Floyd County Ag Newsletter

CRISTEN BROOKS CEA-AG/NR * 110 S WALL ST * FLOYDADA, TX

Issue 3

July 2015

Floyd/Swisher/Hale County Mobile Field Day Set for Tuesday, July 14th

Floyd, Swisher and Hale Counties will be hosting a mobile field day on Tuesday, July 14 in Plainview and the surrounding area at 9:00 am.

It will be a mobile field tour starting at Halfway with a sugarcane aphid update and field scouting. After that the tour will continue on to Springer Farms where we will take a look at a 2015 residual cotton herbicide in no-till trial. Afterwards we will do some cotton and corn field scouting. From there the tour will continue on to various sites to look at soil moisture retention. The last stop will be the 2015 Verdesian Field Trial, which are rescue treatments for cotton at the Benny Rodriguez Farm located on FM 145 West of Kress to CR 11.

Everyone will meet at the Halfway Station located at 823 West U.S. Highway 70 at 9:00 am to start the tour. From Plainview go west on US-70 for approximately 10 miles, it will be located on the south side of the road before you reach FM—1070. Cost to attend is $10.00 and lunch will be provided. 3 CEU's are being offered for this tour.

For more information please contact Cristen Brooks at the Floyd County Extension Office at 806-983-4912.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in an Extension sponsored activity are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (806)995-3726 by July10, 2015 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

MOBILE FIELD DAY

TUESDAY, JULY 14TH

9AM

MEET AT THE HALFWAY STATION LOCATED AT 823 W. US HWY 70

Dealing With Foot Rot in Cattle Herds

Due to the amount of moisture we have received this spring foot rot in cattle is starting to become more prevalent in and around Floyd County. This condition is a decaying infectious disease of cattle, causing swelling and lameness in at least one foot. This disease can cause numerous problems

Inside this issue:

Dealing With Foot Rot in Cattle Herds

"FOOT ROT IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF LAMENESS IN CATTLE AND CAN HAVE A SEVERE ECONOMIC EFFECT ON THE FARM. FOR TREATMENT TO BE EFFECTIVE, IT MUST BE STARTED EARLY IN THE COURSE OF THE DISEASE. "

for your cow herd including severe lameness, decreased weight gain, and reluctance to breed. If left un-treated it can spread into other structures in the foot and may require that animal to be culled.

According to the article "Foot Rot in Cattle," published by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, normal healthy skin will not allow foot rot to occur. It happens when there has been some kind of mechanical injury, like a puncture, or hoof softening occurs due to wet conditions. High temperatures and humidity will also cause the skin to crack or be compromised allowing infection to enter.

So how do you treat and prevent foot rot? Dr. Ted McCollum, Beef Cattle Specialist with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service has a few pointers to help you out if you're struggling with this issue. "First, Make certain a complete mineral supplement with at least 2000 ppm Zinc is available. Complete means all minerals, not just salt or trace mineral salt. Do not put white salt out. This will inhibit supplement consumption. Zinc aids in hoof integrity. Second, purchase a mineral supplement containing chlortetracycline (CTC). These are available from most major feed companies. The low level CTC in the feed aids in prevention and can act as therapy in mild cases. Third, supplemental iodine can also aid in prevention. Fourth, put cattle with foot rot on dry ground, and possibly mellow ground, until healed and use the measures above. If a foot rot "storm" is occurring in a group, move the entire group to a dry area. Including watering sites that are not standing water or that the cattle have to walk or stand in. Lastly, check with a veterinarian on treatment of active cases. Injectable tetracyclines were conventional treatments. Other newer age antibiotics may be used with veterinarian authorization."

Foot rot is a major cause of lameness in cattle and can have a severe economic effect on the farm. For treatment to be effective, it must be started early in the course of the disease. It is necessary to have a break in skin integrity for foot rot to occur. The most important preventive measures are centered on the protection of interdigital skin health. ("Foot Rot in Cattle," Oklahoma Extension Service)

For more help controlling foot rot please call the Floyd County Extension Service at (806) 983-4912.

