

AG NEWS & VIEWS

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THE TRACTORS HAVE BEEN RUNNING & THE COTTON IS IN

It is near the end of planting, and as far as I can tell, cotton has gone in needing moisture. I have noticed some is already up, which gives us all hope for a good crop year. However, we are all waiting to see what our water situation is going to look like. Many of you have told me, it is already starting to look like a dry year. Hopefully, you are wrong.

On the other side of the note, I would like to send a sincere thank you to **Al Spinks, Perry Lewis, and Roy Graham**. In May, we were able to get all of the test plots planted. This year's performance tests include:

1. Grain Sorghum Hybrid Performance Test. (Spinks)

2. Dryland Cotton Variety Performance Test. (Lewis)
3. Irrigated (Drip System) Cotton Variety Performance Test. (Graham)

I have already received reports that some of the tests are up, so we are in business to have a result demonstration program in 2009. Again, let's hope we get the needed rain to see these tests through.

Finally, I would like to thank all the seed companies who supported this program. We have received support from all major cotton seed companies and most of the grain sorghum companies. Their support is necessary for this successful endeavor. -AZM

Midland County Extension Office
County of Midland, Texas
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Texas Department of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

<http://midland-tx.tamu.edu>
<http://www.co.midland.tx.us>
<http://texasextension.tamu.edu>
<http://www.agr.state.tx.us>
<http://www.usda.gov>



PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Individuals interested in training and testing for a private pesticide applicator's license can train at the Midland County Extension Office. Trainings will be conducted monthly at the Midland County Extension Office. Training dates for 2009 are **6/25, 7/24, 8/24, 9/24, 10/23, and 11/24**. There will be no training in December 2009. Cost of materials is \$30.00 person for the books needed for the training. After you have completed the training, you have one year to take the exam at a Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) ap-

proved testing site. The regional TDA inspector for this area conducts monthly tests at the Ector County Extension Office. For information on the testing, please contact the Ector County Extension Office at 432-498-4071. Individuals who desire to train at the Midland County Office will need to contact us ten (10) prior to the testing to ensure we have the materials on hand and to RSVP for the training date. Trainings will start at 9:00 am and will conclude before 1:00 pm.

FARM PROGRAM TRAINING

Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2009

Farm Program Training

Howard, Martin and Midland Counties

Speakers

Rob Hogan - Ag Economics Specialist

Rick Liles - Farm Service Agency

Jay Yates - Risk Management Specialist

Three general CEU's will be given for participation.
For more information please contact:

June 24, 2009

Howard College Administration Building
Room A8

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Tommy Yeater, CEA, Howard County, 432-264-2236
Gary Earhart, CEA, Martin County, 432-756-3316
Zan Matthies, CEA, Midland County, 432-686-4700

INTERESTING WEBSITES

Since becoming a county extension agent, I have found the value of a number of different websites which offer newsletters emailed directly to you at no cost. I would like to share the following with each of you as you might find some useful information from these publications.

Southwest Farm Press

<http://southwestfarmpress.com/>

Beef Magazine

<http://www.beefmagazine.com/>

Hay & Forage Grower

<http://hayandforage.com/newsletters/>

Crop News Weekly

<http://enews.penton.com/enews/cropnewsweekly>

AG ECO NEWS

JOSE PENA

Ag Exports Forecast To Drop 17% In 2009 From 2008's Record Highs; Imports Up Slightly

Weakened Global Economy Slowing Trade

The value of a dollar is mostly up in 2009 relative to 2008, and contributing to reduced exports. According to USDA's May 28, 2009 report, the U.S. dollar increased in value by four and two percent in relation to the Japanese yen and the Chinese yuan, respectively, and up 12 to 14 percent against the Mexican peso, Canadian dollar, UK pound, and Indian rupee. The dollar is expected to rise 20 percent against the Brazilian real and the Argentinean peso.

When the value of the dollar increases, commodities priced in dollars effectively become more expensive for buyers holding other currencies, thereby discouraging exports.

NAFTA

Meanwhile, implementation of the agricultural provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) drew to a close last year. In 2008, the last of NAFTA's transitional restrictions governing U.S.-Mexico and Canada-Mexico agricultural trade were removed, concluding a 14-year project in which the member countries systematically dismantled numerous barriers to regional agricultural trade. During the implementation period, the agricultural sectors of Canada, Mexico, and the United States have become much more integrated.

