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FIBER QUALITY EVALUATION OF BELTWIDE COTTON GENETICS COTTON VARIETIES GROWN IN WEST TEXAS 2003

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Abstract

Beltwide Cotton Genetics cotton varieties are being planted on the high plains of Texas and have excellent fiber properties compared to traditional stripper varieties.

Introduction

The percent of acres being planted to picker-type cotton varieties are increasing on the High Plains of Texas. Growers are transitioning to picker-types due to the potential for higher yields and improved fiber quality versus historic "stripper-type" varieties. Beltwide Cotton Genetics cotton varieties are among the new picker-types being planted. Fiber length (staple) is a major component in computing loan value. Beltwide Cotton Genetics cotton varieties have a longer staple than traditional stripper varieties planted on the High Plains.

Materials and Methods

USDA planted cotton variety surveys from 2000 through 2003 were reviewed for both the Lubbock and Lamesa, Texas classing office service areas.

USDA cotton classing office cotton quality data for week and season ended December 4, 2003 were reviewed for both the Lubbock and Lamesa, Texas classing offices.

Beltwide Cotton Genetics customers (growers) were surveyed and their 2003 Beltwide Cotton Genetics cotton variety USDA Class Recaps were obtained and evaluated.

Results

Planting Trends

The percent of acres being planted to picker type cotton varieties are increasing on the High Plains of Texas (Table 1). In 2002 the USDA planted variety survey conducted by the Lubbock, Texas classing office found that 7.68% of the acres in its service areas were planted to FiberMAX 958, a picker type cotton variety. By 2003 the survey found that 25.72% of the cotton acres were planted to three picker type cotton varieties.

The Lamesa, Texas classing office services counties including Gaines, and Dawson where picker type cotton varieties have been grown for some years now. USDA planted variety surveys conducted by the Lamesa classing office found that in 2000 17.69% of the acres in its service area were planted to seven picker type cotton varieties. In 2001 the percent of acres increased to 21.33%. By 2003 the survey revealed that 37.45% of the cotton acres were planted to five picker type cotton varieties.

USDA Cotton Classing Office Quality Data

As of season ending report December 4, 2003, 879,805 bales had been classed at the Lubbock, Texas classing office. There were 5,911. bales of Beltwide Cotton Genetic cotton varieties. classed in the same time period. Of the total bales classed, 62.7% had a staple length of 34 or longer and 86.8% of the Beltwide Cotton Genetics cotton varieties had a Staple length of 34 or longer Figure 1. At the same time, 17.7% of the total bales classed had a mike of 50 or greater and only 4.7% of the Beltwide Cotton Genetics cotton varieties had a mike of 50 or greater Figure 2.

As of season ending report December 4, 2003 340,250 bales had been classed at the Lamesa, Texas classing office. There were 16,127 bales of Beltwide Cotton Genetics cotton varieties classed in the same time period. Of the total bales classed 67% had a staple length of 34 or longer and 76.2% of the Beltwide Cotton Genetics cotton varieties had a staple length of 34 or longer Figure 3. At the same time, 18.2% of the total bales classed had a mike of 50 or greater and only 9.6% of the Beltwide Cotton Genetics cotton varieties had a mike of 50 or greater Figure 4.

References

USDA Planted Variety Surveys 2000-2003.

Quality of Cotton Classed Under Smith-Doxey Act by Classing Offices, Week and Season Ended December 4, 2003.

Table 1. Percent of acres planted to picker type cotton varieties in the Lubbock and Lamesa, Texas cotton classing office service areas from 2000 through 2003.

Classing Office	2000	2001	2002	2003
Lubbock	0	0	7.68	25.72
Lamesa	17.69	21.33	8.20	37.45

