
6th Annual TAWC Water College

January 23, 2020
Lubbock Civic Center
Lubbock, TX



The TAWC project was made possible through a grant from the

The logo for the Texas Water Development Board, featuring the text 'Texas Water' in blue with a stylized wave icon to the right, and 'Development Board' in a smaller font below it.



6th Annual Water College



January 23, 2020
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
Lubbock, TX

Morning Sessions:

8:30 am **Registration & Visit Booths**

8:50 am **Welcome & Introductions**

*Dr. Glen Ritchie, Department Chair
and Professor of Plant & Soil Science,
Texas Tech University*
*Cameron Turner, Manager,
Agricultural Water Conservation
Program, TWDB*

9:00 am **Future Trends in World Demographics and Ag: The Effect of
Population Changes on the American Farmer**

*Kevin Brinkley, President and CEO
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association*

9:40 am **Using Cover Crops to Manage Soil and Weed Control While Being
Economically Sustainable**

Kris Verett, Lubbock Texas Producer

10:30 am **Break & Visit Booths**

10:50 am **Real Farm Data – Using Irrigation Management Technology to
Conserve Water and Gain Profitability**

Lloyd Arthur, TAWC Producer
Jeff Miller, Forefront Agronomy

11:50 am **Update from the Texas Water Development Board**

*Brooke Paup, Texas Water
Development Board (TWDB)*

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Afternoon Sessions:

12:15 pm **Lunch & Visit Booths**

12:30 pm **Keynote Address**

Jodey Arrington, U.S. Representative,
District 19 Congressional District

1:30 pm **Upcoming Weather Patterns – What is in store?**

Brian Bledsoe, Chief Meteorologist/
Climatologist, Colorado Springs, CO

2:00 pm **Hot Topics of Texas Water Law**

Tiffany Dowell Lashmet J.D.,
Extension Specialist Agricultural Law,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

2:40 pm **Break & Visit Booths**

3:10 pm **US Cotton Trust Protocol – What Farmers Need to Know**

Ken Burton, Executive Director of
U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol National
Cotton Council

3:40 pm **The Future of Cotton Genetics and Weed Control**

Dr. Luis Herrera-Estrella, President's
Distinguished Professor of Plant
Genomics and Director of the Center
for Functional Genomics of Abiotic
Stress, Texas Tech University

4:30 pm **Close**



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Cotton
Incorporated



WATER DEPARTMENT



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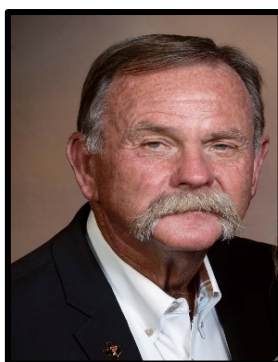




If questions/needs ask any of these TAWC Personnel:



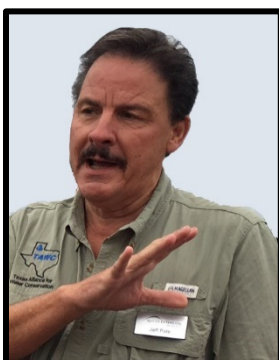
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Welcome, Moderator and Presenters for 2020 TAWC Water College



Dr. Glen Ritchie is Chair of the Department of Plant and Soil Science at Texas Tech University (TTU). Dr. Ritchie received his B.S. degree from Utah State University in Crop Science in 2000, his M.S. degree from Utah State University in Crop Science in 2003, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Georgia in Agronomy in 2007. He joined the Texas Tech Faculty in 2011 as an Associate Professor of Crop Physiology. His responsibilities at Texas Tech include teaching Crop Physiology and Plant Water Relations. Dr. Ritchie has completed approximately 20 Master of Science and PhD. students. Dr. Ritchie has an active research program examining plant water relations in

cotton and sorghum.

Research interests include developing effective and economical water management strategies for crop production in the Southern High Plains. Current projects include research on cultivar selection, irrigation management, and the effects of persistent and episodic drought on crop growth, morphology, yield, and quality.



Cameron Turner is the Manager of the Agricultural Water Conservation Program at the Texas Water Development Board. His duties include managing grant projects, developing statewide irrigation estimates, and providing outreach and education to the public.

He was raised on a family farm with operations in parts of Deaf Smith, Parmer, Bailey, and Lamb counties. His rural upbringing fuels his passion for conservation as a means to preserve rural economies, livelihoods, and the prosperity of agriculture in rural Texas.

Cameron attended Texas A&M University where he received a degree in Agricultural Economics with a focus on Farm and Ranch Management. He now lives in Cedar Park with his wife and two children.

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Kevin Brinkley is the president and chief executive officer of Plains Cotton Cooperative Association headquartered in Lubbock, Texas. PCCA is a grower-owned marketing cooperative supplying cotton from Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas to textile mills around the world.

Originally from Burnet, Texas, Brinkley graduated from Texas Tech University with bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics. Upon graduation, he joined the staff of the National Cotton Council until 2000, when he joined The Seam. Brinkley was named chairman and chief executive officer of The Seam in January 2015.

Brinkley has spent the last 30 years in the cotton industry, using his knowledge and experience to promote U.S. cotton and ensure the success of American cotton farmers around the globe. He serves as an advisor on trade policy to Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.



Kris Verett is a fourth-generation operator of Verett Farms in Ralls, TX, where cotton and multi-species covers comprise the majority of the operation.

Kris grew up working on the farm and grew to love all things farming. He continued his passion by completing a degree in agronomy and entomology at Texas A&M, followed by a masters in agronomy at Texas Tech. Upon completing school, Kris knew he wanted to return to the farm to employ his knowledge.

After attending R.N. and Ronnie Hopper's no-till meeting in 2013, Kris became interested in implementing the system into his operation. Today nearly every acre follows a rotation of cotton followed by multi-species covers. Kris looks forward to continuing to better utilize our resources and leave the farm better than he found it for his two boys, Charley and Luke.



Lloyd Arthur is a fifth-generation farmer living in Ralls, Texas with his wife Angela.

They have four children, and together the family has created a farming operation that has received awards and recognition such as Crosby County Agriculturist of the Year, Ralls Chamber of Commerce Mr. & Mrs. Cotton Boll and Texas Farm Bureau District II Outstanding Young Farmer and Rancher. Field to Market Farmer Spotlight, and Outstanding Friend of Extension Specialists Award. Lloyd has served in numerous leadership roles including the boards of Rio Blanco Soil

The TAWC project was made possible through a grant from the

and Water Conservation District, Cotton Incorporated, and Texas Farm Bureau (just to name a few).



Jeff Miller was born and raised in Plainview, TX and has been involved in agriculture his whole life. Jeff holds a BS in Integrated Pest Management from Texas Tech and an MS in Crop Physiology from Texas Tech. Jeff is married to Kate and has 4 beautiful children. Jeff worked for 10 years with Deltapine/Monsanto in product development and worked 8 years with Pioneer in drought research, sales, and agronomy.

He founded Forefront Agronomy in 2017 to provide leading edge individualized agronomy insight and support to the growers of West Texas.

There are many challenges in agriculture and by utilizing our partnerships with DuPont Pioneer, CropMetrics, and 360 Yield Center we have the best support behind us to tackle these challenges and strive for profitability.



Brooke Paup was appointed to the Texas Water Development Board by Governor Greg Abbott on February 22, 2018 and reappointed to a new term on February 6, 2019.

Prior to her appointment to the Board, Paup served as the director of legislative affairs for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for the previous three years. While there, she led a team of legislative professionals to address statutory tax reforms.

Paup is formerly the deputy division chief of intergovernmental relations and former special assistant for policy and research for the Office of the Attorney General, where she worked on legislative issues, special litigation, and public finance—notably House Bill 4 and Senate Joint Resolution 1 in the 83rd Legislative Session, which created the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas (SWIRFT). Paup has 13 years of state government experience.

She is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Symphony League, Wine and Food Foundation of Texas Auction Committee, and Doss PTA. Paup earned a Bachelor of Arts from Texas A&M University and a juris doctor from Texas Tech School of Law. She lives in Austin with her husband, Spivey, and their two children, Henry and Heidi.

Keynote Address



Congressman Jodey Arrington was raised in Plainview, Texas, the son of a tractor salesman and a school teacher. Jodey graduated from Texas Tech and his passion of public service took him to Austin, Texas where he worked for Governor George W. Bush. He was then tapped by President Bush to join the White House as a senior advisor before being appointed as Chief of Staff to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. In 2007, he returned to West Texas where he was Vice Chancellor of the Texas Tech University System before taking the helm as President of a healthcare innovation company in Lubbock.

In January of 2017, Jodey became only the fifth person to represent Texas' 19th Congressional District since its formation in 1935. In Congress, Jodey has been an outspoken advocate for reining in the federal government, promoting agriculture and energy, strengthening national security, and respecting the Constitution.

