

Cotton IPM/ICM Working Group

Maricopa Ag Center

Friday, June 29, 2007

Attending Members:

Russ Tronstad
Trent Teegerstrom
Jay Subramani
Randy Norton
Eric Norton
Bill McCloskey
Erin Taylor
Peter Ellsworth
Kurt Nolte
Al Fournier

I. Cotton Program Planning

- Randy:** A fall field day is scheduled in Safford on October 10th.
No summer 07 workshop is scheduled.
Eastern AZ cotton looks good with little insect pressure at the moment.
- Kurt:** No summer 07 workshop is scheduled.
Cotton continues to look good despite extreme temperatures.
- Erin:** Planning a summer 07 workshop.
Will plan the workshop with Kevin Rice after he starts (July 9).
Also, planning a field day (date TBA).
- Eric:** A late season workshop is scheduled for 8/27.
- Russ:** Cotton Report. Russ led a discussion concerning the fees for printing the report.
The group agreed that printing costs (~\$10/copy) will be taken out of working group funds.
100 copies of the Cotton Report is the printing target number.

II. Cotton Pest Management Strategic Plan Workshop (May 24, 2007; MAC)

Al: We held a one-day workshop to develop a Pest Management Strategic Plan (PMSP) for desert cotton production in Arizona and the Imperial Valley of California. This workshop brought together selected growers, commodity association members, researchers, pest control advisors, regulators and industry professionals, to compile the best available pest management information for desert cotton production and to identify critical pest management issues and needs. The resulting document, or "PMSP," still in progress, will prioritize stakeholder needs and provide a means for communicating those needs to research, grower and policy maker communities.

Al: Reminded everyone of their homework assignments and that many of the assignments have been completed. The suggested due date for all assignments is July 2.

Randy: Suggested that some of the information being developed for the PMSP document (as well as the AZ-CPA PCA Manual) be made in to an Extension Publication which was well received among group members.

III. Update on New Hire(s): County agents & positions at MAC/Yuma

Agent Positions

- **Maricopa and Pinal County agent positions** have been filled. Erin Taylor (Area Agent, Maricopa County) started in June and Kevin Rice (Area Agent, Pinal County) is slated to start on July 9.
- **Urban Horticulture Agent, Yuma County.** After a candidate turned down the job offer, the position has gone back to recruitment (Job posted online at http://jobs.joe.org/search_detail.php?id=1809).

Specialist Positions

- **Cropping Systems Agronomist** (75% Extension, 25% Research), Plant Sciences position based at MAC. Bill provided news that due to the limited number of applicants, the position will be readvertised.
- **Water Quality Specialist**, focused on urban interface, based at MAC. No Report given. Committee includes: Kevin Fitzsimmons, Ed Martin, Paul Brown.
- **Assistant / Associate Specialist - Precision Agriculture**, based at MAC (70% Extension, 30% Research). Position has been filled, start date is slated for early August.
- **Graham County ANR Agent** (Randy's replacement) will be focused on watershed management; part of Extension decision package.
- **Yuma position: Mechanized Ag.** Suitable candidate has been identified and in current negotiation.

IV. Cotton Advisory Group Discussion

Peter: Led discussion about inviting regional producers to an early December/January Cotton Working Group meeting. Producers were invited to meetings when held 10 years ago. The suggestion was made to reinstate this practice. The group will further discuss this concept at the Fall Cotton Working Group meeting in Tucson.

V. Websites

Al: Provided a brief overview of the APMC website (<http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/>) and is seeking feedback regarding the structure, program areas and function of site. In particular, Al was interested in the group's feedback on a new Cotton Team webpage at http://ag.arizona.edu/apmc/cotton_team.html.

Peter: Concern was raised regarding old county information which is still "live" on the ACIS website, in particular the Cotton Advisories. It was suggested that the production updates in Yuma and Maricopa Counties should be either removed or updated.

VI. Other Business

Peter: Reviewed the process used to develop the IPM advertising brochure.

All: Discussed the timeframe for the 07/08 Cotton Insect Losses Workshop series. No dates were chosen, agents were advised to have dates available for the next meeting in October.

VII. Next Meeting / Leadership:

October 23, 2007, 1:00 – 4:00 PM in Tucson. Bill will Co-chair with Kurt (chair).

Notes by Kurt Nolte.