PREMIER COTTON EDUCATION: RESISTANT WEED MANAGEMENT 2014-2016

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Abstract

Cotton is an important component of the regional economy in the Texas High Plains. Losses due to resistant weeds are incurred on an annual basis. The Premier Cotton Educational program was established to identify key program areas that address producer needs in cotton, provide learning outcomes within each program area and establish evaluation instruments to determine the impact of these educational programs. Educational program focus areas include; Weed Management, Variety Selection and Pre-plant Decisions, Disease and Nematode Management,

Harvest Preparation and Technologies, Soil and Water Relationships, Economic Risk Management, Fertility, and Insect Management. The results presented herein were obtained from producer responses to surveys at county, district, and regional educational meetings related to only weed management. Twenty-seven counties Bailey, Briscoe, Carson, Cochran, Collingsworth, Crosby, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Donley, Floyd, Gaines, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hockley, Hutchinson, Lamb, Lynn, Lubbock, Mitchell, Parmer, Randall, Swisher, Terry, Wheeler, and Yoakum provided a total of 56 educational face-to-face programs. A total of 2395 producers attended these programs and 1615 (68%) producers returned evaluation information. These producers represented 1,714,007 acres and indicated that an estimated average return on knowledge gained averaged $10.09/acre with an estimated total value of $19.9 million over the three years. In all, 741 of 892 (83.0%) of eligible producers indicated that they intend to identify and manage herbicide-resistant weeds based on best management practices provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension recommendations and 682 of 827 (82.4%) of eligible producers indicated they intended to use yellow herbicides and other herbicides with different modes of action to aid in management of resistant weeds. Likewise, 800 of 977 (81.8%) of eligible producers indicated that they intend to manage weeds based on Texas A&M AgriLife recommendations. Refinements to these programs will continue to be made so that cotton producers in this region can maximize production.