



## **Season 6 Episode 8 —Considerations for Cotton Planting**

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Announcer:

The Alabama Crops Report Podcast, your trusted information source for Alabama agriculture.

Scott Graham

Hey everybody, welcome in to another episode of the Alabama Crops Report Podcast. Today is April the 13th and cotton is pushing \$0.78.

Josh Lee

Yeah, yeah, as of today, which is April the 13th. Futures Decembers you know, going to \$0.77.

Scott Graham

Yeah. Doing good.

Josh Lee

Doing dang good.

Scott Graham

So, you hear Josh there? We got Simer and Chandler. And guess what we're going to talk about today?

Simer Virk

Peanuts

Scott Graham

Cotton. How's everybody doing?

Simer Virk

Good.

Josh Lee

Doing good.

Chandler Greuner

Doing good.

Scott Graham

Hey, is this Jacob's last podcast?

Simer Virk

No, he'll be around for another one, maybe. Yeah. We can always quest his assistant. Okay.

Scott Graham

All right, I was just. We'll give him a. We'll have our goodbye to Jacob later, then. Yeah. We'll talk cotton today.

Simer Virk

So I see our, predicted Alabama cotton acreage. Josh?

Josh Lee

Yeah. We're going to stay. Stay? About the same as we did last year. USDA has got us predicted at 290,000 acres. I do think that that may go up a little bit as we go in, but that's just a speculative.

Simer Virk

What uh?

Scott Graham

320.

Josh Lee

I'm going over three.

Scott Graham

Three, two.

Simer Virk

One. So how did we are planted acres last year? Was that 290 or was that okay?

Scott Graham

We intended closer to 320. And as you remember, it rained all of May.

Simer Virk

I thought we had more that didn't get planted but it was only about 30,000 acres. And that was probably.

Scott Graham

Well maybe we intended more than that actually.

Simer Virk

Because I remember guys in North Alabama saying that there was like 40% of cotton acreage didn't get planted because of the rain and other stuff. Yeah. So, okay. So we will be very close to last year. Now, these are intended acres, of course.

Josh Lee

Of course. So this is just an estimation. We won't know until we once we get past.

Simer Virk

When does the actual planted acreage report come out?

Josh Lee

I'll say the greatest agronomist answer. If it depends. I mean. We're going to be.

Simer Virk

But and the USDA number.

Josh Lee

I don't know that exact date is probably in June. Cause guys are still gonna be planting in June especially in South part of Alabama.

Scott Graham

So so we were off 20% from last year. Good acres.

Simer Virk

Okay. So we can expect that similar swing this year.

Scott Graham

So That's 350

Josh Lee

350

Scott Graham

60,000

Simer Virk

So that kind of makes yeah. That's more. Yeah.

Scott Graham

And my guess is we're going to be closer to that number than under 300. But I could be wrong. I would have been wrong last year

Simer Virk

What actually gets planted, you mean?

Scott Graham

Yeah. Could be I think I think we'll plant more than 290 this year.

Josh Lee

Well, I think that's going to be determined on the weather. Obviously. You know, last year had nothing but rain. Right now we do need some rain. It is really dry across the state. Especially in that southeast corner of Alabama. I'm ready to put cotton in the ground this week, but I'm waiting to catch a rain.

Simer Virk

So what do y'all think? I mean, we mentioned about the price going up a little bit. Is that going to swing some growers, some decisions on maybe a little bit more acreage? Or is this not there where they're like, yeah, I'm going to go in with more than what I thought I would.

Josh Lee

I think it's definitely an incentive. And I know these guys are kind of they're I know I talked down with Chris Parker and some other folks in South Alabama, and they were still some guys on the fence between peanuts and cotton. And this may shift to cotton. This may be that little push, to put it in the cotton acreage.

Scott Graham

At 77, \$0.78. We're still planting at a loss. Right? Right. So we still need a little bit higher to break even. But I think the momentum is gaining there. Yeah, that I think it'll be okay because I don't know what peanut contracts are right now.