Ag trade between the U.S., Mexico and Canada has increased over

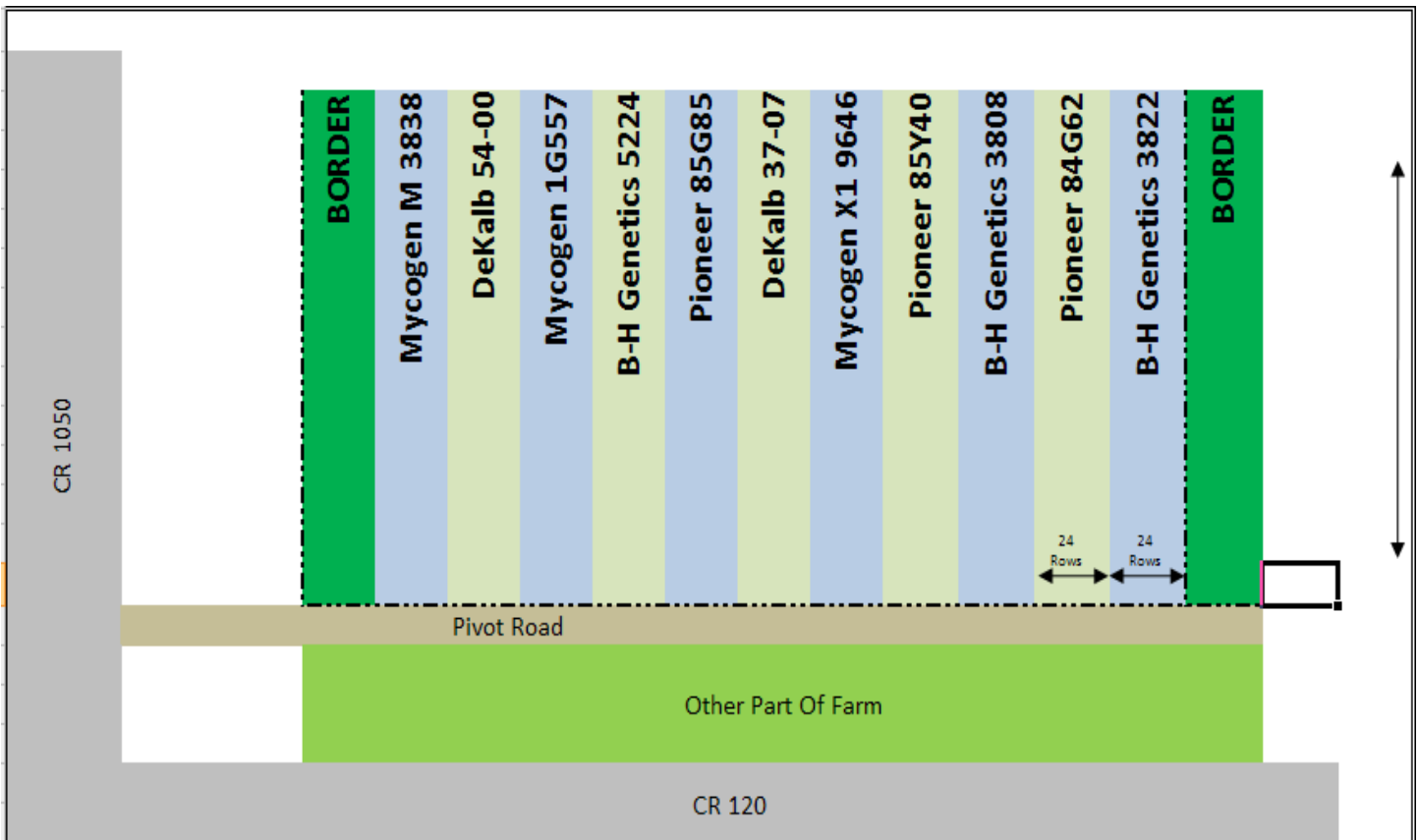
300 percent since the early '90's as Canadian and Mexican industries that rely on U.S. agricultural inputs have expanded. U.S. feedstuffs have facilitated a marked increase in Mexican meat production and consumption, and the importance of Canadian and Mexican produce to U.S. fruit and vegetable consumption is growing. (See Figure 1A).

