



Willacy Farm & Ranch News



Cotton Market weekly

Continuing drought conditions may result in South Texas cotton fields being abandoned

A Service Provided by Plains Cotton Cooperative Association
June 25, 2009

Cotton futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) tumbled to a two-month low Monday in reaction to weekend rains in Texas growing areas with further pressure coming from the general slide in commodity prices across the board. The remainder of the week, the cotton market closed higher as strength in the stock market gave traders more confidence that the global economy is on a recovery path.

Cotton prices also responded this week to the slow start of the Indian monsoon season. Crop conditions in India, the world's second largest cotton producer behind China, definitely will affect market conditions in the United States this season. India's competition for cotton export sales in the world market was a significant factor last year, and a short crop in the country this year could open the door for increased U.S. exports.

According to Indian sources, if annual monsoon rains do not advance over key growing areas in the next 10 to 15 days, the country's cotton acreage and yields are likely to decrease significantly. Monsoonal rains already are expected at just 93 percent of normal this season.

Traders now await next week's critical USDA Planted Acreage report for direction and also will continue to monitor the

weather in Texas. Analysts are concerned over possible abandoned acres in Texas.

Although cotton planting in the U.S. is almost complete, all eyes still remain on the weather conditions in Texas. Scattered thunderstorms moved across the Texas Rio Grande Valley this week where cotton bolls are developing rapidly. Hot weather following the showers will help spur maturation.

Elsewhere in South Texas, hot and dry weather prevails. Drought conditions persist and are taking a toll on the crop. Some farmers in the Coastal Bend area report a 12-inch rainfall deficit from the norm, and an observer there says the remaining dryland acres are "clinging to life by a thread." As the drought continues, most in the industry now expect significant abandonment rates in virtually all of the South Texas cotton growing areas.

A slight improvement in soil moisture levels was reported in West Texas this week with most of the High and Rolling Plains categorized as abnormally dry to normal on USDA's drought monitor map. However, above average temperatures in the area for this time of year will boost cumulative heat units but will increase soil evaporation rates. The irrigated crop is developing normally on the High Plains and the number of squares is increasing. Slow-

soaking rains would be welcome to help reduce the need for water.

In other news, the National Cotton Council reported that U.S. textile mills used cotton at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 3.34 million bales in May, down from 4.41 million bales in the comparable year-ago period but up from 3.06 million bales in April.

Meanwhile, USDA reported net export sales of U.S. cotton for the week ended June 18 totaled 157,500 bales, up four percent from the previous week and 22 percent from the four-week average. Turkey, China, Thailand, and Vietnam were the week's top buyers. As of June 18, cumulative U.S. cotton sales stood at 109.4 percent of the USDA's forecast for the 2008-09 marketing year versus a five-year average of 108.7 percent.

Export shipments came in at 276,800 bales. The figure was up six percent from the previous week but down 23 percent from the four-week average. Major destinations were Pakistan, Turkey, Mexico, and China.

Closer to home, spot cotton sales were higher as producers in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas sold just 48 bales online in the week ended June 18 compared to 22 bales the previous week. The average price received by producers was 45.00 cents per pound.

Willacy County 4-H Hosts End of Year Banquet

By Lucas Garcia

RAYMONDVILLE - Willacy 4-H County Council professionally organized and set up an end of the year banquet to celebrate a successful fall and spring in 4-H. The County Council is comprised of the following: President Charles "Sonny" Burns, 1st Vice President Dillon Burns, 2nd Vice President Robert Moya, 3rd Vice President Isaac Atkinson, Secretary Jalissa Trevino, Treasurer Samantha Garcia, Reporter Marlina Rivera, Parliamentarian Jessica Salas, Historian Morgan Thomas and Health & Safety Officer Alex Villalpando. This Council has re-established its presence and its influence over all 4-H Clubs in the County. The

existing clubs include: Stillman 4-H, Ranch Country 4-H, Rising Stars 4-H and Raymondville 4-H. The County Council consists of members from each club in order to provide equal representation county-wide. Three of our Council Members have graduated from Lyford High School and they include: Jalissa Trevino, Charles Burns and Jessica Salas. These Council Members have shown immeasurable leadership and have all enrolled at Universities in Texas including: Texas A&M University in College Station and Texas A&M University Kingsville. This banquet recognized officers from each of the four clubs and club