In his first term, Jodey served as a member of the Agriculture, Budget and Veterans' Affairs committees. He was also appointed by the Speaker as the only freshman member to serve on the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Reform.

Upon entering the 116th Congress, Jodey was selected to serve on the Committee on Ways and Means. The oldest Congressional Committee, Ways and Means also has the broadest legislative jurisdiction including tax, trade, healthcare, social security, and welfare. As a new member on the Committee, prioritizing rural America's most critical issues – agriculture, energy, and healthcare, will remain his driving force.

He is grateful to serve and is especially thankful for the tremendous sacrifice and support of his wife, Anne, and their three children.

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Brian Bledsoe is the Chief Meteorologist/Climatologist for KKTV 11 News in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Brian's goal is to help AG producers make their business more successful, by using accurate weather forecasts, both short term and long term. His strong background in agriculture is important, as he recognizes the need for good common-sense weather forecasting that can be readily used by farmers and ranchers. Brian has several private clients scattered around Colorado, and the whole United States. He frequently speaks all across the region about weather and the importance of using long range forecasting to help your business.



Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, J.D. is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in Agricultural Law with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Tiffany grew up on a family farm and ranch in Eastern New Mexico, received her Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness (Farm and Ranch Management) *summa cum laude* at Oklahoma State University, and her law degree *summa cum laude* at the University of New Mexico.

Prior to joining Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Tiffany worked for 4 years at a law firm in Albuquerque practicing civil litigation. She is licensed to practice law in New Mexico and Texas. She lives in the Texas Panhandle with her husband, son, and daughter.

In 2016, Tiffany was named the State Specialist of the Year for Texas Agriculture by the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association. In 2019, she won the Excellence in Agricultural Law Award for Academia from the American Agricultural Law Association.



Ken Burton is the Executive Director of the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol. Ken is responsible for the overall development and operation of the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol. He works with producers and other cotton industry members to enroll participants in the Trust Protocol, as well as interact with textile brands/retailers and civil societies in the development, acceptance and use of the program.

A graduate of Auburn University, Ken has 28 years of experience in the cotton industry, most recently serving as Vice President of Loeb and Company, Inc. He has built strong relationships with industry participants throughout the

The TAWC project was made possible through a grant from the

supply chain from growers to textile manufacturers. Ken coordinated all aspects of Loeb and Company's participation in the Better Cotton Initiative.

Ken is happily married to his wife, Laura for 27 years. They have three children: Madeline (22), William (20), and Kristen (17).



Dr. Luis Rafael Herrera-Estrella's research focuses on the molecular mechanisms that allow plants to cope with a continuously changing environment. In particular, he has studied the two fundamental processes of molecular responses to light as a source of energy and a developmental signal, and nutrient availability.

Herrera-Estrella identified DNA regulatory elements that allow plants to activate genes in response to light stimuli and the protein sequence present in many corresponding gene products that ultimately allow participation in the photosynthesis process.

A holder of 15 patents, Herrera-Estrella has published more than 180 research papers and 47 book chapters and other reviews while having delivered more than 200 presentations on his work. He served as a senior international research scholar at the Howard Hughes Biomedical Institute from 2012 to 2017 and earned the Dr. Luis Federico Leloir Award in 2012 from the Argentinian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

A native of Mexico, Herrera-Estrella also has served as the president of the International Society of Plant Molecular Biology (2001-2003), and in 2000, earned the gold medal from the World Intellectual Property Organization as one of the most distinguished inventors in Mexico, one of only three Mexican citizens to receive this honor.

Herrera-Estrella earned his doctoral and postdoctoral degrees in genetics from the State University of Ghent, Belgium. He received his master's degree in genetics and molecular biology from the Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politécnico Nacional, and his bachelor's degree from Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas Instituto Politécnico Nacional.

**Future Trends in World
Demographics and Agriculture**

*The Effect of Population Changes on the
American Farmer*



1

Current global political and economic conditions
are the darkest in history.

True or False



2

What percent of the world lives in poverty?

A.) 61% B.) 54% C.) 35% D.) 28%




3

Future Trends in World Demographics and
Ag: The Effect of Population Changes on the
American Farmer

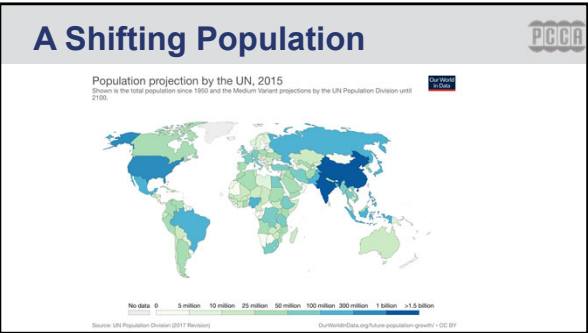
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For most of the world's population, the human condition has improved.

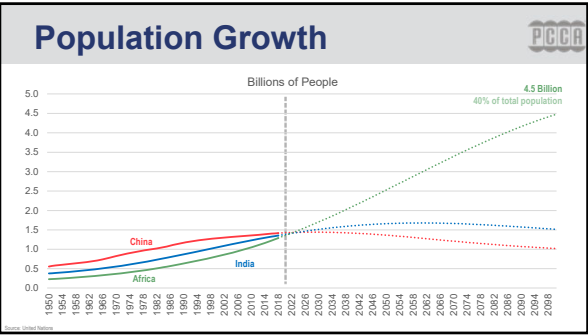
What are the implications for the future of agriculture?



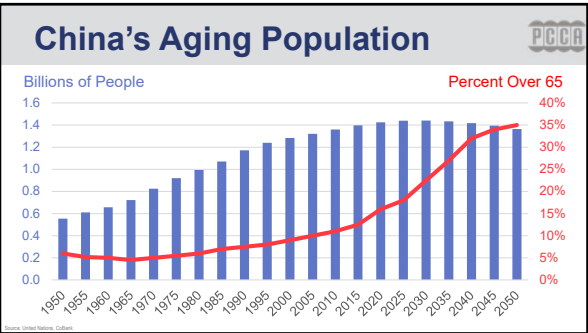
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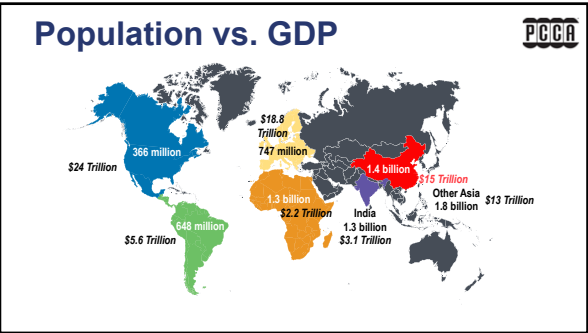


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What does population growth mean to agriculture?

Gap=Production Minus Consumption

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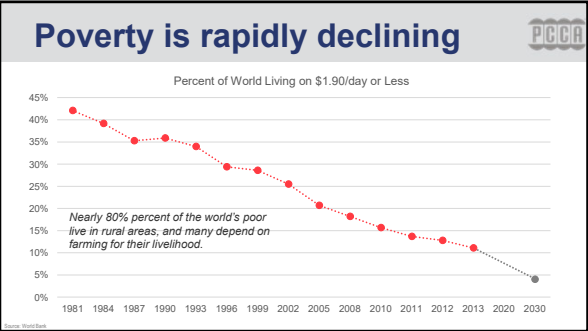
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What percent of the world lives in poverty?