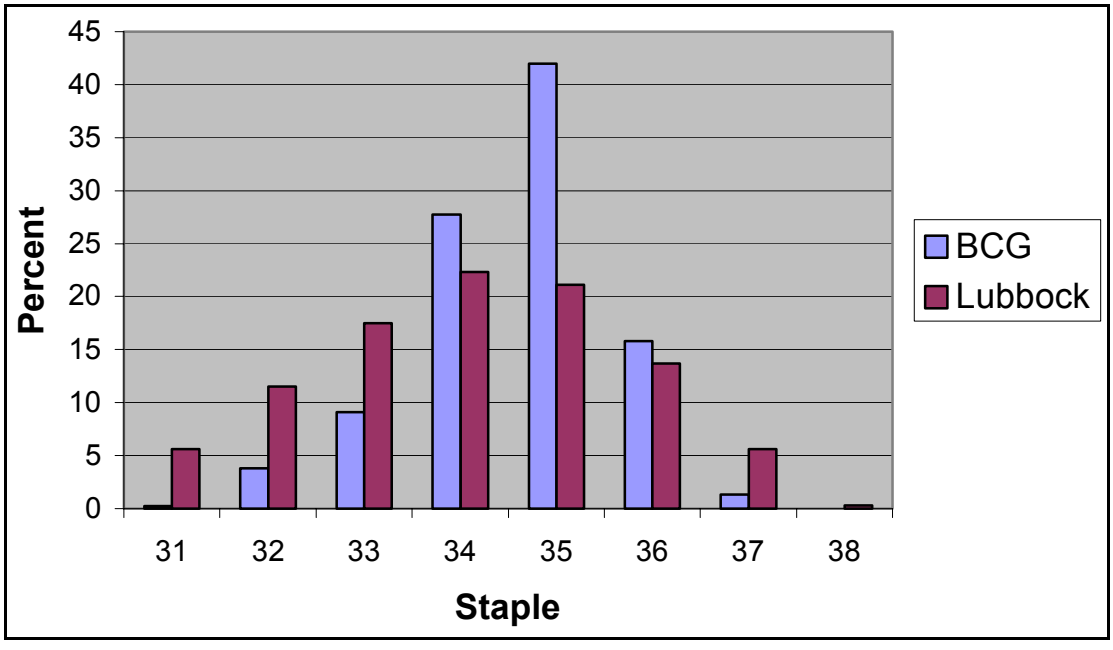

Figure 1. Average Staple length of cotton bales classed at the Lubbock, Texas classing office, week and season ended report December 4, 2003.

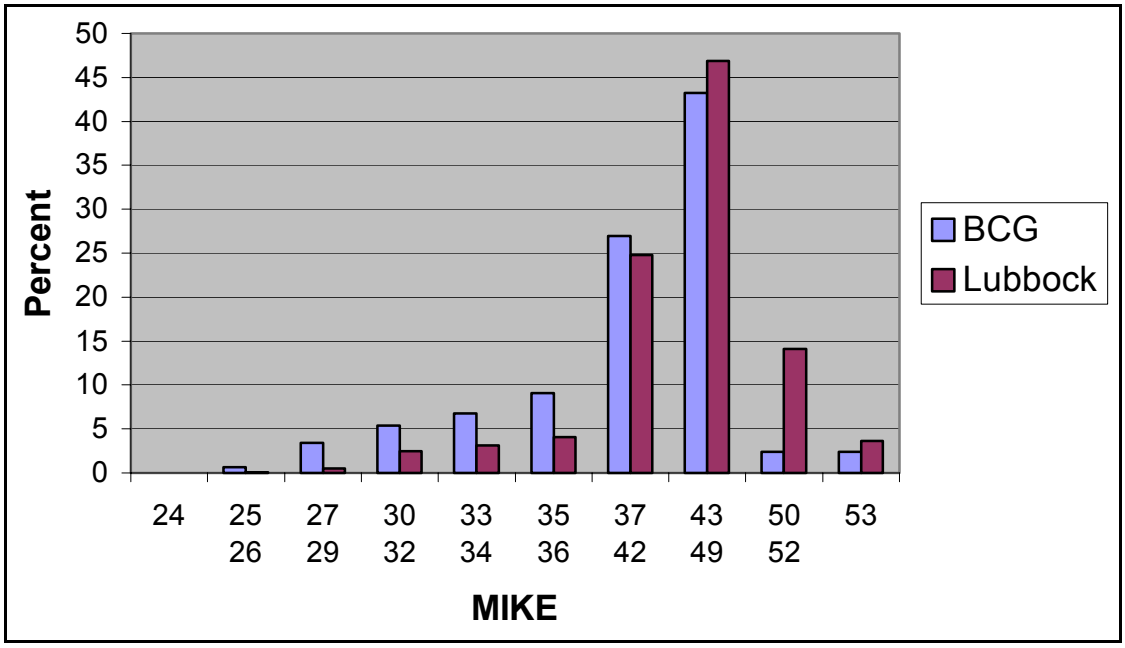

Figure 2. Average mike of cotton bales classed at the Lubbock, Texas classing office, week and season ended report December 4, 2003.