Canada and Mexico are the first and second largest export markets for U.S. agricultural products. Exports to the two markets in 2009 move ahead of East Asia as the top destination for U.S. agricultural exports. Europe is a distant third. U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico have more than tripled to about \$16.0 billion in 2008 since NAFTA was implemented in 1994. (Figure 1B). And, while exports to Canada have increased about 360 percent, reaching \$15.0 billion in 2008, up from \$4.2 billion in 1990, imports from Canada have grown even more, from \$3.2 billion to \$18.0 billion in 2008. (Figure 1C). Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, snack foods, and other consumer foods account for close to three-fourths of U.S. sales to Canada.

****Appreciation is expressed to Drs. Parr Rosson, Extension Economist Director, Center for North American Studies and Flynn Adcock, for their contribution and to review this article.**

“Canada and Mexico are the first and second largest export markets for U.S. agricultural products.”

GRAIN SORGHUM HYBRID PERFORMANCE TEST - SPINKS



The Midland County Grain Sorghum Hybrid Performance Test was established on May 5, 2009, on the farm of **Al Spinks**. Planting of the plot took approximately three (3) hours, and started at 10:35 am. The hybrids were planted using a 12-row planter where we established 24-row plots for each hybrid. The test plot was setup as a standard result demonstration or “side-by-side” block for visual observation and yield evaluation.

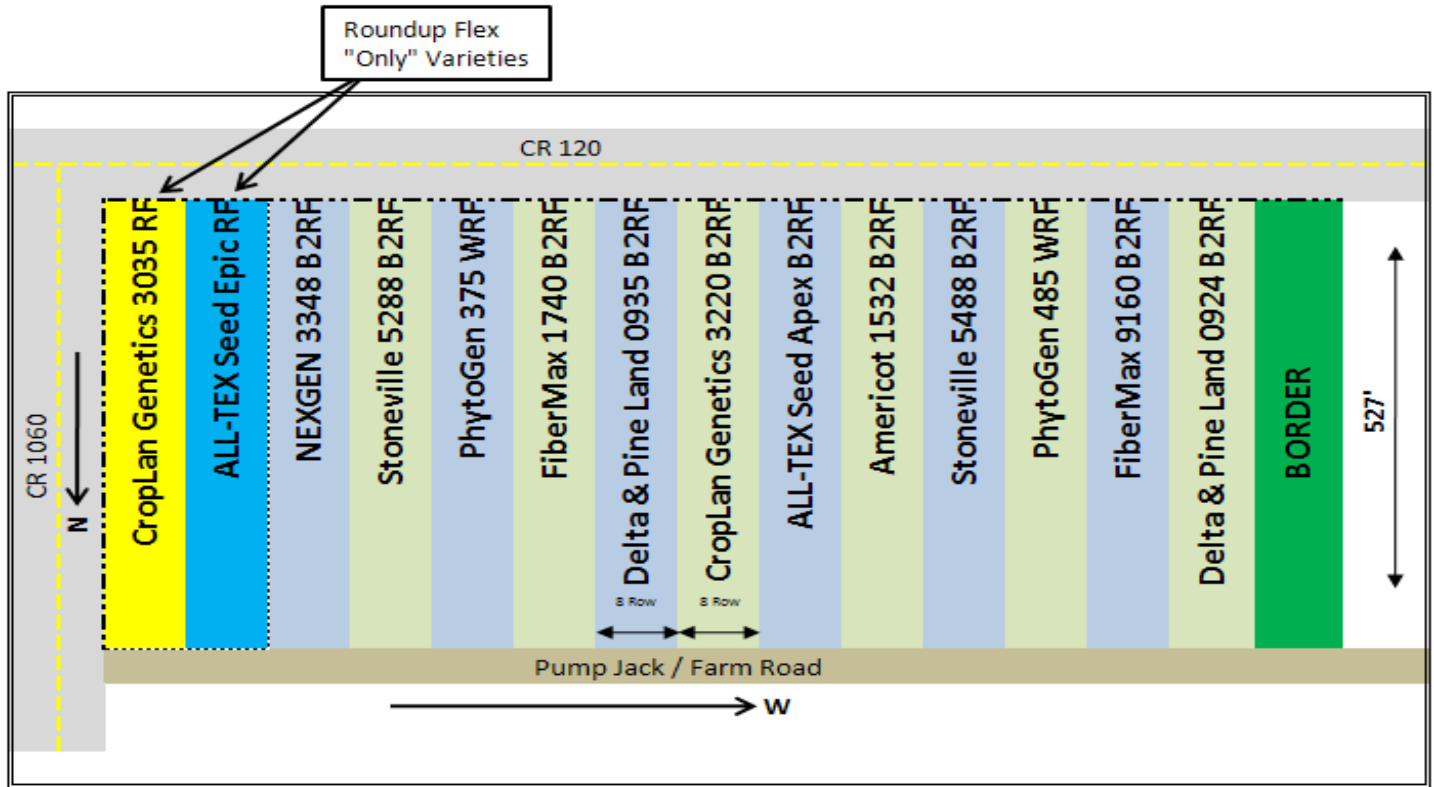
The test plot is located just north of CR 120 on CR 1050. The grain sorghum is under pivot irrigation.