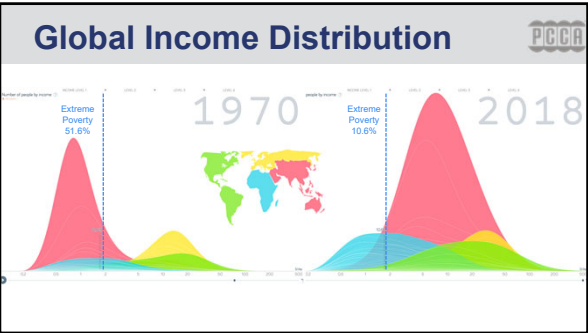
A.) ~~61%~~ B.) ~~51%~~ C.) ~~36%~~ D.) ~~21%~~ **10.6%**

PCCA

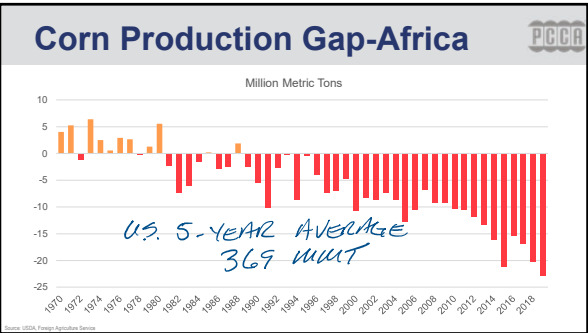
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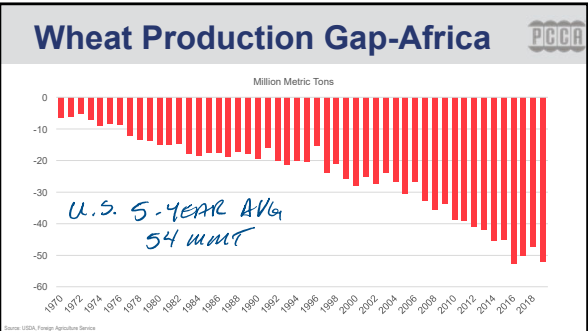
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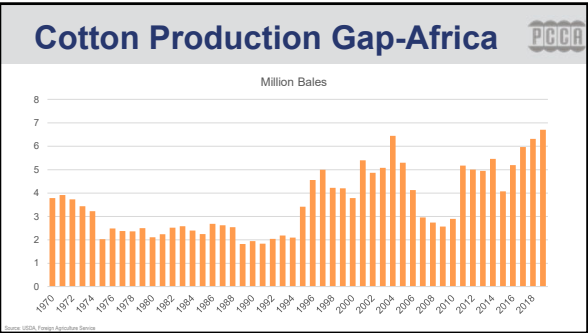
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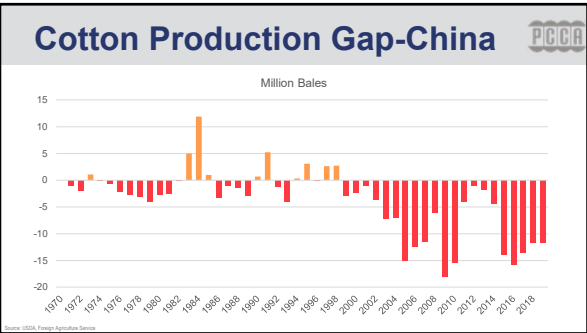
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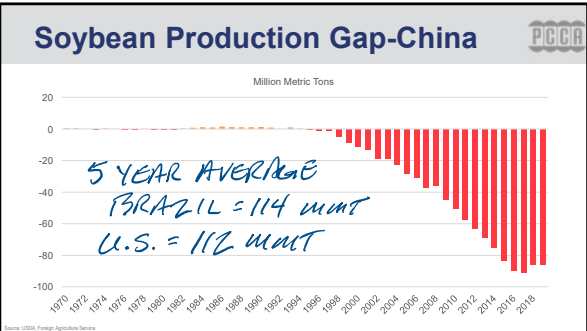
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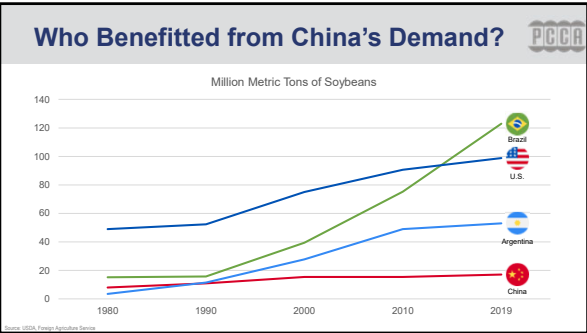
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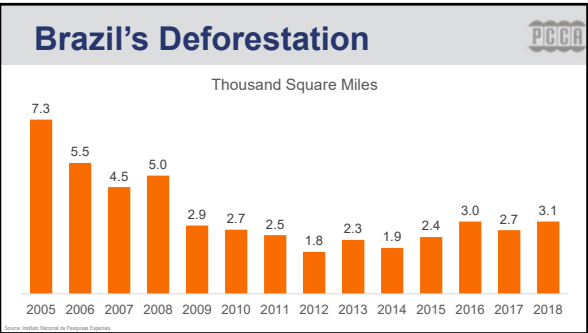
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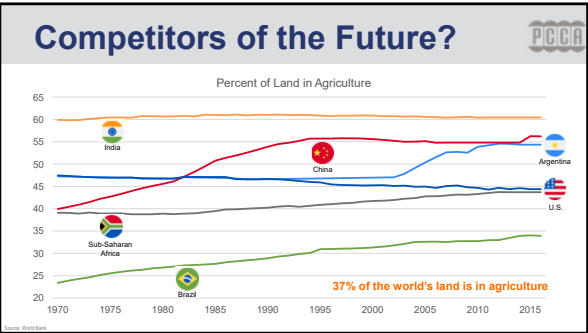
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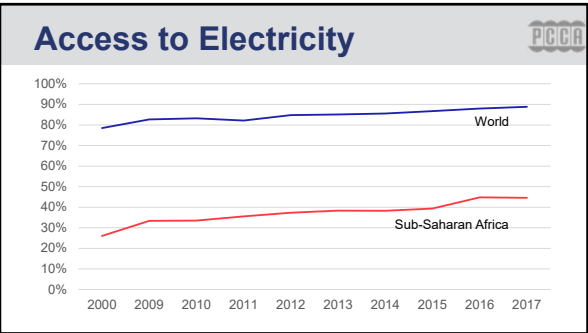
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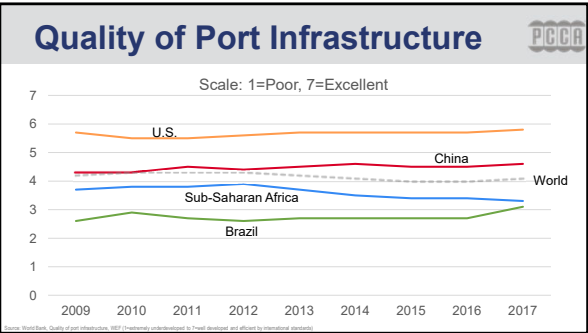
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22



23

Workforce Skills

Only 68% of Sub-Saharan Africa has completed a primary education

24

Current global political and economic conditions
are the darkest in history.

~~True~~ or False



25

What does all of this mean for
our farmers?



26

Trade



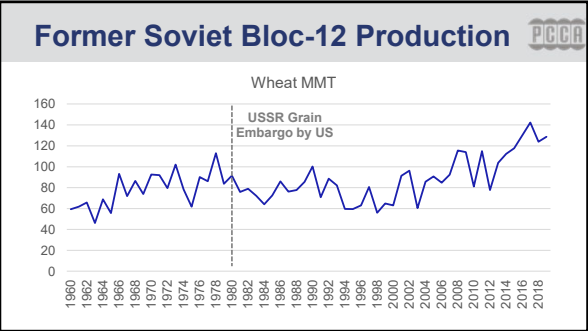
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**In 1980, President Jimmy Carter embargoed
U.S. grain sales to the U.S.S.R.**

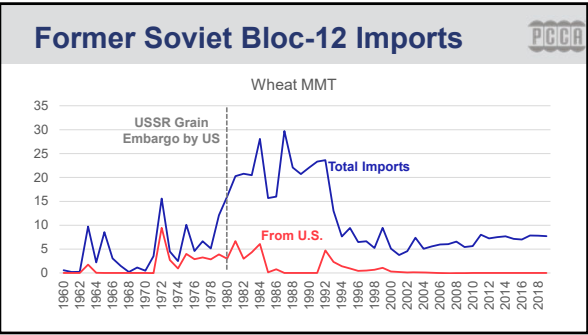
Did it permanently impact our market?

