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About Cotton Newsletter:

The cotton newsletter is a tri-annual publication from the Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University (NMSU) targeted towards providing current production information for cotton growers, educators and other stakeholders in the cotton industry. We plan to provide information about current issues and challenges facing the cotton industry in New Mex-

ico and the on-going efforts of researchers at NMSU, the cotton task force and other contributors, in addressing these problems. Our aim is to attract more interest in cotton production within the State of New Mexico by providing information on recent advances in cotton production and processing which includes agronomic and cultural practices suited to different parts of New Mexico. We also want to promote value added products of cotton such as utilization of gin

trash, edible glandless cotton seeds and biofuel production from cotton seed oil. We welcome regular contributions from our stakeholders in form of short notes or announcements. Please feel free to send your comments, information and contributions to Dr. John Idowu, MSC 3AE, PO Box 30003, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8003

email: jidowu@nmsu.edu
phone: 575-646-2571

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Summary of the 2010 New Mexico Cotton Growers Association Conference:

The 2010 NM Cotton Growers Conference was held on January 27, 2010 at the Ruidoso Convention Center, Ruidoso, NM. It was attended by growers, educators, representatives from chemical, seed and biotech companies, scientists and other stakeholders in the cotton industry. The conference featured topics related to integrated pest management, value added products of cotton, organic cotton production, no-till cotton production, precision cotton management and updates on both the NMSU cotton breeding program and the USDA cotton ginning laboratory. Tom Wedegaertner from Cotton Incorporated in North Carolina presented information on glandless cotton. Glandless cotton contains no gossypol, a chemical substance that makes cotton seeds inedible for human consumption. With the absence of gossypol, the cotton seed become a rich source of protein, capable of replacing peanuts in food products. The allergy issues associated with peanut products can be avoided by using the glandless cotton seeds. Tom highlighted the possible uses of the glandless cotton seeds in production of ice cream, butter, snack bars, etc. The market for the glandless cotton is yet to emerge fully, and will depend on the demand by the food industries.

Greg Holt from USDA-ARS Cotton Research Laboratory in Lubbock, TX presented on the utilization of cotton by-products. His presentation highlighted a variety of uses of gin trash. Utility of gin trash includes processing as high energy roughage for ruminant livestock; packaging and insulation materials; fuel source for residential and industrial purposes; building materials; and erosion control products for grass seed establishment. The gin trash is passed through processes such as sizing, sorting, grinding, densifying and fiberizing to make it useful as a raw material for these various products.

Organic cotton production appears to be a viable alternative production system in NM, especially that the demand and the price for organic cotton is presently very high. Cotton Producer Dosi Alvarez spoke on his organic cotton production system and how to start growing organic cotton.

Scientists from NMSU presented on production aspects of cotton which included precision cotton management, new cotton germplasm lines and cultivars, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in cotton and no-till cotton production. Representatives from Dow AgroSciences and Bayer Crop Science also presented information on chemical products and cotton cultivars available to NM growers from their respective companies.

Glandless Cotton Research in NM

The Cotton Incorporated is currently funding a project entitled “Yield Potential, Fiber Quality and Adaptability of Glandless Cotton in New Mexico”. A glandless cotton cultivar (Acala GLS) will be evaluated in NM. Field trials will be conducted at the Leyendecker Plant Science Center, Las Cruces and the Artesia Agricultural Science Center, Artesia, to evaluate this Acala cultivar. Additionally, we will be working with four growers in Mesilla Valley and Artesia to try out Acala GLS on their farms. At the end of this project, we hope to disseminate information on how Acala GLS cotton performs at the various trial sites.

Cotton Prices

Cotton Monthly Prices Index*

MONTH	PRICE (cents/pound)
July, 2009	64.80
August, 2009	64.26
September, 2009	64.07
October, 2009	66.82
November, 2009	71.78
December, 2009	76.78
January, 2010	77.39
February, 2010	80.05

*Source: National Cotton council of America

The Cotton Task Force

The Southwest cotton industry has a long, distinguished heritage and an array of distinctive characteristics. To date, changes in the global cotton industry have negatively impacted the Southwest cotton industry leading to a declining cotton production.