Hedging and Options Strategies for Your Cotton Crop

By: Dr. John Robinson: Professor and Extension Economist

Hedging 2014 Crop. 2014 was a good example of how it is never too early to be thinking about hedging. Ordinarily, the large time value in options make them too expensive to consider in the year preceding the futures contract expiration. But low volatility in 2014 made put options and put spreads on Dec'14 relatively cheap between October 2013 and May 2014. For example, back in October 2013, a 77 put option on Dec'14 cotton futures traded for about 4.5 cents per pound. As the Dec'14 future price fluctuated during Nov-Dec, 77 puts traded between five and six cents per pound. Having such a position would have protected

Hedging and Options Strategies for Your Cotton Crop (Cont)

Texas growers from 2014 cash prices declining below 68 cents. Of course, it would have been cheaper to buy this insurance back in May 2014. Another slightly more complicated approach would have been to buy a 77 put and sell a 70 put. In late June 2014, this "bear put spread" position traded for roughly 2.5 cents per pound. That represents an insurance premium that grower would have paid for long-term insurance against the risk of a decline in Dec'14 futures down to 70 cents.

2015 is a bit different since we never really had a strong rally that brought cotton prices back up to meaningful, hedgeable levels. Thus current put option strategies will lock in a flexible floor at a sub-profitable level,. There is not a lot of difference between a mid-60s strike put option and simply relying on the loan rate for down-side price protection. Growers can still be paying attention to any strong (and perhaps fleeting) rallies in the futures market. If, say, a weather market pushes cotton futures over 70 cents during the summer, you might consider putting on a put or put spread position somewhere near-the-money.

Put options strategies generally have the advantage of providing a flexible floor against falling cash prices while allowing for upside potential while the crop remains unsold until harvest. Another way of doing this would be to sell a futures contract and buy an at-the-money call option. Both of these strategies assume that growers would have cotton bales to sell in the harvest-time cash market (that is what gives you the upside potential). Many growers (especially dryland growers) face too much production risk to assume a crop at harvest time. In that case, the two hedging strategies described above could be applied covering a level of production at or just below the grower's APH yield*Revenue Policy coverage level. Both of these strategies still face basis risk.

A third way of implementing a flexible floor is to match cash contracts (either forward or at harvest) with at-the-money call options. The cash contract sets the floor protection (and eliminates basis risk) and the call option allows for upside price potential. Of course, forward cash contracts can impose a lot of yield and quality risk on growers.

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Sick Plant Diagnosis Help

The Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (TPDDL) is a service and effort of the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology at Texas A&M University in conjunction with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. This laboratory provides plant disease diagnostic services to AgriLife Extension personnel, homeowners, farmers, greenhouse and nursery producers, landscape contractors, interiorscapers, arborists, consultants, and any other group or individual needing accurate identification of plant disease problems. The TPDDL strives to provide the most accurate and rapid plant disease diagnosis together with recommendations for effective plant disease management.

For More information please visit http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/solutions/sick-plant-diagnosis/

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We're on the web!

floyd-tx.tamu.edu

Meeting Invites/Updates Via Text and Email

If you would like to receive meeting announcements, updates and reminders please contact the Floyd County Extension Office with your email address as well as a cell phone number. We will be sure to send out all events through multiple platforms, however, we have found that text messages are sometimes the quickest and simplest way to inform local area producers of what meetings are coming up in Extension. Our office phone # is (806) 983-4912, email at Floyd-tx@tamu.edu, OR send a text message to Cristen Brooks' cell phone at (806) 317-2877 that you would like to enroll in meeting reminders.

New Floyd County Agriculture Blog

To stay up to date on the latest agriculture information from the Floyd County Extension Office please book mark the new blog web site!

www.floydcountyag.wordpress.com