

Floyd County Ag Newsletter



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Issue 7

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Caprock Crops Production Conference Scheduled for January 18th

The 2017 Caprock Crops Production Ag Conference will be held on Wednesday, January 18th at the Unity Center in Muncy.

This will be the 23rd 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, ag law hot topics, 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.

To register or for more information please contact the Floyd County Extension Office at 806-983-4912.

CAPROCK CROPS PRODUCTION CONFERENCE

**WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 18TH,
2017**

Cotton Harvest Aids

Dr. Seth Byrd, Assistant Professor, Dr. Wayne Keeling, Professor, Dr. Gaylon Morgan, Professor

Application of harvest-aids in cotton are utilized to remove foliage, prevent regrowth, and open bolls to allow for timely harvest operations to occur so that yield and quality losses due to weathering can be minimized. Defoliation and boll opening are natural processes governed by plant hormones, so harvest-aids are used to speed up these naturally occurring

processes. The timing of harvest-aid applications is primarily governed by crop maturity, but environmental conditions also play a role in timing of application, the products used, as well as rates.

Recommendations regarding the timing of applications are based off crop maturity status and there are various methods or crop growth maturity characteristics utilized. The most common recom-

mendations are timing applications at: 1. Four nodes from the uppermost first position cracked boll to the uppermost first position harvestable boll (4 NACB) and; 2. 60-70% of the harvestable bolls on the plant are open (60-70% open bolls). However, these two methods are often not correlated to the same time, in other words 4 NACB doesn't necessarily equate to 60-70% open bolls so a combination of the two may be used, and timing of harvest-aid

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Cotton Harvest Aids cont'd

“THE TIMING OF HARVEST-AID APPLICATIONS IS PRIMARILY GOVERNED BY CROP MATURITY, BUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ALSO PLAY A ROLE IN TIMING OF APPLICATION, THE PRODUCTS USED, AS WELL AS RATES.”

applications should be made on a field by field basis. Boll distribution, variety maturity, and management practices can impact both of these measurements, and in-field variability of NACB and % open bolls can be high, so taking into account the status of the majority of the plants in the field is recommended. Both of these measurements should be based on the amount of harvestable bolls on the plants, so only mature bolls should be taken into account. While harvest-aids can hasten the natural process of defoliation and boll opening, they do not influence boll maturity. Boll maturity can be determined by slicing the boll horizontally to expose the developing lint and seeds.

A mature boll should be firm and difficult to slice, with mature seeds (fully developed cotyledons with little liquid or “jelly” in the seeds) with a dark seed coat, with the lint stringing-out when the two halves are separated. A wide array of harvest-aid products are available for use in cotton. These products typically fall into one of four general categories, boll openers, defoliants, regrowth control, and desiccants, although some products may serve multiple purposes. For example, boll openers (active ingredient – ethephon) will provide some defoliation, especially in warm sunny conditions.

Product selection and use rates are dependent upon environmental conditions at application and in the short-term (3 – 5 days) following application.

For tables that provide harvest aid recommendations, and general information on the function of the different active ingredients, use rates, and some common names of products please contact Cristen Brooks at the Floyd County Extension Office for the full harvest aid guide.

As always, follow the label regarding use rates and adjuvants/surfactants. Many product labels will also include information on rates base on environmental conditions (mainly temperature and humidity).

Herbicide Drift: How to Avoid It

This article taken from <http://westernfarmpress.com/grapes/herbicide-drift-how-avoid-it?page=3>

How to reduce Herbicide Drift:

The first thing an herbicide applicator has to do is to read labels for droplet size requirements of the herbicide and then set up equipment to ensure drift minimization. A drift can be minimized by selecting appropriate nozzle

type and pressure with due consideration for the weather conditions, most importantly the wind velocity and temperature inversions. Transport of herbicide away from the target area could be under the influence of gravity, buoyancy and wind. In this case, large droplets may fall faster than small droplets. In other words, the higher the droplet is released, the further it will move away from the target area because there is more time for the wind to

move the droplet before it lands. Hence, an herbicide drift is closely related to boom or flying height. In drift prone conditions, boom should be operated at lowest height possible. Decreasing nozzle spacing will also allow boom to be operated at a lower height. Temperature inversions would occur when warmer, less-dense air moves over cooler, denser air. The situation could create subtle horizontal air flows that can



Herbicide Drift: How to Avoid It cont'd

move concentrated amounts of spray long distances. Herbicide applicators should make clear understanding of the following aspects before and during herbicide applications;

(1) Before spraying

- Always check for susceptible crops in the area.
- Recognize all sensitive areas (wildlife and people).
- Know what is around the application site.
- Notify neighbors of your spraying intentions.
- When spraying, record weather and relevant spray details.

During spraying

(2) During spraying

- Always monitor weather conditions and understand their effects. Do not spray if unsuitable, and stop if conditions change.
- Minimize spray release height.

- Select herbicide type to minimize potential drift. Always use least-volatile formulation available. If sensitive crops in area, use least damaging herbicides. If possible, add drift retardant.

- Keep a supply of various nozzle types.
- Spray early morning when wind is still calm.
- Have ultimate control of drift management.

There is a legal aspect of herbicide drift from the Agricultural Practices (Disputes) point of view, registration of chemicals and the Environmental Protection Act. In addition to crop yield loss legal suite, the Department of Environmental Protection can prosecute a person that "causes or allows to be caused pollution". Herbicide drifts can be simply prevented or reduced, if properly handled. In all cases, one should avoid spraying during certain weather conditions

such as midday turbulence, high temperature, high humidity and still conditions (high wind).

Documenting chemical drift (required information)

- Date of application and herbicide/tank-mix information.
- Herbicide name and rate.
- Wind direction, speed and temperature.
- Type of applicator, boom height, nozzle type, spray pressure, nozzle orientation and spray volume.
- If crop damage occurred, record crop and herbicide history of the damaged field, map of the area, yield loss estimates to predict the extent of damage and of course take a large number of high-quality photographs.



Veterinary Feed Directive

Beginning January 1, 2017 purchasing feed containing antibiotics or purchasing antibiotics for administration through water will require livestock owners to have a working relationship (VCPR) with their veterinarian. A Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) is similar to the relationship one would

have with their family doctor. The livestock owner, should initiate the VCPR prior to the beginning of the feeding period.

The current VFD has been in place since 1996, however January 1st changes impacting livestock owners will become effective. Antibiotics used in feed or water require veterinary over-

sight.

The changes will also affect antibiotics administered through water, which require a veterinarian's prescription. I

For now we suggest the following, be proactive, schedule a visit with your veterinarian to discuss your plans in order to establish a VCPR as appropriate.

"JANUARY 1ST
CHANGES
IMPACTING
LIVESTOCK
OWNERS WILL
BECOME EFFECTIVE."

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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



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