PCCA

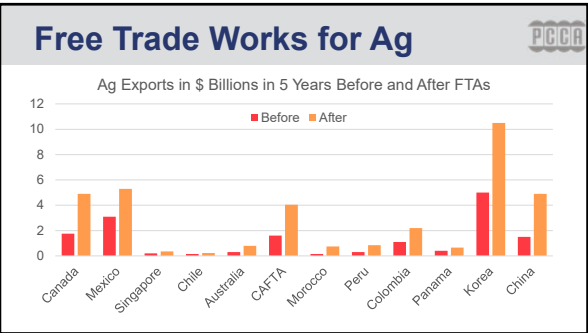
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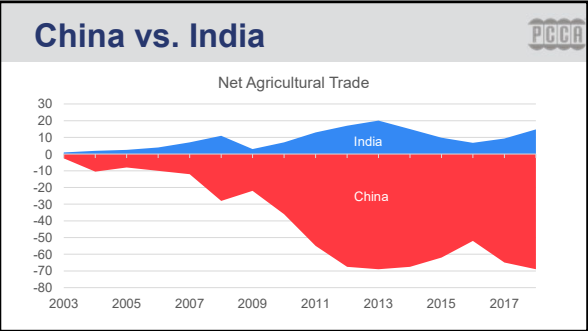
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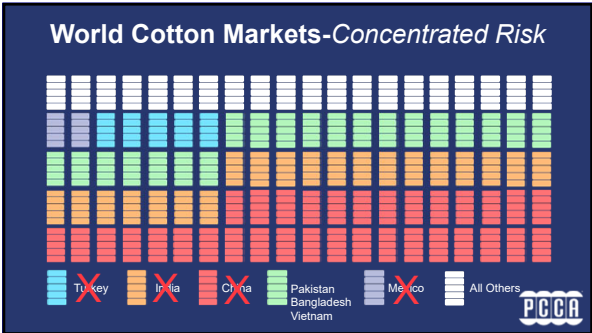
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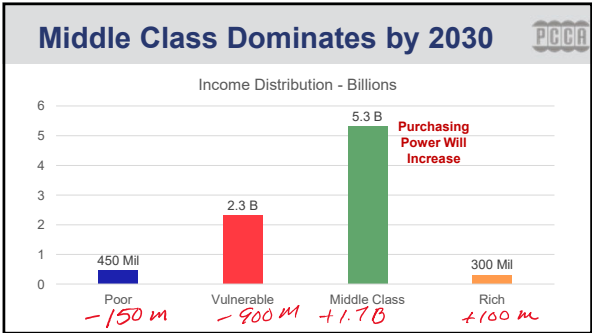
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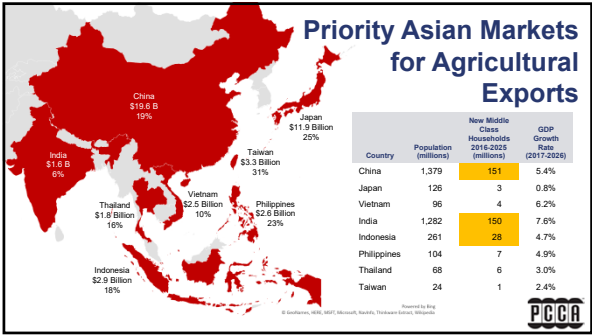
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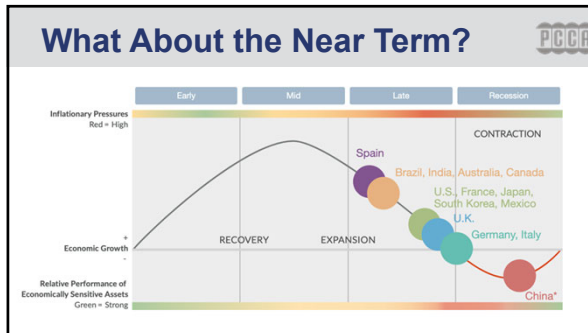
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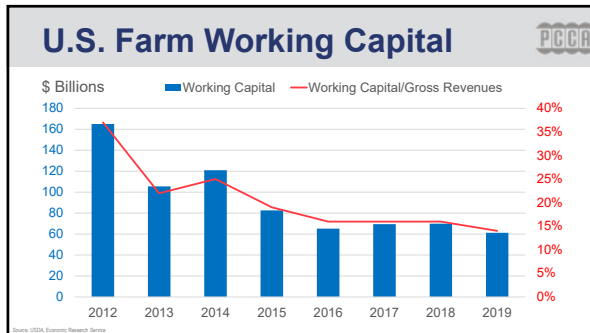
Summary

<p><u>Demand Drivers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global population growth • Income Improvements • Lack of production capacity in highly populated areas 	<p><u>Supplier Advantages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited land means productivity is critical • Infrastructure investments • FTAs work for agriculture
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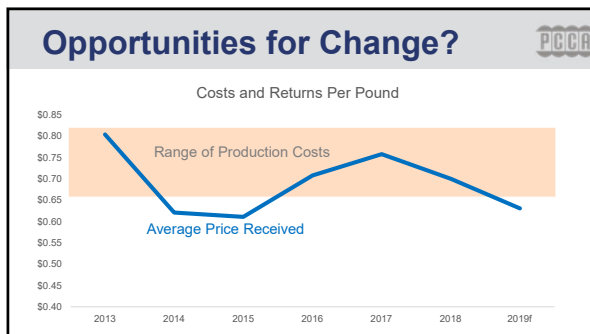
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What do we do until demand starts to improve?

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Focus Areas for Growers


- Reduce costs per unit of production
- Add value through innovative marketing
- Advocate for appropriate federal support

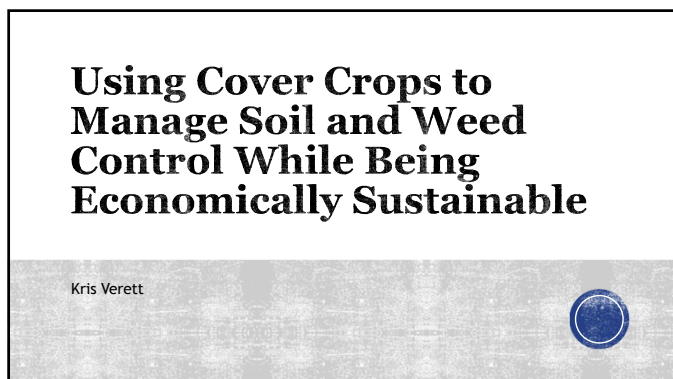
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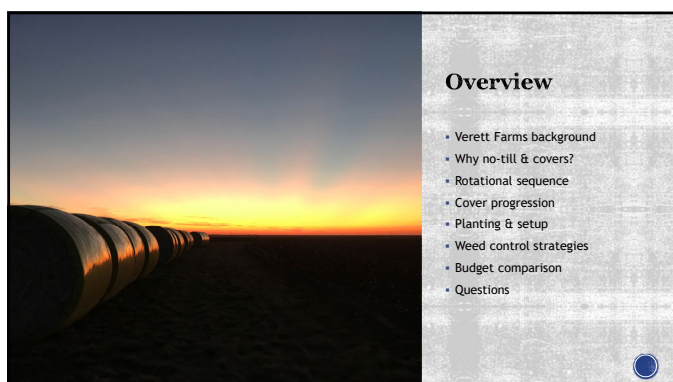
Sources

- United Nations
- World Bank
- USDA
- CoBank
- Plains Cotton Cooperative Association

 Plains Cotton Cooperative Association



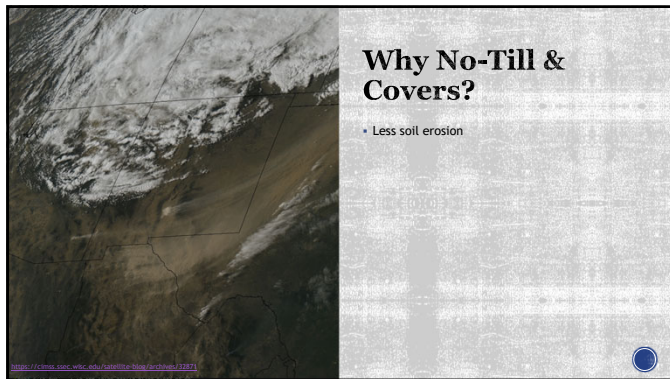
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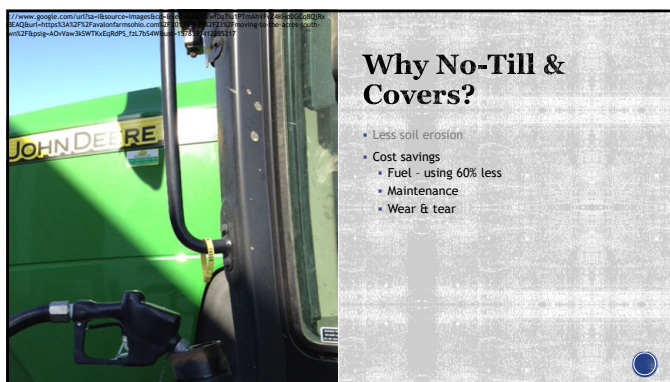
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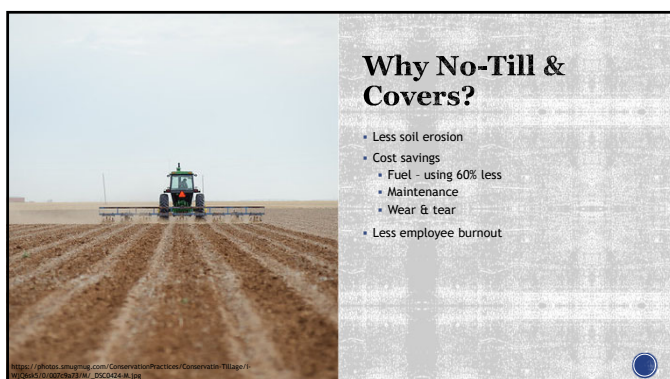
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6



Why No-Till & Covers?

