

## TALKIN' COTTON



Oklahoma State University Extension cotton personnel have a new tool to use: a Lee cotton weigh wagon. The boll buggy, shown here, has integral digital scales which allows Extension specialists to work directly with producers with their equipment to conduct replicated large plot trials in the future. Standing in front of the weigh wagon are:

Harvey Schroeder, exec. dir., Oklahoma Cotton Council; Jay Halsted, Mountain View, OK, cotton producer; Shane Osborne, OSU Associate Extension Specialist; Clint Halsted, Mountain View, OK, producer and brother to Jay; and Dr. Randy Boman, OSU Research Director and Cotton Extension Program Leader. (NTOK Cotton photo)

CARNEGIE, OK - Dr. Randy Boman, Oklahoma State University Research Director and Cotton Extension Leader, has a new tool to use in helping Oklahoma cotton producers grow the best cotton they can.

It is a Lee weigh wagon. It is a cotton boll buggy fitted with integral digital scales which will enable the OSU Extension cotton specialists and county educators to work directly with producers and their equipment to conduct replicated large plot trials in the future.

"This can simplify some things such as planting and harvesting operations, as most of our small plot equipment is set for 40-inch rows," Boman said. "Producers typically use varying row widths and, the Halsted brothers plant their cotton in a 36-inch row spacing."

The weigh wagon was bought using grant funds from the Oklahoma Cotton Council with additional support from the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station.

"We want to thank all involved in helping the OSU Southwest Research and Extension Center acquire this important tool to complement our existing equipment. It will be extensively used in the future," Boman said.

Boman explained this is the first modern Lee weigh wagon to be used by OSU Extension cotton specialists. Boman used several of the wagons while working for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in the Texas High Plains.

Boman and Shane Osborne, OSU Associate Extension Specialist, took the weigh wagon on the road this week. They traveled to Carnegie and Hydro, OK, to work with producers harvesting cotton. "There are only a few places in Oklahoma where there is

any cotton to harvest this year due to the severe drought," Boman said. "One of those areas is in Caddo County near Carnegie."

Using the weigh wagon, harvested cotton was transferred from the producer's boll buggy to be weighed. After weighing, the cotton was then transferred to a module builder to be pressed into a large module on the field turn row. When it is time to gin the module, a module truck from the Carnegie Farmers Co-op Gin will haul it in to be processed into lint bales.

Jay and Clint Halsted, Mountain View, OK producers, were the hosts for the weigh wagon activities. Representing a few of the lucky cotton producers who are harvesting a good cotton crop this year, they are harvesting 900 acres of irrigated cotton. The majority of their cotton is watered with pivot systems. FiberMax 1740 B2F and 2484 B2F are the varieties they are using this year.

Third-generation producers, the Halsteds also farm winter wheat, corn, soybeans and alfalfa. Clint, 30, is single. Jay, 36, and his wife, Rebecca, have three children: Trace, 13, Kylee, 4, and Raylee, 17 months. "Young producers like the Halsted brothers are the hope of the future for agriculture," Harvey Schroeder, Oklahoma Cotton Council executive director, said. "Anymore, it is extremely difficult for younger generations to get into farming. We need all of the young producers we can get."

FREE ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS are now available from the Oklahoma Farm Service Agency through their GovDelivery electronic news service, according to Francie Tolle, Oklahoma FSA exec, dir.

News can be sent by email to producers' homes or offices or to a Smartphone. This will allow producers to receive immediate notification of farm program news that is pertinent to agriculture.

Producers will be able to make subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program information by topic, by state and/or county. Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in different counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest.

According to Tolle, GovDelivery is a one stop shop for the most recent USDA program information. If, after using this online system, producers no longer wish to receive hard copy newsletters from their local county office, they should contact the office and make their preference known; /

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