



2018 Arkansas Cotton Update &
2018 Cotton Research Verification / Sustainability Weekly Update
June 15, 2018
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Overview

We are at a critical time for this cotton crop in terms of preserving yield potential. The hot and dry weather is making its mark on our crop. Some fields continue to produce nodes close to that expected. However, many fields of all ages across the state are exhibiting a big slowdown in node production. We should be expecting a new node every three days. Every day beyond this three days represents a lost day that we may not be able to regain. In addition to lost days, we will suddenly realize that as we approach first flower our target of 9 to 10 nodes above white flower (NAWF) at first flower is closer to 6 or 7. Management becomes even more critical to finish the year in a positive fashion with only 6 to 7 NAWF at first flower as the plant is often destined to premature cutout. There is some young cotton this week experiencing drought that could possibly have only 5 NAWF at first flower. Experience has shown that no amount of money can turn around a cotton crop in Arkansas when the plant is basically cutout (NAWF=5) at first flower. It is critical that we address our current moisture situation in a timely fashion in order to help preserve our yield potential.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending June 10 (last week) reported cotton squaring at 38% which was ahead of the five-year average of 15%. Crop progress should continue to be well ahead of the five-year averages long as favorable conditions for growth exist. They also reported that 84% of the cotton was in good (50%) to excellent (34%) condition with only 15% being fair, 1% poor, and none rated very poor.

**2018 Cotton Research Verification / Sustainability
Weekly Update**

Update No. 4

June 15, 2018

General	There are 12 Cotton Research Verification / Sustainability Program fields in 2018. Growth stage across fields ranges from 6 to 11 nodes. All fields are in need of a good rain before long or the irrigation pumps will begin being turned on. Fields which are squaring were graphed and compared to the Target Development Curve (TDC) in COTMAN with previous node counts to make sure cotton growth is still adequate. At the Desha County fields we are beginning to see nodes added at slightly slower intervals which is causing the line to run flatter rather than parallel to the TDC, and in St. Francis County fields the line continues to run parallel to the TDC. If many of the fields in the Verification program do not receive a good rain with- in the next couple of day's irrigation will likely be trigger by the middle to end of next week. Both thrips and plant bugs have been seen in fields but numbers are well below treatment level at this time.							
County	Field Name (Tillage Practice/ Cover Crop)	Date Planted	Variety	# of Nodes of Previous field visit	# of Heat Units Accumulated	# of Nodes On field visit	% Square Shed	General Information
Desha	East Weaver (Farmer Standard / No Cover)	4/30	DP 1646 B2XF	8	168	11	8.4	Last field visit was on 6-13. Square mapping was done, and graphed on the target development curve. This week the target line is beginning to get flatter when compared to the target development curve. Node production has slowed down this week, if a rain is not received this weekend or the first part of next week it will be time to turn on the irrigation pumps. At time of field visit no insect pressure was seen, and crop had good color.
Desha	East Weaver (No-till / Cover)	4/30	DP 1646 B2XF	7	168	10	9.2	Last field visit was on 6-13. Square mapping was done, and graphed on the target development curve. This week the target line is beginning to get flatter when compared to the target development curve. Node production has slowed down this week, if a rain is not received this weekend or the first part of next week it will be time to turn on the irrigation pumps. At time of field visit no insect pressure was seen, and crop had good color.
Desha	Grain Bin (Farmer Standard / No Cover)	4/30	DP 1646 B2XF	8	168	10	5.9	Last field visit was on 6-13. Square mapping was done, and graphed on the target development curve. Node production has slowed down this week, if a rain is not received this weekend or the first part of next week it will be time to turn on the irrigation pumps. No insect pressure was seen, and crop had good color.

County	Field Name (Tillage Practice/ Cover Crop)	Date Planted	Variety	# of Nodes of Previous field visit	# of Heat Units Accumulated	# of Nodes On field visit	% Square Shed	General Information
Desha	Grain Bin (No-till / Cover)	4/30	DP 1646 B2XF	7	168	9	7.1	Last field visit was on 6-13. Square mapping was done, and graphed on the target development curve. Node production has slowed down this week, if a rain is not received this weekend or the first part of next week it will be time to turn on the irrigation pumps. Only insects that were seen out of all of the checks were a couple of thrips, which is below threshold.
Desha	Shop (Farmer Standard / No Cover)	4/30	DP 1646 B2XF	8	168	10	5.6	Last field visit was on 6-13. Square mapping was done, and graphed on the target development curve. Node production has slowed down this week, if a rain is not received this weekend or the first part of next week it will be time to turn on the irrigation pumps. There is still moisture present at the 12 and 18" depths, although it is getting dry in the top 6 inches. No insect pressure was seen.
Desha	Shop (No-till / Cover)	4/30	DP 1646 B2XF	8	168	10	5.0	Last field visit was on 6-13. Square mapping was done, and graphed on the target development curve. Node production has slowed down this week, if a rain is not received this weekend or the first part of next week it will be time to turn on the irrigation pumps. There is still moisture present at the 12 and 18" depths, although it is getting dry in the top 6 inches. No insect pressure was seen.
Desha	Homeplace (Farmer Standard / No Cover)	4/30	DP 1646 B2XF	7	168	9	7.5	Last field visit was on 6-13. Square mapping was done, and graphed on the target development curve. Node production has slowed down this week, if a rain is not received this weekend or the first part of next week it will be time to turn on the irrigation pumps. There is still moisture present at the 18", although it is getting dry in the top 12 inches. There was approximately 0.4 thrips per plant, which is well below treatment level.
Desha	Wellcot (Farmer Standard / No Cover)	5/2	DP 1646 B2XF	7	168	10	8.2	Last field visit was on 6-13. Square mapping was done, and graphed on the target development curve. Node production has slowed down this week, if a rain is not received this weekend or the first part of next week it will be time to turn on the irrigation pumps. There is still moisture present at the 18" depth, although it is getting dry in the top 12 inches. No insect pressure was seen.

County	Field Name (Tillage Practice/ Cover Crop)	Date Planted	Variety	# of Nodes of Previous field visit	# of Heat Units Accumulated	# of Nodes On field visit	% Square Shed	General Information
St. Francis	Conder's (Farmer Standard / No Cover)	5/5	DP 1725 B2XF	6	123.5	9	0.0	Last field visit was on 6-15. Square mapping was done, and cotton is continuing to put on a new node in the amount of time it is supposed to. Cotton had good color and is growing well. The top 6" is beginning to get dry but there is good moisture from 6"-18". No insect pressure was seen.
St. Francis	Conder's (No-till / Cover)	5/6	DP 1725 B2XF	6	123.5	9	0.0	Last field visit was on 6-15. Square mapping was done, and cotton is continuing to put on a new node in the amount of time it is supposed to. Cotton had good color and is growing well. The top 6" is beginning to get dry but there is good moisture from 6"-18". No insect pressure was seen.
Mississippi	Manila Airport (Farmer Standard / Cover)	5/15	DP 1518 B2XF	4	107.7	6	NA	Last field visit was on 6-11. Field is still putting on a new node every 50-60 heat units at this time. Field has some herbicide injury, new leaves have good color and look healthy. At time of field visit insect checks were clean.
Mississippi	Manila Airport (No-till / Cover)	5/15	DP 1518 B2XF	4	107.7	6	NA	Last field visit was on 6-11. Field is still putting on a new node every 50-60 heat units at this time. Field has some herbicide injury, new leaves have good color and look healthy. At time of field visit insect checks were clean.