

**ADDING OPERATIONAL CONTEXT TO PEST/DISEASE MANAGEMENT DECISION SUPPORT  
TOOLS****Thomas M. Chappell****Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Texas A&M University  
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Forecasting models and monitoring tools can be used when making management decisions, and can be more useful if model output and recommendations are compatible with operations. This presentation introduces a USDA NIFA-funded project concerning cotton that integrates disease and pest forecasting models with farm-scale logistics to provide more information to decision-makers. For example, stand loss due to disease affects expected yield and therefore action thresholds for pest management, or weather and soil health/compaction may affect the timing of an application. Models can be improved by integrating these factors. The platform being developed will provide consultants and extension agents with integrated weather information and disease/pest forecasts, and will facilitate monitoring of expanded geographic areas by personnel responsible for large areas. Consultants and extension agents are intended platform users whose requirements determine interface design and output format.

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