- Less soil erosion
- Cost savings
 - Fuel - using 60% less
 - Maintenance
 - Wear & tear
- Less employee burnout
- Better water infiltration

7



Why No-Till & Covers?

- Less soil erosion
- Cost savings
 - Fuel - using 60% less
 - Maintenance
 - Wear & tear
- Less employee burnout
- Better water infiltration
- Collecting unruly precipitation

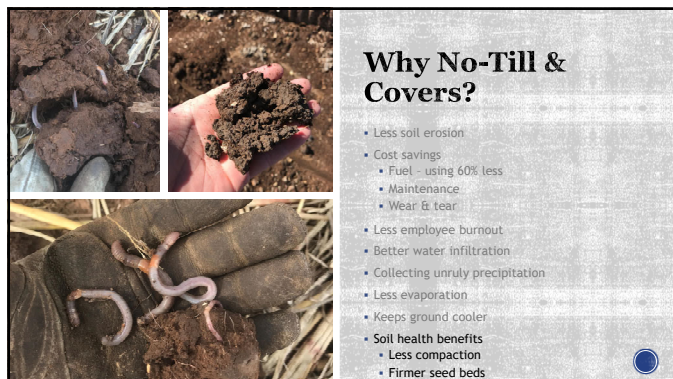
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Why No-Till & Covers?

- Less soil erosion
- Cost savings
 - Fuel - using 60% less
 - Maintenance
 - Wear & tear
- Less employee burnout
- Better water infiltration
- Collecting unruly precipitation
- Less evaporation
- Keeps ground cooler

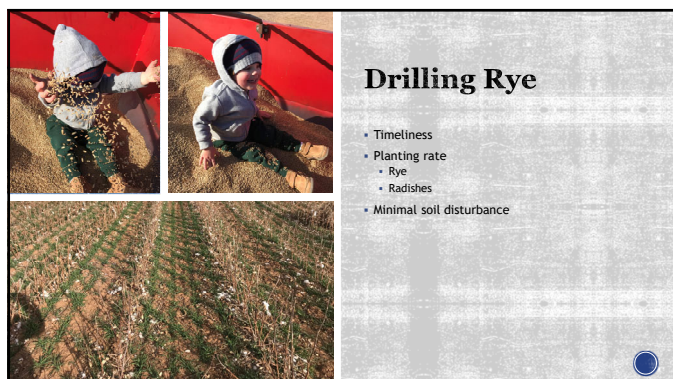
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12

Seed	Rate (lb)
Daikon Radish	0.5
Dwarf Essex Rape	0.5
Purple Top Turnip	0.5
Proso Millet	2.0
Japanese Millet	2.0
Pearl Millet	2.0
Sorghum Sudan	4.0
Crimson Clover	1.0
Hairy Vetch	1.0
Sunn Hemp	2.0



Multi-Species Mix



13

Planting Multi-Species into Rye



14



Cover Progression – Wideman Pivot – April 25th



15



**Cover Progression –
Wideman Pivot –
June 15th**

16



**Cover Progression –
Wideman Pivot –
June 24th**

17



**Cover Progression –
Wideman Pivot –
July 9th**

18



19



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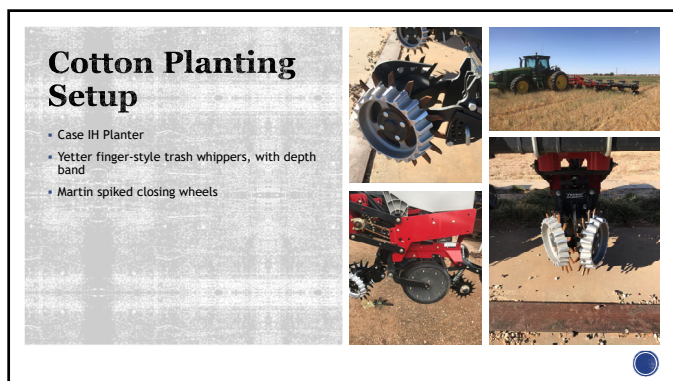
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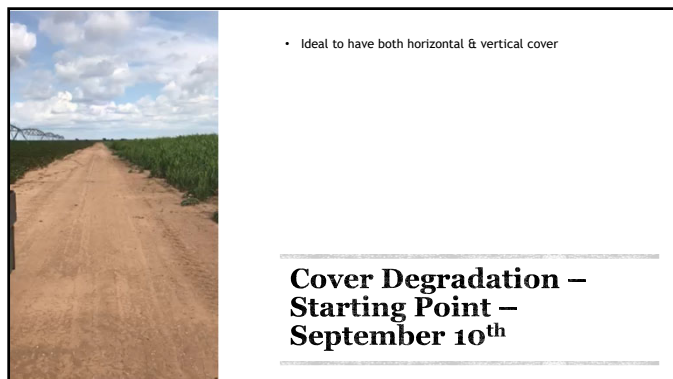
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Justifying Herbicide Expense

- Cultivation not an option
 - Reseeding weeds
 - Increased soil erosion
 - Poor water infiltration
- Preventing emergence of resistant weeds
- Fibermax varieties
- Less annual weed pressure over time

31

Budget Comparison - Irrigated

120 Acres Irrigated Cotton 2 gpm/a 850# yield potential					60 Acres Irrigated Cotton 4 gpm/a 1500# yield potential				
Revenue	Acres	Yield	Price		Revenue	Acres	Yield	Price	
	120	850	0.65	\$66,300		60	1500	0.65	\$58,500
Expenses		Acres	\$/Acre		Expenses		Acres	\$/Acre	
Seed Cost 45K/A	120		\$75	\$9,000	Seed Cost 45K/A	60		\$75	\$4,500
Fertilizer	120		\$50	\$6,000	Fertilizer	60		\$70	\$4,200
Herbicide	120		\$60	\$7,200	Herbicide	60		\$10	\$600
Land Prep and tillage	120		\$60	\$7,200	Cover Crop Seed/Planting	60		\$45	\$2,700
Total Expense				\$29,400					\$16,500
Net for 120 Acres				\$36,900	Net for 60 Acres				\$42,000

<https://southplainsprofit.tamu.edu>

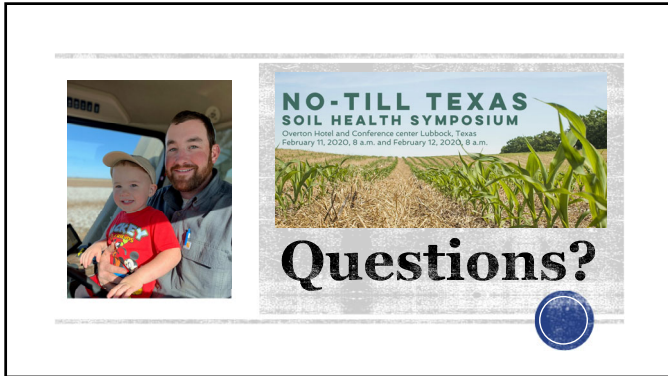
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Budget Comparison - Dryland

120 Acres Dryland Cotton 400# yield potential					60 Acres Dryland Cotton 650# yield potential				
Revenue	Acres	Yield	Price		Revenue	Acres	Yield	Price	
	120	400	0.65	\$31,200		60	650	0.65	\$25,350
Expenses		Acres	\$/Acre		Expenses		Acres	\$/Acre	
Seed Cost 25K/A	120		\$40	\$4,800	Seed Cost 25K/A	60		\$40	\$2,400
Fertilizer	120		\$25	\$3,000	Fertilizer	60		\$35	\$2,100
Herbicide	120		\$50	\$6,000	Herbicide/Cotton	60		\$50	\$3,000
Land Prep and tillage	120		\$60	\$7,200	Herbicide/Cover Crop	60		\$25	\$1,500
Total Expense				\$21,000	Cover Crop Seed/Planting	60		\$45	\$2,700
Net for 120 Acres				\$10,200					\$11,700
					Net for 60 Acres				\$13,650

<https://southplainsprofit.tamu.edu>

33



34

Real Farm Data - Using Irrigation Management Technology to Conserve Water and Gain Profitability

Jeff Miller - ForeFront Agronomy
Lloyd Arthur - Crosby Co Farmer

CropMetrics

1

Hindsight

- We have many technologies available to look back on past performance
 - Yield Monitor - yield Data
 - Soil Moisture
 - Historical Weather Data
 - Soil Information
 - EC Data

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2

Insight

- Having the ability to look at what is happening now.
 - Soil Moisture Probes - plant water use, rooting depth, available moisture
 - Imagery
 - Tissue/Soil Testing
 - Crop Scouting