Josh Lee

But no, I don't know.

Scott Graham

I haven't been great lately. Jacob's given a thumbs down.

Simer Virk

He don't grow peanuts. There you go

Simer Virk

How much? 37. About 375 a ton.

Scott Graham

But, Josh, you know kind of what I think. Ron and I were talking this morning. We're at the point now where depending on your ground, even if you don't have moisture, you start sticking seed in. Oh, yeah. Right. And just wait. Yeah. Yeah. If you got stuff that's going across real bad or you don't want to get in that situation, but yeah, you know, as far as your seed treatments, they don't really activate until the seed and embombs or swells

Scott Graham

You know, and ingest takes in water. Right. And so you're not going to lose any of your insecticide sitting there. Right? So, you know, we don't want to get into a situation we had last year, summer, where we couldn't plant. Yeah, for three weeks in May. Right.

Simer Virk

It was like I remember it was probably somewhere mid to late April that we had some on farm trials or global collaborators up north Alabama. And they're like, hey, we're starting to plant. And it was probably just that week or so, or maybe a few days they planted and then for 3 or 4 weeks nothing. And next thing you know, now it were toward the end of the planting.

Simer Virk

And in the beginning, you know, so I think we're kind of in a better situation this year, but not really because of the rain and all that.

Josh Lee

So right now, I talked with Chandler this morning. We were talking about cover crops and, you know, conventional tillage. And I said, you know, what's the what's the role of moisture there? You know, with the cover, you know, I always say, you know, I've heard growers say, you know, it's poor man's irrigation. I'm like, well, how much irrigation?

Chandler Greuner

So that's yeah, that's one of the challenges. How much we don't have an exact percentage because kind of varies a little bit. But a lot of times when you have a good cereal rye or a lot of good cover crops, some good above ground biomass, especially like cereal rye, I like to think about it not only has good roots to help with water infiltration, so the rains that are happened earlier in the year.

Chandler Greuner

So as soon as you terminated, it'll actually start filling in the water. And I'll actually start bouncing out that water calculator. And then it covers the ground. So it's reducing your loss for soil moisture. And so that's kind of another benefit of cover crops. And maybe not everyone thinks about early in the season.

Scott Graham

You know it's interesting. So inside baseball for our listeners Josh has a really nice little print up of what we're going to talk about. And in it he has the, drought map. And like the only place we don't grow cotton in the whole state is not in the drought.

Josh Lee

Yeah.

Scott Graham

How about Birmingham, that area?

Simer Virk

Yeah. That wide a wide area.

Scott Graham

Yeah. And part of that is, you know, actually I think Birmingham's in there.

Simer Virk

And, man, South Alabama is in a pretty bad shape.

Scott Graham

Yeah. So yeah.

Josh Lee

And so in this, you know, this is supposed to be released tomorrow as the, as the newest one of the week. So this is actually probably older. I'm, I'm assuming that once it gets released tomorrow, that whole southeast corner is gonna be entirely red. So the red examples is D3, which is an extreme drought, situation. So.

Scott Graham

You know, there's something about big cities, all that asphalt and concrete that just creates a microclimate that I feel like they're more likely to get rainfall than fields are. Yeah. And that could just be me being crazy.

Josh Lee

No, I've heard, you know, you're not crazy. I've heard stuff about like, cities in that kind of stuff with rainfall, it's different. It's a they follow different patterns and stuff. Not a meteorologist. But I've heard of this before.

Scott Graham

I did go to Mississippi State. That's where most meteorologists go to school.

Josh Lee

Well, then there you go.

Scott Graham

I learned. So is that. Yeah. That's true. Yeah.

Simer Virk

Is that a statistically valid?

Scott Graham

Yes. Yeah. Okay. At least the ones on TV I don't know about. Anyway, we need rain either way.

Josh Lee

Yeah, we do.

Scott Graham

We do. We need. Right.