managers which include: Yvonne Rangel for Stillman 4-H, Chuck Burns for Raymondville 4-H, Mitch Thomas for Ranch Country 4-H and Pilar Trevino for Rising Stars 4-H. Also recognized were County Council officers, graduating seniors and Olivia Rodriguez from Raymondville 4-H as a scholarship recipient. Summer 2009 is exciting for 4-H with events such as Leadership LAB to be held June 22-25 and District Recordbook competition July 9th. County Council officers will start meetings again with elections and new business in August 2009.



4-H SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT OLIVIA RODRIGUEZ from Raymondville 4-H and County Extension Agent Lucas Garcia.



GRADUATING SENIORS Jalissa Trevino, Jessica Salas and Sonny Burns all from Lyford High School. Pictured with County Extension Agent Lucas Garcia.



BACK ROW, from left to right: Robert Moya, Samantha Jo Garcia, Sarahi Trevino, John Rivera, Issac Atkinson, Jalissa Trevino, Dillon Burns, Charles Burns, Jessica Salas and Alexandria Silva. Front Row from left to right: Gabby Gracia, Audrey Rangel, Roysel Joe, Lyndsey Rangel, Morgan Thomas, Shelby Rangel, Tori Burns and Alex Villalpando.

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TPWD increases license, boat registration fees

AUSTIN, Texas - The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved increases to hunting and fishing licenses, as well as boat titling and registration fees. Most fees will increase by five percent and the increases take effect with the 2009-2010 license year, starting this fall for recreational hunting and fishing licenses.

Hunting licenses will increase from \$23 to \$25, while the popular Super Combo all-inclusive license increases from \$64 to \$68.

Non-resident hunting licenses increase by \$15 from \$300 to \$315, which also reflects a five percent hike.

Fishing packages will also increase by \$2. The resident freshwater fishing package increases from \$28 to \$30 and the saltwater fishing package increases from \$33 to \$35.

The biggest increase in license fees approved by the commission affects lifetime licenses. The resident lifetime fishing and hunting licenses will increase to \$1,000 and the lifetime combination license increases to \$1,800.

"We have not increased the cost of a lifetime license for 12 years," said Gene McCarty,

TPWD deputy director of administration. "Frankly, these licenses have been undervalued and could represent significant lost revenue over time if not adjusted."

Boat owners in Texas will also see increases in boat registration and titling fees. Boat registration, which is valid for two years, for vessels less than 16 feet in length increase from \$30 to \$32 and those in the 16-26 foot range go from \$50 to \$53. Boats 26-40 feet increase from \$70 to \$110 and boats greater than 40 feet increase from \$90 to \$150.

Other miscellaneous increases are primarily in the category of commercial licenses, including commercial shrimp boat captain's license (\$20 increase), resident commercial oyster boat (\$21 increase), wholesale fish dealers truck (\$28 increase), resident commercial crab fishermen's license (\$30 increase), non-resident commercial oyster boat (\$84 increase) and non-resident commercial crab fisherman's license (\$120 increase).

The department received less than 400 comments related to the fee increases during the public comment period, the majority of which came from the TPWD

online survey and by email, with only 16 comments resting from a series of 19 public meetings scheduled around the state. Overall, comments ran more than 2-to-1 against the increases, citing bad economic times as the primary reason.

"Initially we considered a 10-15 percent increase but in this economy we know that is unrealistic and counterproductive," said McCarty. "But, it's important to mention that this will just keep us even."

McCarty noted the fees for none of the special endorsement stamps were increased.

In addition to the fee increases, the commission approved a new administrative fee of \$100 for reinstatement of any recreational or commercial license that has been revoked or suspended.

The commission also authorized staff to implement a drawing for a package that includes a lifetime hunting and fishing license and one-year subscription to Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine. Entry fee for the drawing will be \$5 and will go on sale Aug. 15 wherever licenses are sold.

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