

REVIEW OF 2009
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Abstract

The year 2009 presented many challenges for cotton producers. Planted and harvested acreage was down the third consecutive year, a loss of approximately 35% from the average of the first half of the decade. States with the largest acreage reductions were Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and New Mexico. However, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Tennessee, and Virginia had increased acres compared to 2008. Average lint yields were slightly below the 5 year running average, but were about average for the entire decade. Total bale production was the lowest in over 10 years. The Southeast and Mid-South production areas both experienced excess rainfall during planting and harvest that compromised much of the crops potential. Major issues facing these areas are glyphosate-resistant weeds, especially Palmer amaranth, and replacing longstanding varieties DP 555 BG/RR, DP 445 BG/RR, and DP 444 BG/RR with new multi-gene Bt cultivars. Several areas face declining cotton infrastructure, gins, warehouses, and local labor, due to continued reduced plantings. In southwestern planting states the year started out dry and establishing stands on dry-land acres was difficult at best. South Texas was drought stricken most of the growing season and had significantly reduced acres by harvest. In the west, Arizona and California had better than average yields even with continuing competition for water resources. Potential for increased acreage exists in the west due to declining dairy industry in Arizona, and reduced competition from processing tomatoes in California. In the Mid-South and Southeast acreage changes will depend on cotton's price per pound compared to grain crops.