

## **Enhancing Cotton Variety Selection through On-Farm Evaluations**

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On-farm cotton variety evaluations were initiated in 2007 in the following Alabama counties: Barbour, Cherokee, Elmore, Fayette, Macon (2), Shelby, and Escambia. Other counties that were considered but were not planted due to severe environmental conditions included Tuscaloosa and a Black Belt location. The primary underlying focus of the trials in 2007 was to compare and evaluate the performance of Roundup Ready Flex varieties. Specifically, this was an effort to evaluate new releases for their potential as a replacement of current technology (i.e., DP 555 BGRR) in 2010. Seed companies that were included in the Flex trials included Delta and Pine Land, Stoneville, FiberMax, and Phytogen. Efforts were made to limit the overall size of the trials to allow for more uniform test sites and replication where possible.

While there were several trials planted in late April and early May 2007, the severe drought made many of them unfit for data collection. The trials in Shelby and Fayette Counties were not harvested for data collection; however, all trials were sampled for fiber quality analysis. One of the Macon County locations was harvested but was also deemed inconclusive due to very low yields where the trial averaged approximately 250 lbs/acre. Yield and fiber quality data will be made available in the final report as well as through the Alabama Cotton website at: [www.alabamacotton.com](http://www.alabamacotton.com). We appreciate the support that we receive from Cotton Incorporated and from the Alabama Cotton Commission each year for our on-farm variety evaluations.