

Field Notes

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Late cotton needs more summer.

One of the statements that I have made many times through the years to cotton growers is "The cotton plant knows more about producing cotton than any of us ever will". I still believe that today as we endure one of the coolest and most fall-like Augusts I can recall. We have cotton that was planted all the way from the first week of April to the first week of July. That's right, I said July. Yesterday I saw a field that had been defoliated while others are far from that point.

Thankfully those acres that were planted latest are located in the far southern portion of the state and will have more time to mature than in the central or northern areas. Quite a lot of our crop was planted in late May or in the first ten days of June, so these fields and especially those few planted even later need at least another two to three weeks of summer type weather.

In the days when we were working with the prediction models we were able to estimate maturation to a fairly good degree. The problem was that those models attempted to understand one of the most complex crops in the world. The input data was the issue that influenced how well the models were able to anticipate plant development and yield.

During those early days of computing models were complex, requiring an operator who not only understood but enjoyed the challenge of making it "fly". Variations in temperature, solar radiation, and several other factors were loaded into the program before it could crunch out a solution. One set of inaccurate data could throw the whole thing out of kilter. Computer technologists have coined an appropriate phrase that says "Garbage in, Garbage out".

Those early attempts at understanding how the cotton plant develops gave us some

very fundamental insight into the way environment and soils influence the development of a cotton crop. This year all of that came back to my mind during the coolest August I have experienced.

I feel that all is not lost because we have at least maintained daytime temps in the high eighties with low to mid-seventies at night. Without boring you with the math I will say that DD60 units have been accumulating at a rate of around 17 to 20 per day, and at that rate a bloom can become a mature boll in between 45 and 60 days. This suggests that a white bloom on August 10 should be a mature boll about September 20 to 30 depending upon the weather. Later white blooms are subject to being pushed even later if they can avoid an early freeze.

The sunny days following hurricane Harvey are an indicator that we may still have a good shot. Just don't get in a hurry about the defoliant on those later fields. I know that is tough but yield can be affected significantly by defoliating only a few days too soon in those later planted fields.

For early planted cotton this may be academic since the plant should have a decent load of bolls and will not work hard at maturing the late ones as it finishes the main crop. However for the late and very late planted fields this is important stuff. How the weather including temperature and solar radiation arrive will determine both quality and yield.

In areas where early planted fields are defoliated early, there may be enough chemical in the air to nudge those late fields into senescence, but thankfully most of the very late fields are isolated and can take advantage of every degree of temperature and every minute of good sunlight. They will need all of it.

Thanks for your time.

Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

I was determined to locate a good place to put my tree stand; away from any other hunter. I was hunting on private property but others hunt there as well. It's large enough for several people but I wanted to make sure I was far off the beaten path. I was willing to climb, crawl, and creep until I had found my "promised land." I loaded my lock-on tree stand and my stacking sticks on my back and headed up the mountain. The first 300 yards was almost straight up the hill with an occasional bend. I knew most hunters

would be unwilling even to go to these extremes. But I was not satisfied. After a few more turns, I was standing in a saddle that was an obvious, deer travel, corridor. I studied the situation a few minutes. (I really just needed to rest) Then after some soul-searching I determined I needed to go a little farther, around the next hollow. I wanted to be sure I would be alone.

By now my shirt was soaking wet and my legs were feeling the extra weight of the tree stand. I moved about 50 yards below a thicket, just

above the crest of the hill. When I made it to the other side, I noticed a nice flat. I weaved my way through the mountain laurel until I reached the center of that small flat that was loaded with plenty of signs of deer. I made it! I knew I was at a place that no hunter had ever been. Heck, I doubt if even ole Daniel Boone himself had ever set foot on this virgin territory. I quickly located a perfect tree where my stand would go. I set the stand up, put the stacking sticks together, and strapped everything snugly to the tree.

I climbed up, looked around, and noticed an odd shape about 40 yards away. You guessed it...another tree stand! I wished

I had brought my chain saw! Sometimes in our lives we think we too are at a place where no one has ever been. We think we are alone in our situation or circumstance. We feel that nobody has ever faced the trouble we are now facing. The fact is there is nothing new. Someone else has been where you are. Some details may have been different but the place is the same.

Our consolation, however, is not in the knowledge that someone else has walked in our shoes, but our consolation and comfort is in knowing that if we'll look around we'll find the Lord has already been there too, just waiting for us to arrive.

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"NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR THE TOWN OF GOODMAN"

The Town of Goodman will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for the fiscal year 2018 on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 4:00 p.m., at the Goodman Town Hall located at 9912 Main Street, Goodman, MS.

The Town of Goodman is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$524,391. \$60,000, or 12% of such revenue is obtained through Ad Valorem Taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$ 465,736. Of that amount, 14% or \$65,000 is to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

The decision to not increase the ad valorem tax millage rate for the fiscal year 2018 above the current fiscal year's ad valorem tax millage rate means you will not pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment and rental real property, unless the assessed value of your property has increased for the fiscal year 2018.

The Town of Goodman millage rate remains the same as last year at 37.38.

Any citizen of the Town of Goodman is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for the fiscal year 2018 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

Sept. 1 Players of the Week

H. C. Central

CHCS

Quo'Darious Offensive

Crigler

Line

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247 YARDS,
2 TOUCHDOWNS



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