## EFFECT OF DIRECTIONAL AESTIVATION UPON FIBER QUALITY AND YIELD COMPONENTS Tom Khuat Lorin Harvey Steve Hague Texas A&M AgriLife Research College Station, TX Lori Hinze USDA-ARS College Station, TX

## <u>Abstract</u>

Directional aestivation is a common occurrence in many plant species including upland cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.). Implications of imbricated petals on the cotton plant have not been reported. Objectives of this study were to determine if aestivation was affected by genotype or fruiting position and if aestivation had any determination upon fiber quality or lint percent. Three cultivars were grown in a replicated trial at College Station, Texas, in 2015. Flowers were tagged based upon their imbricated direction. Bolls were later harvested and segregated based upon the flower type. Results suggested that petal direction had no discernible influence on fiber quality, lint percent, or the number of bolls set by petal direction. This non-effect was evident among all cultivars at all fruiting zones. Based on these findings, there appears to be no economic incentive into manipulating the process of aestivation in cotton.