CropMetrics

3

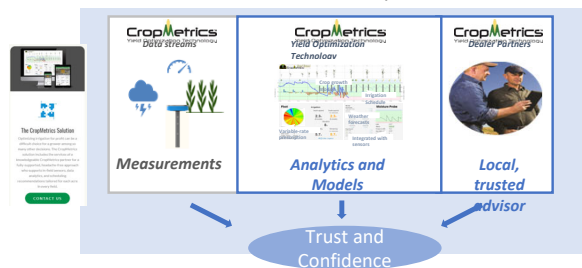
Foresight

- The ability to predict what may happen and give us the chance to make adjustments before it happens
 - Soil Moisture Crop Modeling
 - Fertility Modeling
 - Weather Forecasting
 - Sap Analysis
 - Biological Soil Testing



4

Confidence is found in systems



5

The opportunity is in the Variability

- Its Because of the variables that we need to plan
- If you fail to plan, you will plan to fail
 - Plan to fail - when and where to abandon or move water to best parts of the field
 - Identify the 50% best part of the farm we have to make money
- Manage the fixed variable that are known
- Unknown variables
 - Depleting wells, weather, commodity price



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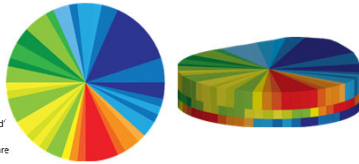
Variable Rate Irrigation Basics

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Speed Control VRI

Application rate is varied by changing the speed of the pivot
Irrigation Management Zones are 'pie Sliced' shaped
Relatively inexpensive - many pivot panels are capable without additional investment
No special hardware on sprinklers
If spatial variation lines up well with pie slices
Varying application based on topography (reduced application on low spots if it lines up with pie slices)
Multiple crops or varieties under one pivot



**Optimize Every Acre
In Every Field
Every Time!**

CropMetrics

8

Types of VRI Irrigation Prescriptions

Type	Description	Consideration	Example Uses
Static	Prescription stays the same or changes only a few times during the season	Relatively simple to apply. Does not account for changes in spatial variability over season	Avoiding irrigation on uncrossed areas. Mining differences in soil available water capacity Windshield Wiper pivot with little spatial variability
Dynamic	Prescription changes frequently during the season, possibly for each irrigation event	May be complicated and increase management efforts. May provide maximum gross benefit	Varying irrigation to each part of the field as needed and adjusting areas as needs change during the season

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Possible VRI Uses - Thinking outside the box of Soil Variability

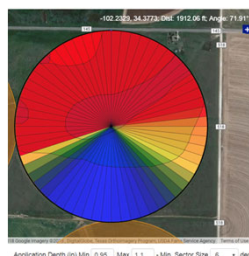
Uses	Prescription Type	Management Intensity
Avoid application in uncrossed areas	Static	Low
Overlapping Pivots or Windshield Wiper Pivots	Static	Low
Reduce application in wet areas to avoid water logging or leaching	Static & Dynamic	Low
Reduce application rate to reduce soil surface sealing in early season	Static	Low
Irrigate lighter soils when needed while crop uses water in the heavier soils	Static	Medium
Reduced application rate to avoid runoff in part of a field	Static	Medium
Apply extra water to sloping areas to compensate for runoff after a heavy rain	Static & Dynamic	Medium/High
Irrigate each part of the field as needed because variability caused by precipitation, runoff, evapotranspiration, wind, and/or drainage	Dynamic	High

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Steps for Implementing a VRI Strategy

1. Measure field variability via a soil electrical conductivity survey (EC)
2. Build the VRI prescription layer
3. Schedule Irrigation
4. Monitor the field during the season



CropMetrics

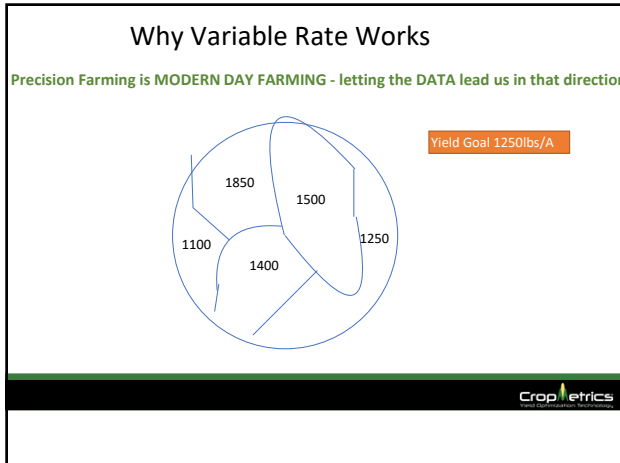
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Keep Eyes Focused Forward to move the needle

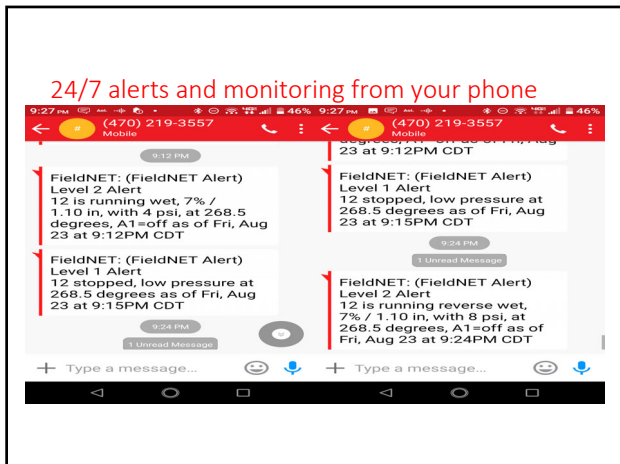
- Performance is PAST
- Potential is FUTURE
 - Whats interesting is that 2.5 bales may be all that piece of ground is going to produce but with current inputs for 3 bales we are limiting the 3.5 and 4 bale regions (Who knows where the upper limit is)

CropMetrics

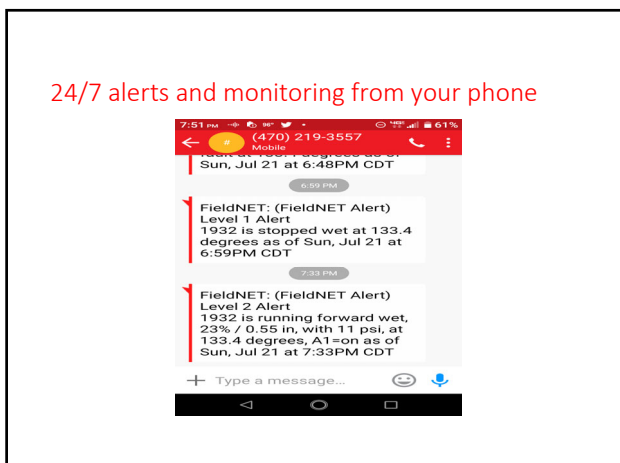
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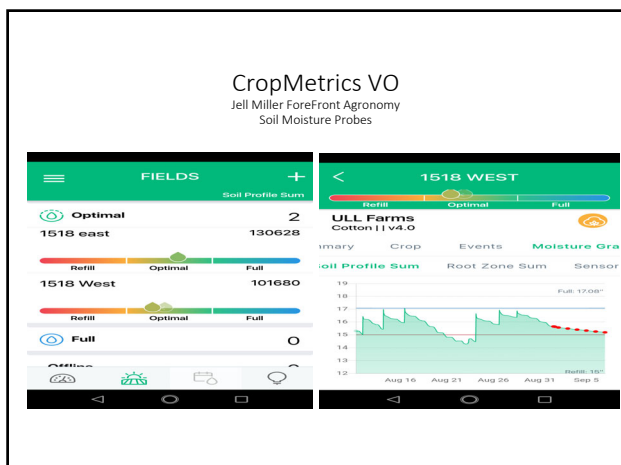
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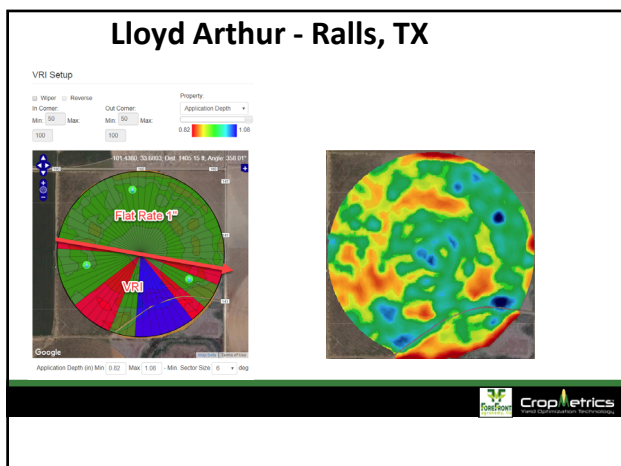
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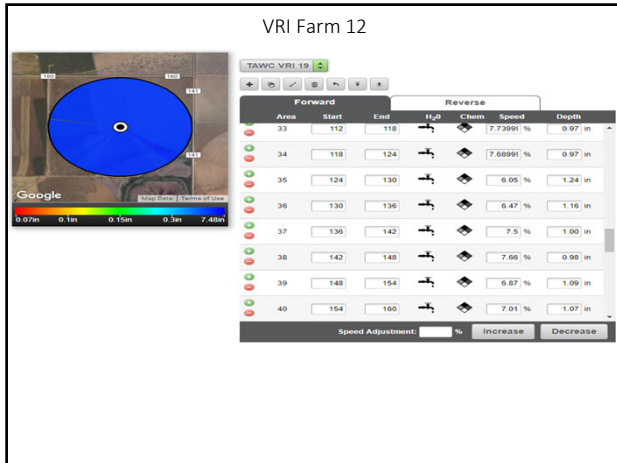
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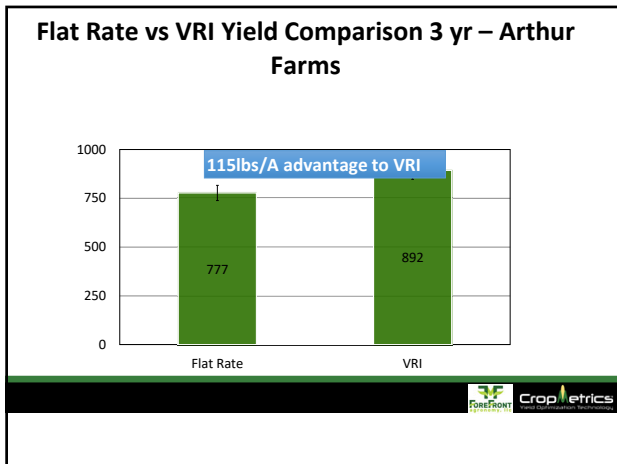
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Irrigation Scheme	Avg Application/Pas s	Total inches applied inseason
VRI	0.935	7.20
Flat Rate	1.000	7.60

