

Battalion Classifieds

Staff researches ways to cultivate, water cotton crops

Candidate: Mexico vote will be fair

PECOS (AP) — Jaroy Moore wants to build a cotton gin, but he doesn't expect to gin many modules from Reeves County farms.

deep, and a third is buried 12 inches deep.

In fact, the small gin, to be located in a loft at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research Station west of Pecos, will only be used to gin samples.

"Some are put on every row and some every other row," he said.

"We may pick a paper bag full of cotton at one time," Moore said. "We'll gin it here instead of carrying it to Lubbock to find out about cotton."

Water pressure and the size and spacing of emitters controls the amount of water deposited at each location.

Samples of cotton grown on sample plots are ginned to determine how much lint per acre a particular variety yields, Moore said.

"We used different size emitters because what we wanted to do in this study was to be able to turn on the entire system and put essentially the same amount of water along the entire field," Moore said.

"We pick the cotton and weigh it with the seed and trash," he said. "Then we gin it, weigh the lint and multiply the percentage by the beginning weight and convert it back to get the per-acre yield."

Each plot has 10 rows, Moore said, and the flow rate can be controlled by changing the pressure.

Data on the results are published and made available for anyone interested in that variety of cotton, Moore said.

On experiments with irrigation systems, only one variety of cotton is used "so we don't further complicate the procedure," Moore said.

Cotton is the primary crop grown on the 500-acre farm that is being developed on the new research station.

Although they are studying cotton because it is the primary crop in this area, the results would be applicable to other crops, he said.

Moore and his staff of five are installing irrigation systems on the 125 acres under cultivation this year.

"Methods of irrigation are continually changing," Moore said. "We learn new ways to do things. The major obstacle with trickle irrigation is that it is too expensive for most field crops."

They will use regular furrow irrigation, and are looking at various types of drip systems and a modified sprinkler.

One acre requires 13,068 feet of line on 40-inch centers, he said.

The modified sprinkler system, called Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA), has drop tubes on 80-inch centers that apply water right at ground level, Moore said.

"There are some inexpensive type systems that probably have a short lifetime," he said, but most cost from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per acre.

Although some systems travel across the field, the research center uses one that travels in a small circle.

Another complication is the problem of plowing up a line buried only eight inches deep. Those buried deeper won't wet the surface to germinate seed, he said.

"This system was developed by the people at the Lubbock center," Moore said.

"We're trying to develop one that can be buried deep but still wet the surface," he said.

"We'll experiment with various types of drip systems," he said. "We're looking at 15 different systems."

Irrigation experiments are determined by climatic conditions, including solar radiation, wind movement, relative humidity and air temperature.

Drip systems operate at three depths, he said. One lies on the surface, another is buried eight inches

"We're doing some work now with drip irrigation studies, where we have experiments set up looking at frequency of irrigation, using two, four, eight and 12-day cycles," he said.

Indians use wind for forecast, claim 1988 could be tough year

POST (AP) "Sunrise Wind" of Indian legend is correct, area farmers claim.

According to legend, the wind direction precisely at sunrise on the day following spring's start will tell what kind of weather and farming conditions the next year will hold.

If the wind, called Taba'na Yuna'e in the Comanche tongue, comes from the east or northeast, there will

be plenty; if it blows from the north or northwest, conditions will be average. A west or southwest wind doesn't bode well, and a south wind is just plain bad news.

Mato Nompa — or "Chief" Frank Runkles — began his dance Tuesday.

The southerly wind blew so hard that Indian dancers from an Am-

arillo Boy Scout Explorer Post to shield a ceremonial fire at night.

Seconds before Runkles, dressed in costume of a Sioux Indian, caught the first glimpse of the sun over the horizon, a gust whistled from the north, then reversed direction at the moment of sunrise, an official reading of western

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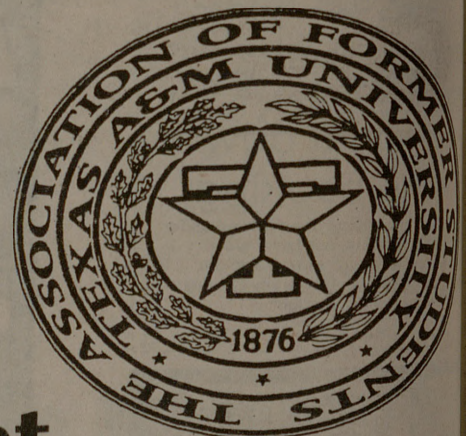
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