Economic Comparison of Ultra-Narrow and Conventional Row Spacings for Cotton Production. (C03-clawson113502-Oral)

Authors:

- E.L.Clawson* - *Texas Agricultural Experiment Station*
- J.T.Cothren - *Texas Agricultural Experiment Station*

Abstract:

Typical row spacings for cotton are 76 to 102 cm. An alternative system is ultra-narrow row (UNR) cotton, which uses row spacings no wider than 25 cm. The profitability of UNR cotton is under debate. Evidence exists for earlier crop maturity, and yields have been higher in some studies. Costs of production vary from those of conventional rows in several ways, including seed, tillage, and fixed costs for equipment. Lint quality problems, real or reputed, can cause price discounts for UNR cotton. A study at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Burleson County, TX compared cotton in 19-, 38-, and 76-cm row spacings across nitrogen fertilizer rates of 0, 50, 101, and 151 kg N/ha. Data was obtained on yield, time to potential harvest aid application (earliness) and fiber quality. The 101- and 151-kg N/ha treatments were used in an economic comparison of the three row spacings. In the experiment, each treatment received identical cultural practices, including hand harvest. Because this negates important factors in profitability, another comparison of the row spacings was performed assuming differences in price and costs of production typical of production situations.

Corresponding Author Information:

Ernest Clawson
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Mail Stop 2474
College Station, TX 77843-2474

phone: 979-845-3404
fax: 979-845-0456
e-mail: e_clawson@neo.tamu.edu

Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2002
Presentation Time: 9:30 am

Keywords:

cotton, economics, row spacing