The image above is the plot map. The image below is a sample of the plot evaluation which will be completed after harvest.

Midland County Grain Sorghum Hybrid Performance Test COOPERATOR - AL SPINKS

Company	Hybrid	Seed Treatment	Length (FT)	Width (FT)	Acreage	Yield	Bu Wgt	Moisture	Yield/ac (lbs)	14% Moisture Std
										Adjusted Yield/ac (Bu)
Mycogen	M3838	Concep/Cruiser	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
DeKalb Seed	54-00	Concep/Poncho	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mycogen	1G557	Concep/Cruiser	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
B-H Genetics	5224	Concep III	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Pioneer	85G85	Concep III	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
DeKalb Seed	37-07	Concep/Poncho	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mycogen	X1 9646	Concep/Cruiser	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Pioneer	85Y40 - N271	Concep III	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
B-H Genetics	3808	Concep/Cruiser	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Pioneer	84G62	Concep III	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
B-H Genetics	3822	Concep III	60	60	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!

COTTON VARIETY PERFORMANCE TEST (IRRIGATED) - GRAHAM



The Midland County Irrigated Cotton Variety Performance Test was established on May 20, 2009, on the farm of **Roy Graham**. Planting of the plot took approximately four (4) hours, and started at 2:00 pm. The varieties were planted using an 8-row planter where we established 8-row plots for each variety. The test plot was setup as a standard result demonstration or “side-by-side” block for visual observation and yield evaluation. The

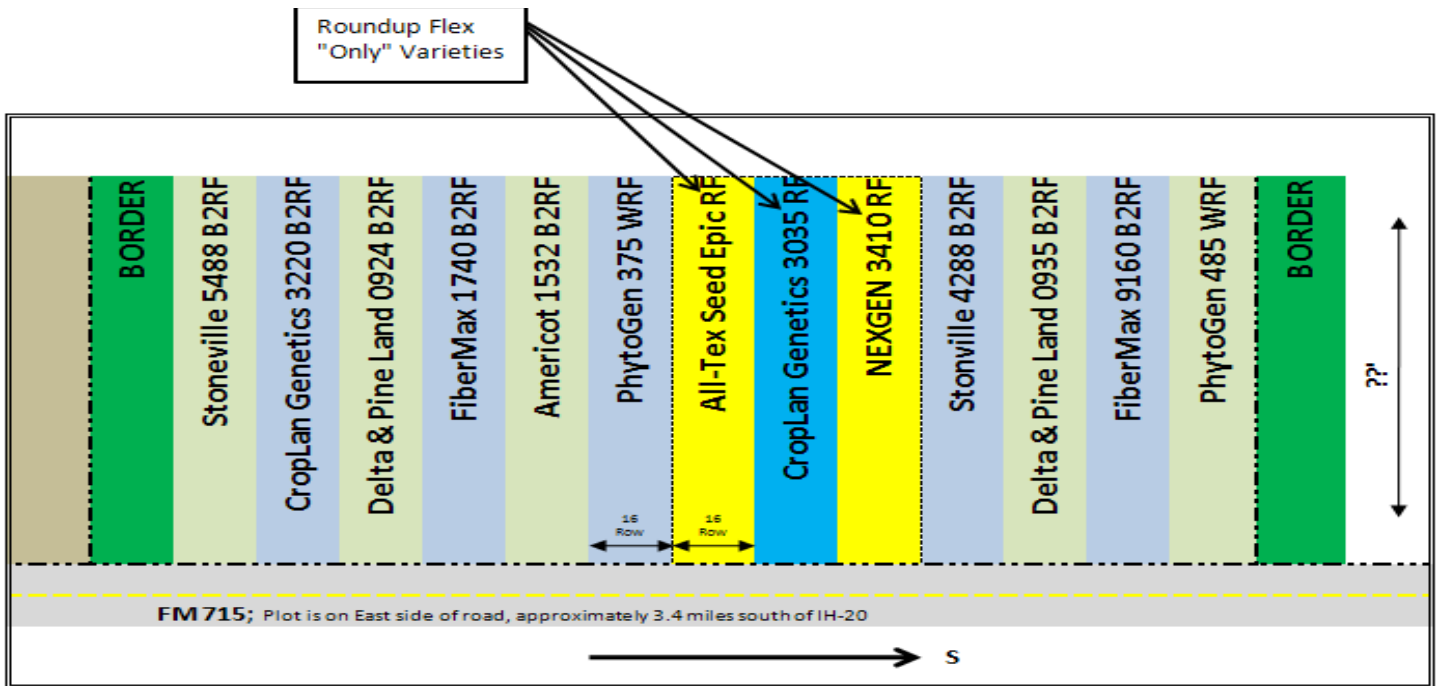
test plot is located just north of CR 120 on CR 1060. The cotton is irrigated with a drip system.

