

**Cotton IPM Team**  
**March 20, 2009**

Attending: Sam Wang, Al Fournier, Pedro Andrade, Bob Roth, Ed Martin, Erin Taylor, Randy Norton, Russ Tronstad (by phone), Peter Ellsworth, Kurt Nolte

Randy will conduct meeting. Bill McCloskey unable to attend.

**I. Review of recent research needs and activities**

- Randy is working on nematode control in cotton with NCC nematode control committee. He is looking for project sites. Bayer is looking for a site for Temik research, possibly in buckeye because there is high pressure. Erin will try to identify a cooperator. He has been doing nematode prescription work past few years, looking for more cooperators. They are installing drip for cotton production in Safford in part through EQIP funding.
- Erin is doing cotton variety trials. Fewer locations than in past years. Erin hopes to have 3 sites, Kurt has one, Randy may have two. Erin is also conducting a trial on defoliation timing and will be doing an acidifier-mixed-with-ET trial this year.
- Ed Martin is working with Jay S. on a 3-year trial of every-other-row irrigation. They have results at this point: saved 10 to 12 inches of water and got similar to standard yields. They will check the impact on salinity. With sloped fields, there were differences in yield from higher to lower ends of the slope. He is interested in presenting this data at grower meetings. Pedro offered to work with him on a fine resolution analysis of yield, if that is desirable. This year his only cotton will be center pivot, and that has been a challenge.
- Russ, with Jim Walworth got a Specialty Crops grant that involves drip irrigation at MAC. That work will start this year.
- Bob: Monsanto will be doing work at MAC. Stoneville will put in 50 acres of regulated seed. This year MAC may have to start charging to gin cotton, due to a loss of industry support.
- Kurt: Knows of no cotton work conducted on Yuma research farms. May have one variety trial.
- Peter: has heard of some interest in organic cotton. Ed has some organic fields at MAC, but planted Bt corn on it. Peter will be running small plot efficacy trials for Lygus and whitefly this year. Working on three new compounds on cotton, each active on whiteflies. Will have large plot studies on non-target effects as well. Wants to do some demonstrations this year if pressure is good. Doing regulated work with Bayer, on some new Bt cottons. He hopes to get involved in field tests of Monsanto Lygus-resistant GM cotton. He's looking for cooperators for Lygus demos focused on improving management practices, including in Yuma. Early indications indicate Lygus populations may be high this year. Peter will continue large-scale regionally Lygus sampling in Pinal County for one more year.
- Pedro is working with Ed on an evaluation of salinity based on irrigation management practices. This season he will work with Bill McCloskey and Randy Norton on precision cultivation studies, working with some new equipment-instrumentation this year. They

will monitor energy consumption and monitor efficacy of weed control. Has expanded multi-spectral research, will buy a new 3-filter sensor. Ultimately, spectral imagery might be used as a claims adjustment tool, for example following hail damage. Pedro's interest in the technology is more on real-time use of the data for crop management applications, using plant scans. ARS will have an irrigation scheduling project. Pedro will collaborate on the project to measure canopy reflectance and evaluate yield.

- Al will continue to collect data on the Lygus Management survey and would like to be included on cotton-related programs for PCAs. He is doing qualitative analysis of PCA interviews related to adoption of cross-commodity guidelines for neonicotinoid use. Continuing crop pest losses workshops this coming year, expanding beyond insect data. New sensors can be geo-referenced and provide continued measurement.
- Mary Olsen (not present) is putting in a proposal on verticillium to the Cotton Foundation to evaluate varieties for verticillium resistance. Will be piggy-backed on variety trials this year.
- Sam submitted a CF proposal related to cotton and sorghum work. Will have one trial this summer, wants to do more biomass work. Will try to model insect damage based on Desat model system. Sam is interested in seed size issues in cotton and possibly working with Randy on this issue. He had a PGR study last year and did detailed mapping, is working on data analysis but will not repeat this year.