Simer Virk

We need. So you talk about even. It's go time for cotton, right? Even though we're still, well early on our mid April. Right. Today is April the 13th, when we're recording this. FYI. So you think were there no chances of rain, grower can still go ahead? And how do they kind of manage that decision?

Josh Lee

So it seems like the overall morale right now is let's go out and plant, which I'm all for it. But I mean, we make some dang good cotton in May and June. I mean, there's nothing to sneeze at right there. So I mean.

Simer Virk

It's okay to wait?Yeah.

Josh Lee

It's okay to wait. Yeah, I would rather I would rather wait and make sure I get a good stand. And I don't have to have a replant situation. So I think that's that's definitely and and definitely in your favor to wait just a second. We make good cotton, especially in South Part. We got a good long growing season.

Josh Lee

We can make those full season varieties go all the way out.

Chandler Greuner

When you're thinking about drought too, and like being dry this time of year, some of the people are want to go ahead and get out there and start planting. So if you're gonna do surface application like urea fertilizer, that's it. Large investment. So that's another thing that might influence the cotton acres right now is it's up 35 to 38% for urea for cost of fertilizer is using an mBPT inhibitor a urea Ace inhibitor.

Chandler Greuner

So if you're putting it out there in that dry ground to help reduce that loss to gas of the nitrogen, you know, it's going to influence the cost. And you know, it's going to cost you a little bit extra. But also, one of the things I've kind of noticed come in to looking around at different places is you need to know how much percent mBPT inhibitor is actually in the product you're buying, because sometimes you may get a very low dose and you actually need a little bit higher dose to make sure it's following the labeled rate that you're supposed to be using from that product.

Chandler Greuner

So product to product there can be some variability. So always check the label on that.

Simer Virk

I don't think we have touched on that before.

Scott Graham

I didn't understand most of that. I'm going to be honest.

Simer Virk

Yeah that's what I said. It like what?

Scott Graham

I just nodded and agreed with him. Yeah.

Simer Virk

Seem like we need to have a topic.

Scott Graham

So yeah, I assume the people that need to know what that means, know what it means.

Chandler Greuner

Yes, if you're if you're going down to the local elevator and you see the urea and you're like, that's funny looking, it's got a green or bluish tend to it, it's probably got an mBPT inhibitor. But if you're saying it's pure white, which is the original form, that means it doesn't have that urea Ace inhibitor, and urea Ace inhibitor just prevents it from becoming gas.

Chandler Greuner

Very common. I, you know, used it a lot in rice production in Arkansas. So where we have humidity, you don't want to hydrolyze on the surface and gas vialotize and lose your nitrogen. You know, you're losing your investment, something you just bought. So you pay a little bit of extra money to put this inhibitor. So it kind of becomes a slow release.

Chandler Greuner

And so it's slow releases. It helps it actually work its way into the soil instead of being lost to the environment.

Simer Virk

Gotcha. All right. So wait a little bit. Let's see what are the weather counters.

Josh Lee

Especially if you dry land. If you've got if you're fortunate enough to have some irrigation, you can I'd say go ahead and roll if you feel comfortable and ready. But right now, I'd hold off for just a second and see if we can get a little bit of moisture in that ground, make sure we get the good stand and all that stuff up, and so kind of brings me in to the next thing, you know, getting a good stand.

Josh Lee

You know, Simer, we need good planting. We need a good planter. Set up, step one. It's one of our first beginnings.

Simer Virk

Yeah. Well, hopefully again, given that we are in mid April, if the guys if you're just cotton and peanuts, I think you still got time to maybe work on the planters in the shop. You know, do everything the best. I feel like that's probably the best time they can spend on making sure that planter, because seed is, again, one of the biggest cost and, we've done a couple of articles here recently.

Simer Virk

We did a lot of trials last year. And then the amount of seeding rate issues we see with these planters, you know, and that's just a kind of wasted money. Anytime we're putting our extra seed in what we should be. Right. That dollar could have gone towards something else on the farm. So proper planter setup. I think that's probably a key.