The image above is the plot map. The image below is a sample of the plot evaluation which will be completed after harvest.

Midland County Cotton Variety Performance Test (Irrigated)
COOPERATOR - ROY GRAHAM

Company	Hybrid	Transgenic Properties	Seed Treatment	Length (FT)	Width (FT)	Acreage	Yield (lbs/ac)	Turnout	Credits (+)	Discounts (-)	Adjusted Yield (lbs/ac)
CropLan Genetics	3035	RF	Avicta Complete	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
ALL-TEX Seed	Epic	RF	Standard Treatment	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
NEXGEN	3348	B2 RF	Standard Treatment	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
Stoneville	5288	B2 RF	Aeris Trilex ADV	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
PhytoGen	375	W RF	Avicta Complete	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
FiberMax	1740	B2 RF	Aeris Trilex ADV	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
Delta & Pine Land	0935	B2 RF	Avicta	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
CropLan Genetics	3220	B2 RF	Avicta Complete	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
ALL-TEX Seed	Apex	B2 RF	Aeris Allegiance	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
Americot	1532	B2 RF	Standard Treatment	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
Stoneville	5488	B2 RF	Aeris Trilex ADV	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
PhytoGen	485	W RF	Avicta Complete	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
FiberMax	9160	B2 RF	Aeris Trilex ADV	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00
Delta & Pine Land	0924	B2 RF	Avicta	527	26.67	0.32				0.00	0.00

COTTON VARIETY PERFORMANCE TEST (DRYLAND) - LEWIS



The Midland County Irrigated Cotton Variety Performance Test was established on May 19, 2009, on the farm of **Perry Lewis**. Planting of the plot took approximately three (3) hours, and started at 9:15 am. The varieties were planted using an 8-row planter where we established 18-row plots for each variety. The cooperators utilize an 8-1 skip row planting pattern. The test plot was setup as a standard result demonstration or “side-by-side” block for visual observation and yield evaluation.

The test plot is located about 3.4 miles south of IH-20 on FM 715. The plot is on the east side of the road.

The image above is the plot map. The image below is a sample of the plot evaluation which will be completed after harvest.