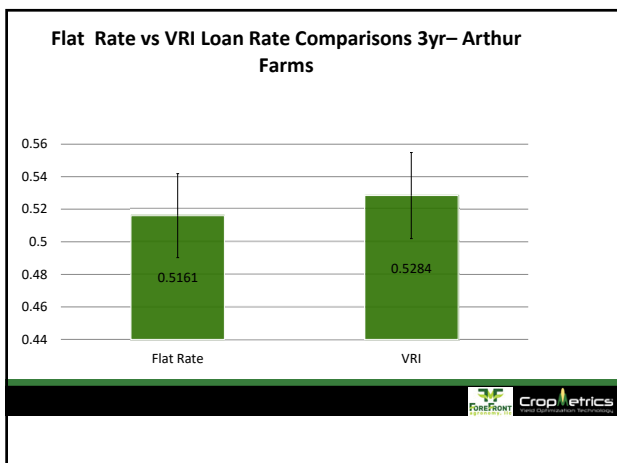
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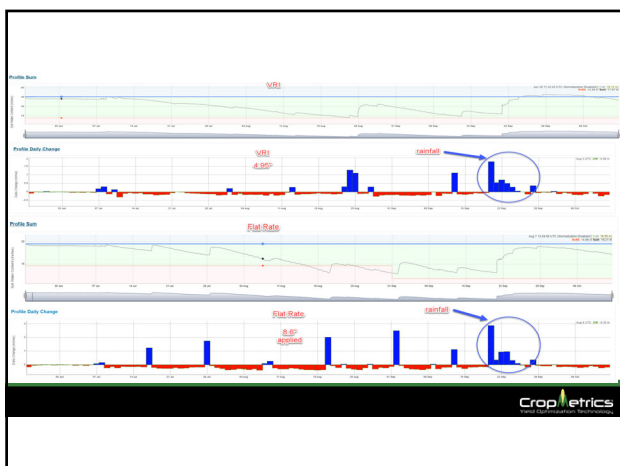


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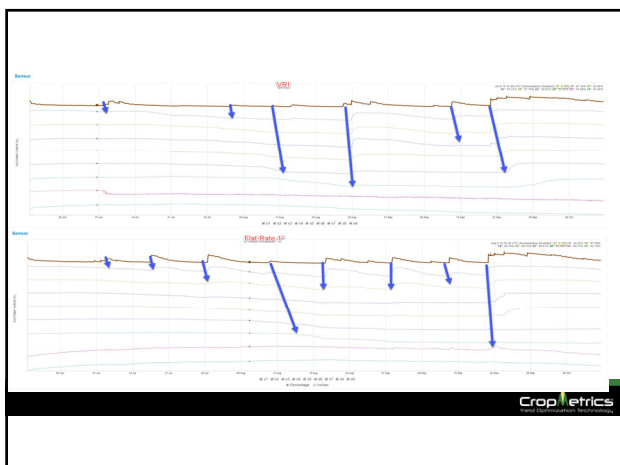
Sector	Yield	Lint	Total
Flat Rate	777.2	\$0.5173	\$402.04
VRI	892.2	\$0.5284	\$471.41
<u>VRI Advantage</u>	<u>115.0</u>	<u>\$0.0111</u>	<u>\$69.37</u>
Probe Cost			-\$13.3/A
VRI Cost			-\$5/A
<u>Controller Cost</u>			<u>-\$5.46/A</u>
			\$45.61
Water savings of 0.4" @\$8/inch		\$3.20	\$48.81



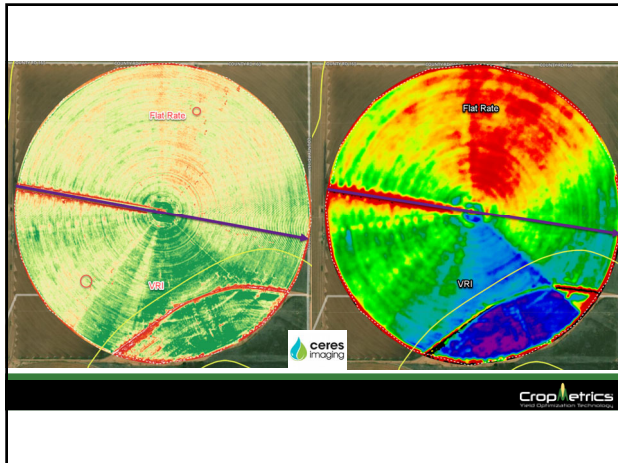
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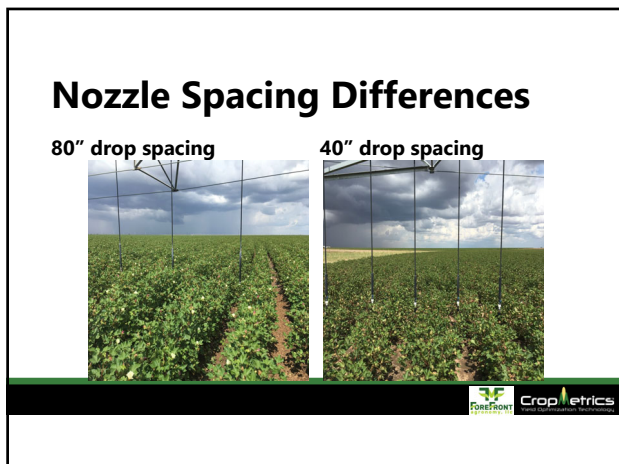
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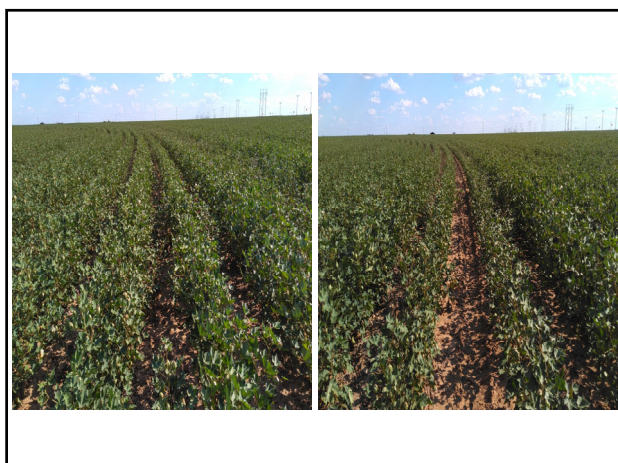
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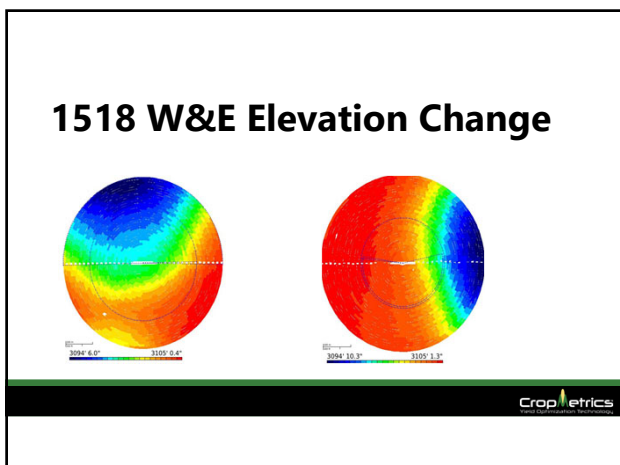
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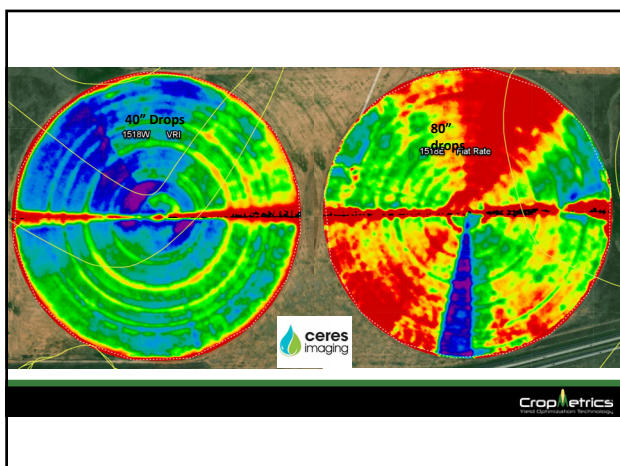
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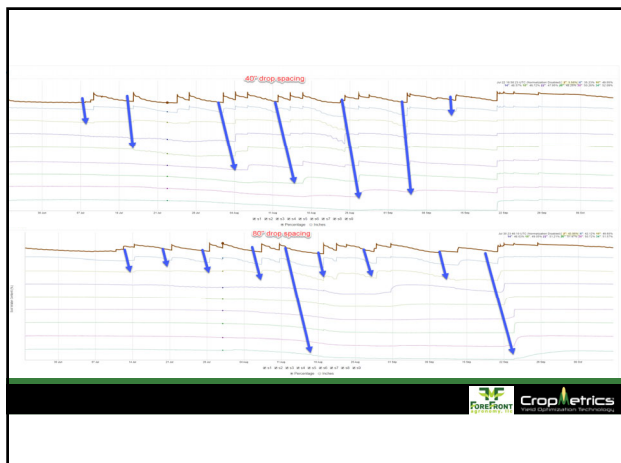
Nozzle Spacing Comparison

