## FUNGICIDE USE IN COTTON ON THE SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS OF TEXAS Mitchell L. Ratliff Jason E. Woodward Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Lubbock, TX

## **Abstract**

The strobilurin fungicides pyraclostrobin and azoxystrobin have recently been labeled for use in cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.). Applications of these fungicides are thought to increase yields in the absence of disease. Sixteen field trials were conducted during the 2008 and 2009 growing seasons to evaluate the response of cotton to applications of pyraclostrobin and/or azoxystrobin under varying levels of irrigation. No appreciable level of disease was observed in any trial. The use of pyraclostrobin or azoxystrobin did not improve lint yields. Likewise, there was no response to increasing rates of pyraclostrobin under any irrigation level. Micronaire, uniformity, and length were similar for all fungicide treatments, and did not differ from the non-treated controls. Yields were generally higher in fields with a greater irrigation capacity. These fungicides are commonly used in other row crops to manage foliar diseases. Reduced sensitivity to this class of fungicides has been documented. Proper use of these products should be directed toward disease management.