



NEWS RELEASE

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HIGH PLAINS COTTON production continues to increase. Kansas cotton gins are running 'round the clock to stay up with the record crop. The new Plains Cotton Cooperative Assn. storage warehouse at Liberal, Kansas, is the largest cotton storage facility under one roof in the US. With over seven acres under one roof, it is already full of cotton. A new storage building is being built adjacent to the current facility, Jim Pittman, warehouse manager, said. A picture of the new construction accompanies this column.



PLAINS FARMERS are enthusiastic about the prospects of cotton in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles and in southwestern Kansas. Kenny Lunsford, Guymon, Oklahoma farmer, is working with five eight row cotton harvesters and four module builders to harvest his 5,000 acres of irrigated cotton and 1,000 acres of dryland cotton.

Lunsford, interviewed this week by NTOKCotton, said his center-pivot irrigated cotton is averaging 1,100 pounds of lint cotton per acre. Based on these record yields, Lunsford and other farmers are thinking seriously about more increases in cotton acreage for the 2006 crop year.

"I believe I will plant 8,000 acres of irrigated cotton in the spring," Lunsford said. "If we have enough ground moisture, I will plant more dryland cotton, too."

MORE COTTON EVERYWHERE is expected, according to the latest USDA forecast. This month's forecasts for 2005-06 include higher production, exports and ending stocks compared with last month. Production is raised two percent to a record 23.7 million bales, due mainly to increases for Texas and Georgia.

Domestic mill use is unchanged and exports are raised 200,000 bales to a record 16.3 million bales. Ending stocks are raised six percent to 6.9 million bales. The world 2005-06 forecasts include modest increases in all categories. Beginning stocks are raised for India and Pakistan, due to prior year adjustments.

World production is slightly higher, as increases for the US, Pakistan, Australia, Syria and Burkina Faso more than offset reductions for India, Turkey and others. Consumption is raised mainly in China, based on recent yarn production. World trade is also raised slightly as higher imports by China and Turkey partially offset by lower imports by Pakistan. World ending stocks are forecast 1.5 percent above last month. (This information courtesy of the AgWeb.)

TALKIN' COTTON is a feature of NTOK Cotton, a cotton industry partnership which encourages increased cotton production on the Rolling Plains of North Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. For more in-depth information on the cotton scene, check out our website ntokcotton.org. For comments or questions about Talkin' Cotton, contact us at 580-569-4073 or on the web at lventerprise@westok.net.