## **II. Working group budget update**

Started with \$1,000. Had a balance of \$920 recently. Additional travel has been submitted. Sam reserved \$300 for travel for this meeting. Erin was planning to purchase "clickers" audio-response system, which will cost \$1,200 for 40 units. Plan is to purchase the system using funds from Cotton Team WG plus CROP WG, plus funds from Kai. Kurt's system integrates seamlessly with Powerpoint. Make sure our system works with PPT and the data dumps right into Excel. Russ suggests we make sure that the system allows numbers to be input.

## **III. Extension publication review**

At the beginning of April, Ed plans to send emails to individual authors to review their old publications. July 1, 2009, anything more than 5 years old will be pulled off the system. If you have an old publication that you feel does not need to be reviewed, send Ed an email and he will consider it. If changes are significant, you could send it out for re-review. Ed has a master list of all the Extension publications, but there may be some on the ACIS reference list that do not match. Authors can check their pubs on ACIS ref list once it is updated and start to review their pubs. Al will prompt everyone with a link to the bibliography, once completed. The commodity reports are exempt from this review requirement. For historical publications done many years ago, it may be important for us to have a list so we know what exists. Ed will find out if there is a list and any resources to scan in and catalog old publications.

## **IV. IPM budget update**

Peter presented an update on the IPM budget. Last October, the formula funds for IPM went competitive. The IPM coordinating committee organized our competitive proposal. Based on **preliminary funding notice from the federal IPM program**, we were successful in increasing our IPM funds by about 80% from previous formula levels (one year of funding). The table below shows the preliminary funding recommendation from the federal IPM program. A good portion of this will go to fund “infrastructure” which includes partial salaries for Al Fournier, Richard Farmer (database specialist) and a student web specialist. We are open to input on how we will use the funds awarded in the category of High-Input Agriculture. Originally, we planned to fund 2 Assistants in extension, but will only have now about 55k to work with. Send Peter an email with your ideas.

<b>Category/Program Component</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
Coordination	25,000	25,000
Collaboration	25,000	25,000
Areas of IPM Emphasis		
Agronomic Crops	26,811	15,000
High Value/High Input	244,610	100,000
Conservation Partnerships	0	0
Diagnostic Facilities	41,978	0
Schools	49,671	0
Housing	0	0
Recreational Lands	41,721	0
Consumer/Urban	20,000	16,000
Pests of Humans/Vectors of Diseases	0	0
Wide Area Pest Monitoring	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 474,791</b>	<b>\$ 181,000</b>

## V. Cotton Report

Russ has 3 articles. Do we want to put these through the peer review system? Yes. Then put on the web immediately and publish a compendium when there are enough articles. The Cotton Team is in favor of this. We proposed the idea to Ed, with Peter and Al identifying associate editors for non-IPM topics. Ed will handle any irrigation topics. We may need to develop criteria specific to technical reports and send this attachment to reviewers.

## VI. Cotton extension planning discussion

- Bill McCloskey will not be available for cotton meetings next year; gone from July – Sept.
- Safford: Summer workshop (June 24, 9-12) and fall field day (Oct. 7).
- Peter suggests for Central AZ some plant mapping workshops early in the season to determine PGR application needs, as something that Erin & Sam might be involved in. Erin wants to initiate monthly “tailgate” meetings in central AZ that might include PGR /

mapping or other topics of interest. (She will determine a regular schedule.) Peter offered to be involved. Fruit retention and differences among varieties is another important topic to address. Could draw in part on historical work that Silvertooth did. Timing on this topic would also be good for insect presentations. Randy offered presentations he has available or could present in central AZ.

- Kurt may do a pre-season meeting in Dec or Jan. There is concern since Eric Norton left, LaPaz is not being served. Kurt plans to run at least one meeting there. It was suggested Kurt contact Mike Chumley at WFS to help arrange a meeting.

## **VII. Other business**

- ACIS add a button that says “Commodity Reports.” Non-IPM cotton articles will be forwarded to cotton team members as associate editors.

New Co-Chairs:

- Agent – Erin
- Specialist – Pedro

Next Meeting: September 11, 10:30 at MAC