Simer Virk

Not just cotton every crop. But again, if you're like cotton peanut you still have time, to make sure that you can do a lot of stuff in the, in the shop. Right. Check your seed depth properly. Make sure all the seed meters and. Hey, we we've talked a lot of dealers around the state. Most of them offer seed meter testing.

Simer Virk

You can actually take your seed meter's off, have them tested. It's about 20 to \$25 per meter. But trust me, that's a that's a really good investment that you would actually make money on plant right before you even get out in the field and start chasing any planting

issues. For the guys who are already planting out in the field, I think the biggest thing is make sure you take, you know, whenever you switch to cotton, you take time on changing all the settings in between.

Simer Virk

Because especially if you're planting corn right now, a lot of our settings, they don't just go straight translate into cotton. You our seed depth is different or even our, you know, seeding rates, cotton plates and everything. And we see some issues where it's very easy to get it in rush. Right. Swapping crops and like, well, I just finished my corn and I got to get on cotton and then miss something.

Simer Virk

But again, I think years like this is every time and minute you spent on the planter setup and making sure you double check everything. I mean, we've been doing this and I don't know, I'm going to be Jacob them or helping me. And for the last few years, but I've been doing this for ten years. We still get out in the field with our planter sometimes where we have neglected something right?

Simer Virk

And it's like, okay, we could have done a better job.

Josh Lee

Yeah, it's always worth it to get out and check before we get rolling. And we've planted several hundred acres and we found an issue. Yeah, always just get out and check before we get rolling.

Simer Virk

Yeah, I definitely say seeding rate is a big one. Right. You want to? That's probably the most money tied to the seed, especially if you're over applying a lot of seed depth and downforce especially. Again, depending on your soil moisture, because a lot of our guys, maybe as we get closer to rain or something, maybe dusting in.

Simer Virk

Right. Yeah. That's where you're barely dropping the seed and then just kind of get enough soil seed to soil contact. If you're in a irrigated situation, all that, you can put that seed a little bit under the soil and turn the pivot on it. You know, but checking that depth, I think is pretty critical. Again, downforce is something that you're not going to be able to set up in the shop.

Simer Virk

It's just field by field changes. And that's the thing, planting is or even a planter setup is a dynamic thing. I think the what we have learned, it's not just like you said it once, invest your time and it's ready to go across the whole season. It changes from a field to field, crop to crop. So make sure you're spending the time on that.

Scott Graham

Speaking of planning and chasing moisture, according to James Spann on Facebook this morning, we have chances of, quote, meaningful rain and thunderstorms in Alabama by the weekend of April 25-26.

Simer Virk

Okay, good. So that would be right. Pretty close to where we live, you know, like we would still be a good planting beginning for or planting season for cotton.

Scott Graham

Generally speaking, that would be early in Alabama.

Josh Lee

Yeah yeah yeah. We yeah that's that's plenty of time. That's you know where we think we'd be good rock and roll.

Simer Virk

Let me ask you this. We were talking about this, you know, when the growers should start planting and all that. They get a lot of this seed already, right. Everybody hopefully should already have their seed and everything. Does that change any of the variety decisions if, if I weren't going to plant this week versus you saying hey let's hold off.

Simer Virk

We're not getting in rain. Right. And now I'm into let's say first week of May. Well that change or potentially could change some of the variety decisions for them.

Josh Lee

I wouldn't say too much. I mean, sometimes, you know, a lot of times in the early season what you run into, you plan early, you've got it out there and sometimes you'll hit a cool spell, you'll get the plant germinated and it kind of stalls for a couple of days because temps are going low, you know, because whenever you have the heat, that's what's going to fuel the growth In fact

Josh Lee

The hotter it is, the faster that crop's going to develop. So it kind of just sits there. And then once those temperatures come back, that crop that you planted early and it turned cool, it's going to come back and go. Whereas if you waited an extra week past that cool period and you planted, honestly, they'll catch up to about the same period of time.

