

Floyd County Ag Newsletter



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

Issue 3

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Caprock Crops Production Ag Conference Set for Jan. 22nd, 2016

The 2016 Caprock Crops Production Ag Conference will be held on Friday, January 22nd at the Unity Center in Muncy.

This will be the 22nd year of the joint ag conference between Floyd and Crosby counties. We will be covering a variety of topics that are relevant to ag producers in the area. Some possible topics include weed control and new cotton technologies, entomology (bug) issues,

cotton disease issues, legal concerns such as land/leases and Waters of the US, as well as other ag related topics.

Lunch will be provided as well as coffee and donuts.

CEU's will be handed out at the conference, however, the categories and amount are still yet to be determined. Typically we offer anywhere from 5-7 CEU's.

The registration fee is \$35 for early registration and \$45 at the door.

More information regarding times, speakers, sponsors and vendors will be sent out as we get closer to the date of the event.

If you have any questions regarding this year's conference or would like to register for the event please contact the Floyd County Extension Office at (806) 983-4912

CAPROCK CROPS
 PRODUCTION AG
 CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, JAN 22ND

UNITY CENTER AT
 MUNCY

2016 Upland Cotton Marketing Assistance Loan Rate Announced



WASHINGTON, Oct. 1, 2015 –

Commodity Credit Corporation Executive Vice President Val Dolcini today announced the marketing assistance loan rate for 2016-crop base quality upland cotton.

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2016 Upland Cotton Marketing Assistance Loan Rate Announced Cont'd

BECAUSE THE CALCULATION EXCEEDED THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED LEVEL, THE 2016-CROP MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOAN RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON IS SET AT 52 CENTS PER POUND.

Base quality upland cotton has the following characteristics: color grade 41, leaf grade 4, staple length 1-1/16 inches, micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 26.0-28.9 grams per tex, and length uniformity of 80.0-81.9 percent.

The 2014 Farm Bill sets the base quality marketing assistance loan rate for upland cotton at the simple average of the adjusted prevailing world price for the two immediately pre-

ceding marketing years, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture and announced Oct. 1, before the next domestic plantings. The marketing assistance loan rate cannot be less than 45 cents per pound or greater than 52 cents per pound.

Because the calculation exceeded the maximum allowed level, the 2016-crop marketing assistance loan rate for upland cotton is set at 52 cents per pound.

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2016/17 Fundamentals, Outlook, and Caveats

By: Dr. John Robinson

There is little in the way of publicly available supply and demand forecasts for the 2016 cotton supply and demand variables. To start with, the realized carry-over from the 2015 crop will be anybody's guess. As of August, USDA is forecasting 3.1 million bales of carry-in from the 2015 crop. Second, China's lingering influence on demand for U.S. exports will continue to be an issue. Third, there it is very likely that it will be a wet winter, based on the ongoing El Niño forecast. So,

2016 might be similar to 2015 with a relatively small amount of cotton acreage is planted, followed by a weather market situation as we realize how ample moisture does or doesn't compensate for low acreage. If history is a guide, we could have droughty, La Niña conditions kick in later in 2016. That could set the 2016 crop up for much lower production. The futures market provides a forecast of what supply, demand, and price conditions might be. Dec'16 ICE cotton futures have traded between 62 and 66 cents since January of 2015. This is very

similar to the futures price levels for the 2015 crop. One caveat to using the futures market is that only about 1.5% of the open interest is in the Dec'16 contract. In other words, not many traders are putting their money where their mouth is. 2016 futures prices for competing crops like corn, soybeans, and hard red winter wheat show that corn and wheat will be at least as competitive for cotton ground as they were in 2015. At any rate, the markets are not indicating any reason for a big swing in acreage back to cotton.



Winterizing the Home Lawn

By: Chad Gulley
County Extension Agent—
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Smith County

Many homeowners work hard to maintain and manage their lawns to add aesthetic value to their property. A well-kept lawn adds to the satisfaction of their property. Lawn maintenance, for some, can be a year round project. There are several things the home owner can do to prepare their lawns for winter.

First, raise your mower height to a higher level to reduce stress on grasses as they enter the dormant period. Mower heights vary among the various grass species. Common Bermuda grass should be left at 2 to 2.5 inches. Hybrid Bermuda grasses should be left at 1 to 1.5 inches. Buffalo grass should be left at 2 to 3 inches.

Second, apply your last fertilizer applications for the year at least 30 days prior to the first frost date in your area. Fertilizer applications need only be applied to grasses that are actively growing. Homeowners should soil test and fertilize according to the soil test recommendations. A spring fertilizer

application should also be made at least 30 days after the last frost date in your area to help these warm season grasses as well.

Some people over-seed each year with a cool season grass variety to keep a green, pretty lawn year round. If you over-seed with a cool season grass then you will need to fertilize this winter. A late fall and winter application will be required. During the fall and winter, an application of 75% of the total nitrogen requirements for the grass species should be sufficient.

Third, be sure to keep an eye out for diseases and other pest problems. Apply irrigation on an as needed basis. Even though many warm season grasses have gone dormant, these grasses are still alive and will require water to survive. Adequate amounts of rainfall should be sufficient. If we have a dry winter, irrigation even during winter months, can help keep lawns alive. Too much or too little water can cause problems such as turf grass diseases.

There are two main diseases that cause many problems for most home lawns. These diseases are Brown Patch and Take-All

Root Rot. Brown patch is a fungus that attacks many lawns, especially St. Augustine, Centipede, and Zoysia grasses.

Take-All Root Rot is a soil borne fungi that attacks the root system of the grass, especially when the temperatures are in the 60 to 65 degree F range. All grasses are capable of being attacked by take-all, but St. Augustine is the most effected grasses in home lawns. Symptoms of take-all include thin, yellow patches of St. Augustine or large patches of totally dead grass. White grub damage can also be diagnosed as take-all root rot, but with white grubs the roots will be completely eaten off. The fungus produces hyphopodia, small lobed structures that allow the fungus to penetrate the roots and stolons. Once inside the roots and stolons the fungus proceeds to grow into the vascular tissue causing plugging which reduces the ability of the roots and stolons to provide water to the leaves.

Winterizing the home lawn can help prepare the roots and grass species to over winter and to assist in transition come spring time.



“LAWN MAINTENANCE, FOR SOME, CAN BE A YEAR ROUND PROJECT. THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS THE HOME OWNER CAN DO TO PREPARE THEIR LAWNS FOR WINTER.”

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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