

by Vic Schoonover

NTOK Cotton



Snyder, Ok.- NTOK Cotton, North Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas Cotton, gives you the second picture of the pivot irrigation cotton located southwest of this Kiowa County town.

The second picture was taken June 29, 2011, almost a month from the date the acreage was planted. At least two more applications of water have been placed on the field; water being applied on the day the second picture was taken. In the far background of the picture, the viewer may be able to see the water being sprayed on the cotton.

Perhaps the only reliable, season-long source of soil moisture for cotton and other warm-season crops will be where farmers have access to irrigation wells. With no rain clouds in sight, it would be interesting to observe the progression of a cotton field watered with a center-pivot irrigation system.. Such a field is located southwest of Snyder, OK; a little west of Snyder and just south of HW62.

Cotton, the variety FiberMax 1740 B2F, was planted there May 10. The crop belongs to Joe and John Bates, Altus, Ok., who farm in Jackson and Kiowa Counties. The field is the responsibility of John's son, Billy Bob Bates.

"We planted the crop dry," Billy Bob said. "After the plants had come up, we put about .8 of an inch of rain on it to get it started growing. We will water it again this week (June 7, 2011)."

"Availability of water will be the deciding factor on the success of this year's cotton crop," said Dr. Randy Boman, director of the Oklahoma State University cotton production program.

Also the director of the OSU Southwest Research and Extension Center south of Altus on HW283, Boman explained farmers in the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District have been limited to six acre inches of water this season for their crops. "Most farmers will probably use that six inches to their best advantage for their crops," he said. "After that, unless enough rain falls north of Lake Altus to recharge the lake, the crops in the irrigation district will have to depend on what rain may fall." Lake Altus is only at 47 percent capacity when the irrigation run was initiated.

Bates said the seed planted in the field near Snyder had been treated with Acceleron to combat thrips. Bates said the field contains approximately 105 acres.

As an indicator of the progression of the 2011 cotton crop, North Texas, Oklahoma and Texas Cotton will disseminate pictures and information on this field of pivot-irrigated cotton throughout the season.

NTOK Cotton is a cotton industry partnership which supports and encourages increased cotton production in the Rolling Plains of North Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. For information on the cotton scene, see ntokcotton.org. and okiecotton.org. For comments or questions about this article or NTOK Cotton, contact bustersbarn1@yahoo.com.