Josh Lee

So honestly, you didn't really lose time at plants able to compensate and grow faster.

Simer Virk

So the same year, you can technically.

Josh Lee

You could get away with. Yeah, like, if you've got an early and then you've got a mid maturing, I wouldn't, I would what.

Simer Virk

Okay.

Scott Graham

Well I don't, I don't think anybody order in seed in December anticipated starting to plant on April 10th

Simer Virk

Yeah.

Josh Lee

So what would be plant. Yeah. Later.

Simer Virk

So what would be called. Because we always refer to this early planting let's say on time planting whatever. Right. Our ideal period in late planting. Yeah. What would that be for our situation.

Josh Lee

The early planting. Yeah. So what I would call I'd call it about mid April.

Scott Graham

It's probably okay I would say April 15th.

Simer Virk

So right now we're in the early is early.

Josh Lee

Yeah. So this is like the first go time. We can actually put something in there and actually get a viable stand is how I would

Scott Graham

Well we got to stand in February.

Josh Lee

Well I mean with that yes. Scott's growing all kind of different.

Scott Graham

To to your point about it can get in there and germinate and then just hang out and wait. The stuff that we planted on February the 15th, when Ron and I went and looked at it week after last or something like that, it was the same age as the stuff that was planted, you know, 5 or 6 weeks later, all that cotton's the exact same.

Simer Virk

It's just said, yeah, yeah, I had a cotton in Tifton one year. It just stood there for like month and a half and it got me really worried. And there was some nematode problem with this stuff going on in the field. But like, that was like the weirdest thing ever because you see the plants coming out, you check the field and like, oh, okay, so it's all coming up well.

Simer Virk

And you and like we were gone for like from that field for a good two weeks and you come back and the plants are still there.

Scott Graham

Yeah. Yeah yeah.

Simer Virk

That was.

Josh Lee

So. Yeah. It's fun. It's fun to watch, funny to watch. It's like why do you think you know.

Simer Virk

Yeah. It would be like coming back to almost double the size of the plant. But it's still sitting right there. Yeah.

Scott Graham

But but I would say, you know, as far as late planted you get into June, you're starting to get late. Yeah. Trying to remember last year I think I said on the podcast I plant all the thing. To the 20th.

Simer Virk

Doctor Smith. He was saying even maybe. Yeah. He was like even saying 20th. Yeah. Something that we were still.

Scott Graham

Like, hey, we were right.

Josh Lee

And and so good. Well it was, it was exactly right. Because you had conditions, especially in August that were so favorable for, for like growth and so dry. You had good sunshine. All the conditions were right to make cotton. That's you know, it doesn't happen every single year.

Scott Graham

We were right last year. You were right. Yeah. It could be totally wrong this year

Simer Virk

So so talking about early planting, Cotton's got. Did you get any jassids on them?

Scott Graham

Not yet. I said we still in in the lower southeast Alabama, Florida and Georgia. We have one single cotton jassid in 2026. And that was like the first week of January.

Simer Virk

Okay. So where do you think they are?

Scott Graham

D\_o\_n\_'t\_k\_n\_o\_w\_\_

Simer Virk

They all died.

Scott Graham

Don't know

Simer Virk

Okay. So no activity at all yet as of today.

Scott Graham

Don't know. No, no we have, we have not seen any. Chandler's got traps in southeast Alabama around cover crops and in central Alabama. None there.

Chandler Greuner

Yeah, we've been checking them since end of January. So I started right after the UGA had one found. But we've been checking them. We have cover crop and not cover crop fields in the Tallasee shorter area and the Prattville Greater area. More check and both cover crop fields and non cover crop fields as we're trying to understand that association if there is any association with cover crops, are they using cover crops to hide in as an overwintering location?

Chandler Greuner

We haven't seen any present and we're actually getting into that time period where we're starting to terminate them. And we didn't have any by the time of termination as we're prepping for cotton planting in the next couple of weeks.

Simer Virk

So you both said January, but what you until what time last year were they present like? What was the last known activity in the end to last year?

