Atchley also completed courses in first aid and cardio--pulmonary resuscitation.

DOLLAR A POUND COTTON, a future Christmas gift for U.S. cotton growers? Reported in the Southwest Farm Press, the new year has brought new optimism to the cotton market; with three top cotton market analysts saying December 2009 cotton futures could easily approach or top a dollar a pound.

Mike Stevens, Swiss Financial Services, Mandeville, La., talking during a recent Ag Market Network's January teleconference, said, "I don't think we've had markets this wild since 1995, and we're in an environment where it could be with us for several years."

Most agree the impetus for optimism has a lot to do with grain prices. O.A. Cleveland, professor emeritus, Mississippi State U., said in order to maintain a soybean to cotton price of ratio of 10 to one (the estimated breakeven price ratio between the two competing crops), at soybean prices of around \$13 a bushel, "cotton has to be at least \$1.10 to \$1.15 or maybe even higher."

These prices are expected to be seen in December 2009 cotton futures. In the short term, Cleveland believes December, 2008 "will focus on about 85 cents on the upside of a low of 74-75 cents."

Like Stevens, Cleveland believes high cotton prices might be more than a passing fad. "This one could be a two to four year price blip, and we're going to see some high cotton prices for several years. We have some very exciting times ahead of us in cotton trading. Cotton, in fact, is catching up now in big fashion with the outside markets."

TALKIN' COTTON is produced by NTOK Cotton, a cotton industry partnership which supports and encourages increased 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 and comments on Talkin' Cotton, contact eventerprises@hughes.net.