In 2009 the industry’s leadership determined it would be timely to engage in a strategic planning process, broadly focused on the future of the industry. These strategic planning involved individuals from the cotton industry, farmers, scientists and other stakeholders who are committed to working together to accomplish goals determined in the planning.

During the planning sessions, members of the Cotton Task Force were asked to project forward to 2014 and asked what a desirable future for the industry would look like. This led to the development of the following strategic goals for the Southwest Cotton Industry

- The SW Cotton Industry has a unified and cooperative regional marketing program and advertising campaign for the industry that emphasizes the special qualities of the region’s products and targets more discerning and knowledgeable consumers (Specialization & Marketing).
- The SW Cotton Industry has established a high priority research and development program focused on a uniquely SW/New Mexican identity that emphasizes quality and production efficiencies for our industry and our products (R & D and Implementation).

- The SW Cotton Industry is an attractive option for the region's producers (Profitability).
- The SW Cotton Industry has increased production to levels consistent with supporting the infrastructure necessary for a viable industry (Infrastructure)
- Trade & farm policies relevant to the SW Cotton Industry create a level playing field (Trade Policy/Farm Policy).

The collective vision for the Southwest cotton industry overwhelmingly reflects the desire of industry's members to collaborate among each other and with public and private entities to develop a better future for the industry. The outcome of the Cotton task Force session revealed that the participants were focused on moving the Southwest Cotton Industry to new levels, with collaboration and vision to create a distinctive and recognized industry associated with quality and profitability.

The Cotton Task Force is currently exploring alternative methods to add value to the cotton crop. These include exploring glandless cotton seed production in the Mesilla Valley; using Acala and Pima cotton seed oil for biofuel; using the byproduct of oil seed production as animal feed; using gin trash for erosion control materials; and marketing Acala 1517 "White Sands Cotton" as a conventional premium fiber to specialty markets. There is little control over the price of lint but there is opportunity in adding value through the byproducts of cotton. We hope to have another Cotton Task Force meeting later this summer. If you are interested in attending please contact Tracey Carrillo at 575-646-4125 or at tcarrill@nmsu.edu

A New Acala 1517 Cotton Cultivar

The Cotton Breeding Program at New Mexico State University, in collaboration with the USDA-ARS Southwest Cotton Ginning Research Laboratory, has developed a new Acala cotton cultivar 'Acala 1517-08' (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.) that possesses superior Acala cotton type fiber quality and high yield potential. Acala 1517-08 was tested in 16 replicated field tests in New Mexico from 2003 to 2009, four locations in east Arizona and the High Plains of Texas in 2004, 2006 and 2008, and 14 locations/tests in the Southeast, Mid-south U.S. and Southern Texas in 2006 and 2008. Acala 1517-08 had similar or significantly higher lint yield than the standard 'Acala 1517-99' across all the environments tested (averaged 15.2% higher in New Mexico and 16.2% higher in the Southeast and Mid-south). Its yield was also consistently and significantly higher (28.9%) than Acala 1517-99 in east Arizona and the Texas High Plains. Its lint yield was comparable to or significantly higher than that of 'PHY 72 Acala'. On average, Acala 1517-08 displayed higher lint percentage and fiber elongation, and longer and stronger fibers than Acala 1517-99, but with smaller seed size, similar boll size and higher micronaire. Acala 1517-08 is best adapted to the southwest arid region of the Cotton Belt where Acala 1517 have been grown, representing a new conventional Acala 1517 cotton cultivar with higher yield potential, and longer and stronger fibers. For more information contact Dr. Jinfa Zhang at 575- 646-3438 or at jinzhang@nmsu.edu. For seed availability, contact Tracey Carrillo at 575-646-4125 or at tcarrill@nmsu.edu.

Publication Team:

John Idowu (jidowu@nmsu.edu)

Tracey Carrillo (tcarrill@nmsu.edu)

Jinfa Zhang (jinzhang@nmsu.edu)

Robert Flynn (rflynn@nmsu.edu)



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