Scott Graham

You putting my memory on the spot now, Simer, but, I mean, I think we're find them finding them through December.

Simer Virk

Oh, you think.

Scott Graham

I don't remember, I don't remember.

Simer Virk

I'm just trying to figure it out. Like you said, we don't know if they died or they went somewhere all that. Like what? Where was that time?

Scott Graham

You know, the problem is not seeing any right now might mean something, and it might not, because we don't know what last year was like. Yeah, right. We do know that, last week they were found, an active population was found on hibiscus plants at Walmart in Florence, South Carolina. So we've checked several Walmarts in the state of Alabama and have not found any on our hibiscus yet.

Scott Graham

But that is, you know, my guess is that's not necessarily... that movement doesn't concern me about infesting cotton fields. That movement concerns me about moving resistance around, because think about it. In these nurseries and stuff, there's no tolerance for insect damage. So they're spraying prophylactically. They're spraying as soon as they see one. They don't have thresholds like we do.

Scott Graham

And they're using a lot of the same materials that we use. Josh. And so that that's what concerns me is not a bunch of hibiscus with Jaccid shows up at Lowe's and Dothan. And then two weeks later, they're all over

Houston County or whatever. The the concern is some of those get out with resistance alleles and then that spreads in the population.

Scott Graham

And in six weeks we got a problem. Right. I think we'll we'll do a good job managing resistance in cotton fields, but we can't control what happens elsewhere.

Simer Virk

And so it's a it's a good news as of now that we have not seen any activity.

Scott Graham

To quote Phillip.

Simer Virk

But we have not even planted a lot of cotton yet.

Scott Graham

So he says it's good news, to quote Phillip Roberts.

Scott Graham

Maybe. Don't know

Simer Virk

Don't know.

Scott Graham

Because because we don't know what it was like last year. Right?

Simer Virk

Yeah. We're not looking at last year. Right.

Scott Graham

So we were doing some sweeping and stuff, but we weren't looking like we are now.

Simer Virk

Which I know last time when we were doing a jassid update and all that, I guess like if we get too cold and all that, that might, like, inhibit their activity stuff, but we have not been that cool. It's been dry and warm. Relatively.

Scott Graham

Yeah. I'm surprised we haven't found one yet.

Simer Virk

That's what I was getting.

Scott Graham

Last week or so.

Simer Virk

Okay. Yeah.

Scott Graham

I will be shocked if we don't find them in the next two weeks somewhere where they're going to be first is out north. Yeah. South. Yeah. And it's going to be on okra patches. That's where they're going to show up first. If I had to guess which I do because I don't know.

Josh Lee

Maybe. S along the same line Scott you know we always obviously talking about the J word jassids. But what about early season thrips for cotton.

Scott Graham

Yeah. Thrips. If you look at the, thrips infestation predictor model, from North Carolina State that we've been talking about for a long time now, as of right now, it's predicting probably the highest pressure we've ever had, certainly since I've been here. And that starts

in late April and runs through the first two weeks of May, which is not really where we expect it to be.

Scott Graham

But it's just so dry. There's nothing else for them to be on. And so, you know, ditch banks are don't have much. They're going to move into something that's lush and coming up. And that's going to be cotton, who knows. We may doesn't cause yield loss, but we may even see some thrips injury in soybeans this year.

Scott Graham

I think the pressure is just going to be that high from them moving. I could be wrong, but yeah, it's going to be an interesting year. So if you if you're not familiar with the the cotton tip cotton thrips infestation predictor model, it's a mouthful. If you just Google cotton thrips model, you'll find it. NC state's got the website.

Scott Graham

You can go in there and click a location, for one of your farms. You don't really need to run it for every farm, but just you pick a planting date or a, predicted planting date, and it will give you a, relative risk of thrips infestation across the season. And it'll also show you that risk for last year.

Scott Graham

So as an example, I've got it pulled up right now. I'm, on the I-pad. I picked the planting date of April 22nd, this year. That is a 0.8 out of a one. A one is the worst it could be. Last year, April 22nd was a 0.2.

