We have had excellent weather conditions this fall for harvesting cotton. Harvesting is winding down with another bumper crop. Yields have been exceptional and fiber quality is better than the 2004 crop. Cotton modules are scattered across the landscape and gins are running nonstop.

One drawback to a good harvest for some producers has been cotton root rot. Many producers are opting to rotate to wheat or grain sorghum in those fields where root rot was extremely bad.

With two back to back bumper crops, nitrogen, phosphorous, and other soil nutrients have been depleted from the soil. A soil test this winter would be valuable in determining fertilizer needs for next season.

The Beltwide Cotton Conference will be held in San Antonio on January 3-6, 2006. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about new developments in all aspects of the cotton industry. For more information, give me a call.

Enclosed is a survey concerning the IPM Program. Please fill out and return at your earliest convenience. Enclosed is a return envelope for those who receive the newsletter by mail. For those receiving the newsletter by e-mail, please return the completed survey to my e-mail address.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
1) In which county is your primary occupation or farm?

   _____ Jones   _____ Mitchell   _____ Nolan   _____ Scurry   _____ Other

2) How did you find out about insect information in your area? Check ALL that apply.

   _____ Scouting Program   _____ Newsletter   _____ Farmers

   _____ Turn-row / Gin Meetings   _____ Chemical Salesman   _____ Other

3) Which of the following IPM tactics do you use in managing pests of your major crop? Check ALL that apply.

   _____ Select varieties that reduce or avoid insects and diseases.
   _____ Use recommended planting dates.
   _____ Use field scouting for insects, disease or weed pests.
   _____ Use pheromone traps to monitor pests.
   _____ Rotate crops for insect, disease or weed management.
   _____ Conserve or protect beneficial insects.
   _____ Purchase and release beneficial insects.
   _____ Use computerized forecasting models.
   _____ Use economic thresholds for pests.
   _____ Cultivate for weed control.
   _____ Use hand hoeing for weed control.
   _____ Band pesticides to reduce amount applied.
   _____ Soil tests to determine fertilizer rates.
   _____ Destroy or plow down stalks after harvest to reduce pests.

4) How do you decide when a pesticide application is needed on your farm? Check ALL that apply.

   _____ Neighboring farms being treated.
   _____ Pesticide dealer or aerial applicator recommendation.
   _____ Consultant recommendation.
   _____ Scout my own fields.
   _____ Family member or field hand scouting field.
   _____ Extension IPM agent scouting report or recommendation.
   _____ Crop stage or calendar date.
For the following two questions, your answers should be based on how the overall IPM program has impacted your farming operation. The IPM program includes scouting/monitoring, applied research and result demonstrations which include variety testing, newsletters, and educational programs.

5) How has IPM affected your pest management costs in cotton?
   _____ Reduced  _____ Increased  _____ Remained the same
   
   If IPM has affected your pest management costs, please indicate:
   _____ $1 to $10/acre  _____ $10 to $20/acre  _____ $20 to $30/acre  _____ Other

6) How has IPM affected your net profit?
   _____ Reduced  _____ Increased  _____ Remained the same
   
   If IPM has affected your net profit, please indicate:
   _____ $1 to 10/acre  _____ $10 to $20/acre  _____ $20 to $30/acre  _____ Other

7) How often do you use the following sources to acquire information on pesticide use?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>FREQUENTLY</th>
<th>SOMETIMES</th>
<th>NEVER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighboring Producer</td>
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<td>Ag Chemical Magazine</td>
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<td>Computer Programs</td>
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<td>Extension IPM Entomologist</td>
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<td>Ag Chemical Salesmen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extension IPM Newsletter</td>
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8) Please evaluate the IPM newsletter for Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, and Scurry Counties.

   USEFULNESS        LENGTH
   _____ Highly Useful  _____ Too Long
   _____ Somewhat Useful  _____ Too Short
   _____ Not Useful  _____ About Right

9) If you had a field in the scouting program did you look at the scouting reports?
   _____ Yes  _____ No

10) Was the information collected from the cotton scouting program useful to your farming operation?
    _____ Yes  _____ No
11) Please feel free to make any comments or suggestions regarding the IPM program, demonstration work, or newsletter.