Midland County Cotton Variety Performance Test (Dryland)
COOPERATOR - PERRY LEWIS

Company	Hybrid	Transgenic Properties	Seed Treatment	Length (FT)	Width (FT)	Acreage	Yield (lbs/ac)	Turnout	Credits (+)	Discounts (-)	Adjusted Yield (lbs/ac)
Stoneville	5488	B2 RF	Aeris Trilex ADV		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
CropLan Genetics	3220	B2 RF	Avicta Complete		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Delta & Pine Land	0924	B2 RF	Avicta		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
FiberMax	1740	B2 RF	Aeris Trilex ADV		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Americot	1532	B2 RF	Standard Treatment		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
PhytoGen	375	W RF	Avicta Complete		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
All-Tex Seed	Epic	RF	Standard Treatment		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
CropLan Genetics	3035	RF	Avicta Complete		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
NEXGEN	3410	RF	Standard Treatment		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Stoneville	4288	B2 RF	Aeris Trilex ADV		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Delta & Pine Land	0935	B2 RF	Avicta		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
FiberMax	9160	B2 RF	Aeris Trilex ADV		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
PhytoGen	485	W RF	Avicta Complete		56.667	0.00				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!

THE CATTLE PASTURE

EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY BEEF CATTLE BROWSING NEWSLETTER
EDITOR - DR. STEVEN HAMMOCK, PROFESSOR & EXTENSION SPECIALIST EMERITUS

REMOTE-CONTROL HERDING?

The Agricultural Research Service of USDA has granted a license to a Canadian firm interested in marketing a Directional Virtual Fencing system. The system locates cattle by GPS and then sends sounds to an animal. The level of sound can be varied. Sounds can range from "familiar 'gathering songs' sung by cowboys during manual roundups to sirens designed to get cows to move or avoid entering forbidden areas." Animal movement can be tracked by computer. A prototype is being developed with a stereo headset around each ear of the animal. (<http://www.ars.usda.gov> downloaded 3/27/09)



QUALITY GRADE -- HAS IT REALLY DECLINED?

We're just not producing as much high quality beef as we used to. How many times have you heard that? Texas A&M researchers investigated that idea. In 1960, about 65% graded Choice. In 1987, that was over 90%. In 2005, it was 55%. That is based on the percentage of carcasses submitted for grading. Why was the percent so high in 1987? Prior to that, the grade below Choice was Good. Consumers had apparently decided that Good wasn't good enough. Retailers found no benefit from selling Good grade beef. Consequently, packers had just about quit having Good carcasses graded; they marketed them under house brands or just sold them ungraded. In 1987, Good was changed to Select, retailers started marketing with that name, so packers submitted more Select carcasses for grading.



A better picture of changes in carcass quality could be obtained by looking at the total amount of beef produced, not just the amount submitted for grading. Using as the base the total amount of beef inspected, Choice made up about 33% in 1960. (That was before large scale commercial feedyards came on the scene, so a much lower percentage of beef came from fed cattle.) In 1987, Choice made up about 50%. In 2005, it was about 46%. So, the authors concluded there is little evidence of declining amounts of Choice beef. Rather, the amount of Select has increased because more beef of that quality is now submitted for grading. (Prof. Anim. Sci. 24:619)

BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS OF NAIS

USDA-Aphis has released a report on the projected benefits and costs of a National Animal Identification System. Benefits include: (1) enhance animal health surveillance and disease eradication, (2) reduce of economic impact of disease outbreaks, (3) reduce cattle producers' animal disease testing costs, (4) maintain export market access, (5) enhance global market competitiveness, (6) increase transparency in the supply chain, (7) improve value-added and certified program efficiency, (8) enhance animal welfare in response to natural disasters, (9) reduce risk of unfounded liability claims, and (10) minimize damage to individual producers and industry as a whole.

For the cattle industry, costs were broken out by cow-calf, dairy, stocker, feedlot, auction, and packer. Use of RFID ear tags was assumed. RFID costs per head sold for cow/calf operations ranged from \$2.48 for 5,000+ head operations that are currently tagging to \$7.17 for less than 50 head operations not currently tagging. Of the total cost to the industry, about three-fourths is associated with tags and tagging cost (including labor, weight shrink, etc.) with one-fourth coming from tag reading costs. A full-traceability ID program is estimated to cost an average of \$5.97 per head marketed, with about three-fourths of that in the cow-calf segment. The USDA is currently holding listening sessions throughout the U.S. to "hear from a diverse range of stakeholders all across the country regarding their concerns, and any potential solutions, regarding animal disease traceability in the United States." Also, the public can provide feedback on NAIS to USDA at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/feedback.shtml>. Access the [30-page summary of the report](#) on benefit-cost analysis.

"Of the total cost to the industry, about 75% is associated with tags and tagging cost (including labor, weight shrink, etc.) ."

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