Josh Lee

That's significantly different.

Simer Virk

Why? Why April risk this year.

Scott Graham

Because there's so much drier. So dry. There's just there's not as much. I mean, if you look at crimson Clover and stuff out there right now, it looks sad. It looks bad because it was so dry. Everything looks sad. Last year, April 27th was a 0.4, This year it's a one. I don't see very many ones.

Scott Graham

And so, it, you know, we always say you don't use this model for when to plant, but you use it for when to use your thrive on. Right. If you're going to use drop on cotton because we expect it to stand up very well, or if you're going to use something like ag logic, put that in in your high risk window.

Scott Graham

Right. And know which fields are likely to need a foliar spray if you don't have thrive on or if you don't have stuff like ag logic in it. Actually, it's pretty neat. Think about your about a hunting rifle with a red dot scope. It gives you a red dot and it gives you the day you need to spray.

Scott Graham

It's pretty cool. I never noticed that before. And so you can use that to help you also, I don't actually look like that's what that is, but that's what. Oh, no. Here's the red dot. I'm on the wrong one. Yeah. So. So you can use that as a way to, to know, to try to plan the logistics on the farm of when I need to spray my cotton.

Scott Graham

But, yeah.

Simer Virk

How many spray sprays grower a grower usually does for thrips.

Scott Graham

Usually one if they need. Oh, yeah. It's the best timing is, is actually when that first leaf is still furled up in the in the bud in the terminal. The best timing. They, they lay most of the eggs on the cotyledons, and then the, the immatures hatch out and they get inside the furrow and feed on the top of the leaf.

Scott Graham

And that's why we see the bubbling up, because it's not killing the bottom side of the, the leaf tissue, killing the upper side And, so that's why you see that bubbling. The problem is you really when you make a spray, generally speaking, you are protecting the next leaf that emerges, not the one that's about to,

Scott Graham

Because, like I said, they're inside that that furrow. So you can't get the insecticide to them as easily. But anyway, that that's that's not really the point of today, but, but yeah, all that say we expect very high thrips pressure this year. Okay.

Josh Lee

So that means we better have some good thrips protection out there, especially if we're planting.

Scott Graham

But potentially if I may potentially, a larger peak of early season plant bugs too. Okay. We'll see. But, you know, Daisy flea bane is their primary host, and Dry Springs, the flea Bane all kind of plays out at one time, and they move really quick in the cotton, which is not always a bad thing, because it makes it easier to time up a spray when it's a wetter spring or a more normal spring, quote unquote.

Scott Graham

And the flea bane plays out over an extended period of time. That movement also plays out over an extended period of time. And so maybe this won't maybe this will help us on Plant Bugs. Maybe not. I don't know.

Josh Lee

Time will tell.

Scott Graham

Well, yeah.

Simer Virk

So Scout maybe. Maybe Scout.

Scott Graham

Scout. Scout early Scout often.

Simer Virk

Yes.

Scott Graham

So. Sure. Yeah. Our consultant, our scout. Somebody that can get out and look at your crop. I just don't think we can do this thing without one. And another point that Ron and I were talking about while we're still talking about jassids is that if you think back to last year, they weren't in every field.

Scott Graham

They weren't even in every field in a local area. Right. And so you can't just or as of right now, we can't comfortably say if you find them in in a couple of fields on a farm, spray everything. Or, you know, everything's going to get sprayed this week. And so you need to scout as many. I know you can't scout every single field, but you need to scout as many fields as you can and be prepared to treat.

Simer Virk

Could be a field by field

Scott Graham

We could be doing precision ag this. You know, we invented precision ag precision.

Simer Virk

Precision management of jassids.

Scott Graham

Yeah that's right. We in entomology we invented precision ag. We just called it IPM instead. And that's flashy as precision ag today. But but we started treating fields when needed based on the local data from that specific field. But anyway.

