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Industry updates

Rewarding Quality

The National Quality Cotton Association rewards certain qualities with premiums above and beyond the USDA loan schedule.

WHILE LATE-season adverse weather has hurt the quality of the U.S. cotton crop, overall producers have turned out better quality crop in 2004. Today's international textile buyers are looking for that higher quality cotton to spin in their mills.

The National Quality Cotton Association (NQCA) helps producers gain more for their quality by guaranteeing a premium to its producer/members for high quality upland cotton.

NQCA executive officer John Goggans says, "Our marketing cooperative offers a multi-tier premium schedule that is over and above the loan schedule. Currently the NQCA premium schedule ranges from 50-250 points. Members always receive a premium when their fiber quality

specifies fall within the premium schedule."

Since the inception of NQCA in 2000, the cooperative's marketing contract has been held by Cargill Cotton, which is the world's largest cotton merchant. In addition to its global marketing skills, Cargill adds financial stability to the group, according to Goggans.

"We work closely with Cargill Cotton's marketing experts, such as John Mitchell, to get the highest possible price for our producer/members' high quality upland cotton," he says. "Cargill is very instrumental in selling our members' cotton to



John Goggans

foreign mills."

The membership of NQCA represents a diverse geography with cotton producers from Texas through the East Coast. This geographic spread helps minimize the risk and economic impact of any adverse environmental conditions that may occur. Currently, NQCA membership represents approximately 200,000 bales of high quality cotton.

Goggans says, "Mark Morris of Chapman Ranch, Texas is president of the Board of Directors. Georgia grower Charles Deal is our vice president; Ben Scarborough, of North Carolina, is secretary-treasurer."

New Seed Treatment

New seed treatment helps fight off nematodes and promotes early-season plant health and vigor.

N-HIBIT IS A new cotton seed treatment from Eden Bioscience for reducing nematode populations by suppressing nematode reproduction. According to the company, N-Hibit turns on plant growth and defense systems, enhances plant health, and has been shown in university trials to substantially reduce nematode egg production.

These and other findings will be detailed at the Beltwide Cotton Conferences in posters that are part of the Cotton Disease Council Technical Conference. Dr. Ned French, Eden's Field Development Scientist also will present a summary during the New Developments from Industry session, and he will be available at the Eden booth among the Cotton Foundation Technical Exhibits.

The presentations also include an update on research findings for ProAct, a foliar spray with registration pending for the 2005 season. ProAct can be applied with

N-Hibit™

glyphosate and is shown to provide a yield boost and other benefits, Dr. French says. Both N-Hibit and ProAct contain formulations of Eden's patented Harp-N-Tek technology with harpin proteins, which are Plant Health Regulators.

Company representatives say, N-Hibit is a unique cotton seed treatment because it turns on the cotton plant's own power to suppress nema-

tode reproduction and reduce egg counts. It triggers the cotton plant's internal capabilities to protect itself from the inside-out.

N-Hibit fits IPM programs and costs a fraction of standard plant protection products. N-Hibit can be used in conjunction with them to gain the added advantage of N-Hibit's environmentally preferable, non-toxic Inside-Out mode of action, Dr. French says. N-Hibit is easy to apply and does not enter the plant or persist in the environment. N-Hibit is available as a commercial seed treatment applied by the seed dealer or as a hopper box formulation applied on the farm.

For more information, access the company's Web site at: www.edenbio.com.



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