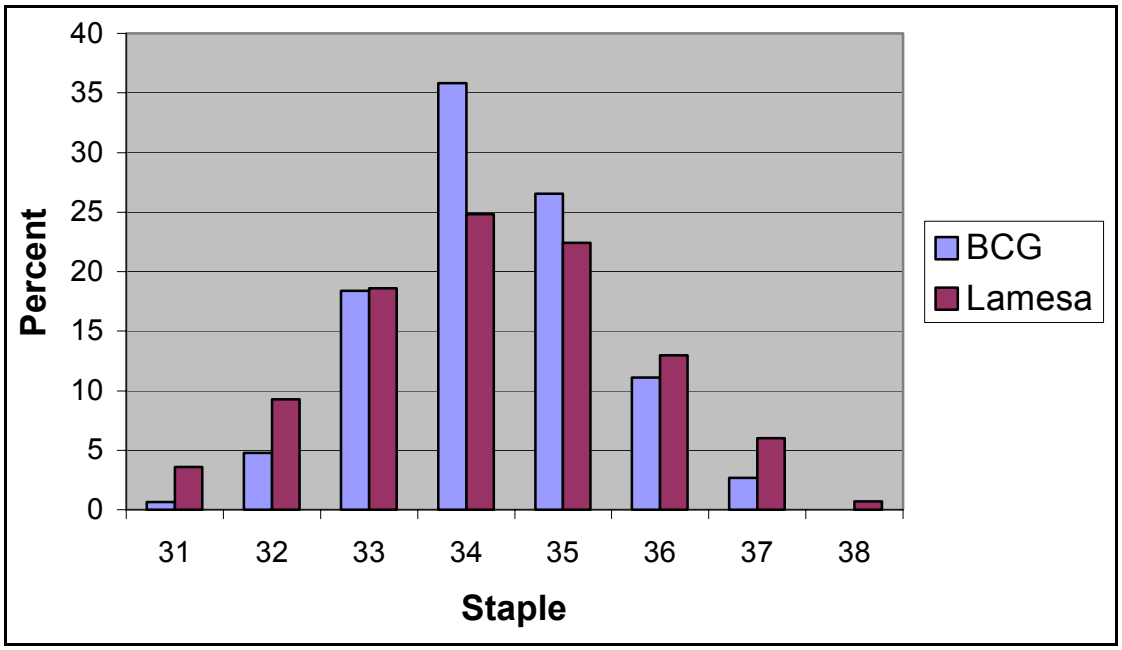

Figure 3. Average Staple length of cotton bales classed at the Lamesa, Texas classing office, week and season ended report December 4, 2003.

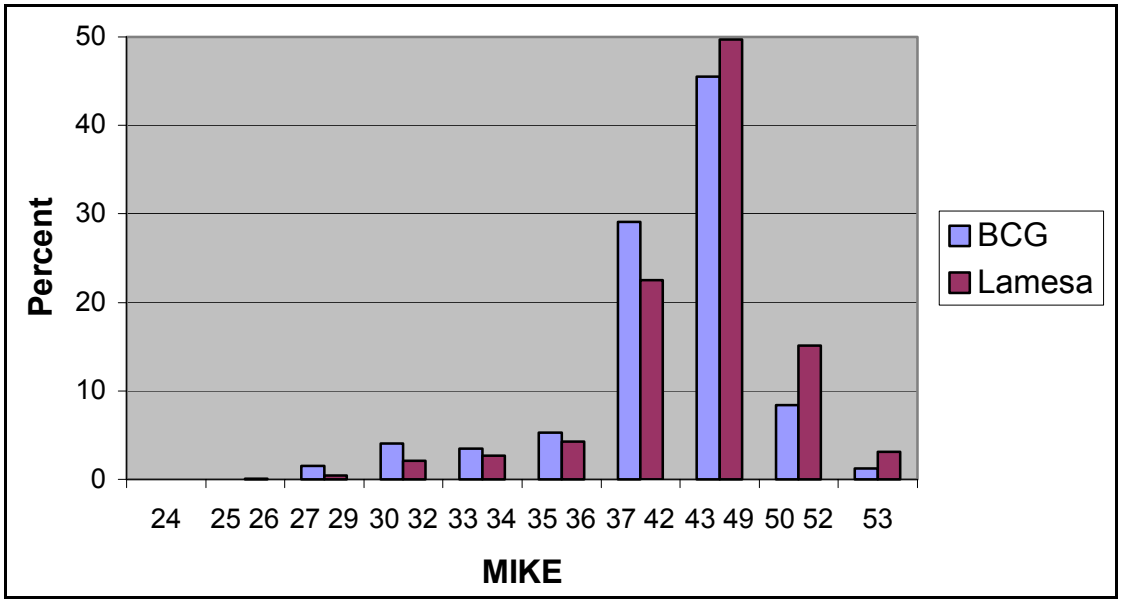

Figure 4. Average mike of cotton bales classed at the Lamesa, Texas classing office, week and season ended report December 4, 2003.