Simer Virk

That's why you and I get along well.

Scott Graham

That's right. We're we're both just a precision ag guys. Yeah. We can we can get off into that another time. Also.

Simer Virk

All right, so, kind of varieties, is this here?

Josh Lee

One last plug. So like Simer said, most of you guys have already chosen your varieties. You've got them all picked out. But if you don't, you're still trying to choose. There's a couple

tools. We've got Auburn OVT cotton variety trials. That information is there along with the cotton on farm, large plot variety trials. That information is also there.

Josh Lee

It's in the cotton newsletter. I put it out. Remember to follow the, Auburn Cotton Shorts newsletter for updates. That'll be put out monthly. If something is really, pertinent to the time, we'll put it out more than that. But make sure to keep up the date there.

Simer Virk

How are briefly explain me how are those two different. Yeah.

Josh Lee

So the Auburn OVT trials. Those are going to be your small plot research. They're going to be more spread across the state. You're going to have a variety of conditions, such as irrigated dryland conditions and different planting dates in early and the late. So a little bit more information, but on a little bit smaller scale, more varieties on the Auburn on farm variety trials, we're going to have a less number of locations.

Josh Lee

However, the plot size is going to be significantly larger, with more, just are your standard commercial varieties.

Simer Virk

More with growers.

Josh Lee

Is this grower centered? Yes. This is grower focused. Yes.

Scott Graham

So Henry likes to say that Henry Jordan, who runs OVT, he likes to say that the over he shows you the potential of that variety. Hopefully when everything's done right.

Simer Virk

Right. Yeah.

Scott Graham

The on farm variety trial shows you what it does in the real world. And so you can both they they're very complementary for making decisions.

Simer Virk

Oh, also he can put a lot more in the mix. Right. In a very small plot.

Scott Graham

Right.

Josh Lee

Sure. We can look at baking different things at one time. So that does that allows us to give me more flexibility so we can know, hey, we know a little bit of something on this front. Yeah.

Simer Virk

And I would kind of echo what you said. I don't think a lot of universities have a really nice tool for variety selection. In fact, I know even some institutions that are looking for the ways to compile their variety data over the years and make some that I think Auburn's got probably one of the nicest tools. Right.

Simer Virk

I would.

Josh Lee

Say.

Simer Virk

So where you can go and look at by location, year specific, all that. I think that's one of the best, best tools out there. So make sure to check it out.

Josh Lee

Utilize it. Yeah. Your tools are there.

Simer Virk

Exactly. And he spends a lot of effort in managing and maintaining that tool as well.

Josh Lee

Yes, yes he does. Henry does a great job.

Scott Graham

All right. Anything else we need to cover now?

Simer Virk

I'd say next time we record this, hopefully growers would be out on the field. We'll have some rain across the state and.

Josh Lee

Have some rain. I'll be walking cotton. That's what the plan is.

Scott Graham

Hey, look, this week it's just real quickly. I was talking with the farmer last week. We're up to 77, \$0.78. Maybe book just a little bit. Book some.

Simer Virk

It's like investing.

Scott Graham

Yeah, just a little bit. Yeah. You know, you never know what it's going to do. Maybe just book a couple a couple acres. Yeah. I don't know. Maybe not.

Simer Virk

Do it at a time.

Scott Graham

Yeah. I don't, I don't know if you can literally book a couple acres, but you can book a couple bales, you know, just. Yeah, well, there's a while. There's a price on the way up. Get a little.

Simer Virk

Yeah. It's better than, what, 66 cents

Scott Graham

That's right.

Simer Virk

Yes.

Scott Graham

So, it isn't near where it needs to be. But I mean, we hope the trend continues. But you don't. You never know.

Simer Virk

Absolutely.

Scott Graham

All right guys Will enjoyed it. As always, appreciate our listeners. People that, come in every week and catch up with us. So if there's any topics or conversations we need to have, please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know. And as always, if any of us with Alabama Extension could do anything to help, let us know.

Announcer:

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