

# CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

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THANK YOU

## GENERAL SITUATION

Cotton harvest and ginning is complete in the St. Lawrence area and for the most part this was a good year for producers and gins. A lot of cotton was produced in our area, grown mostly on early season moisture with the exception of a few folks who caught a couple of timely rains in mid to late summer. Like so many other years, imagine what it would have been like with a good one inch rain in late July or early August. Another thing to note is that even with all of the cotton produced, folks are not running out and buying a lot of new equipment. This is a sign of the times we are currently in. Costs have risen to the point that it takes a great crop to break even. I am sure you already know this, but keep that pencil sharp; it is not going to get any better anytime soon. Fortunately we have received some moisture early this year, on the downside; it looks like cotton acres are going to increase both statewide and nationally in 2017.

## WHEAT

Wheat is just hanging out right now, but getting ready to take off and grow. With the warmer temperatures expected in the forecast it could be this week. Jacob and I were out checking some fields the other day and the growing point on non-grazed wheat is still a good  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch below the soil surface. This also depends on planting date, the latest planted fields are not that far along. If we had moisture in the forecast and you feel like the economics were there, now would be the time to get your fertilizer out. With wheat prices where they are right now, I don't know if it will pay for itself. The important thing to remember if you are going to fertilize is to get your fertilizer out before the plants start to joint. Jacob wrote a blog post that you can read on our county website at <http://glasscock.agrilife.org/>

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## COTTON

With the recent moisture a lot of field work is getting done at this time. After the last couple of years, weed control is one of our most critical issues. If you have fields that historically have problems then do something different than you have done the past several. Use a burndown, or a different burndown. I strongly suggest going back to using yellows and incorporating them properly. With the new auxin tolerant technologies coming out this year we have another option. Just use them properly. Instead of me rewriting all of his information or trying to recreate the wheel, I am going to post a newsletter from an IPM colleague of mine, Kerry Siders up in Levelland, who gave a great listing up current pre-, burn-down, and post- herbicides, use rates, some tank mix partners, and limitations. I will put this on our Glasscock County Website as well. You can also read his newsletter on Facebook at @westplainsipm

I know that a lot of you are looking at ordering seed and have been asking me about varieties. I am finishing up with trials at this time. I will have the handbook complete and ready by the Tri-County Crops Conference on February 28<sup>th</sup>.