Irrigation Type	Yield	Loan	\$/A
40" Drop Spacing	731.6	\$0.5161	\$377.55
80" Drop Spacing	563.1	\$0.5048	\$284.20

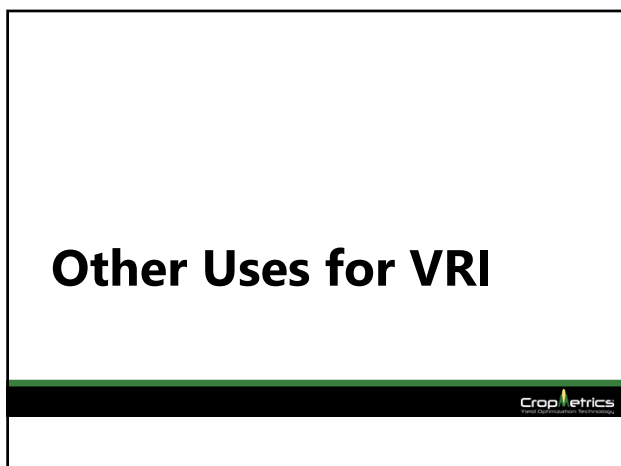
2 yr Avg - 10.4" of irrigation in season

ForeFront CropMetrics

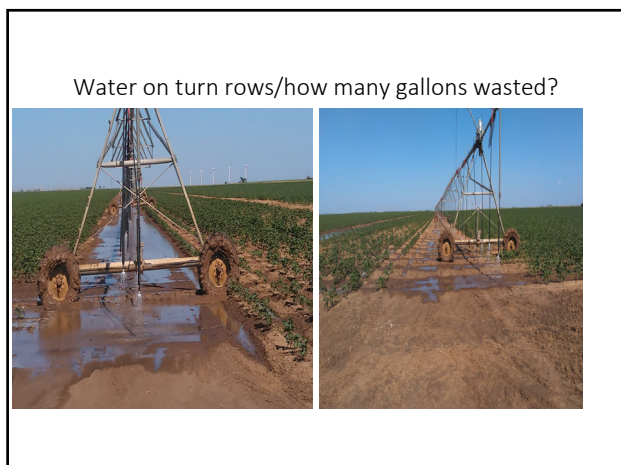
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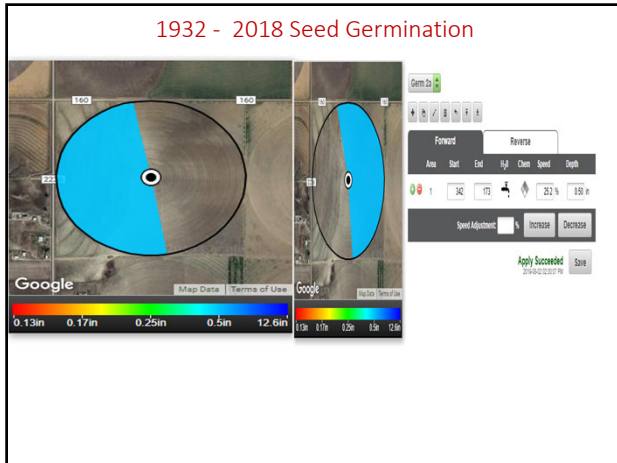
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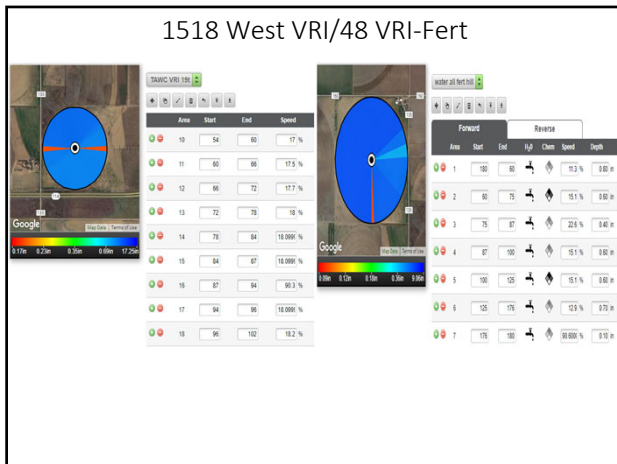
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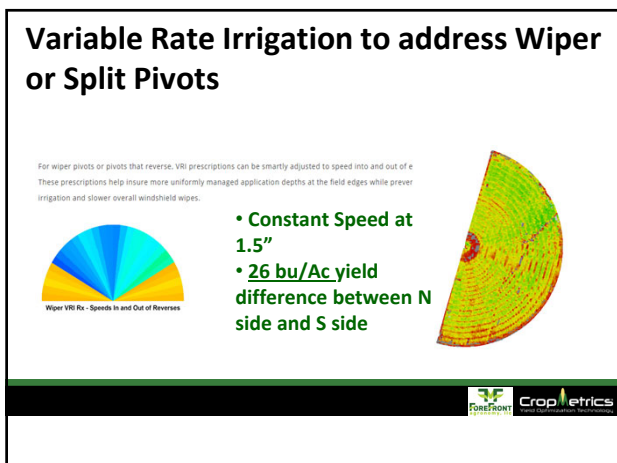
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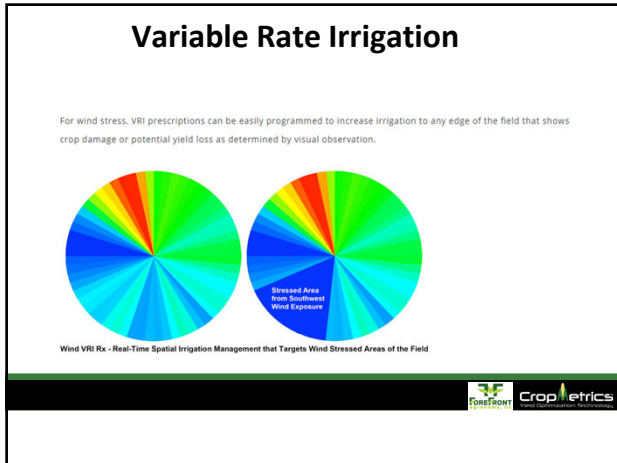
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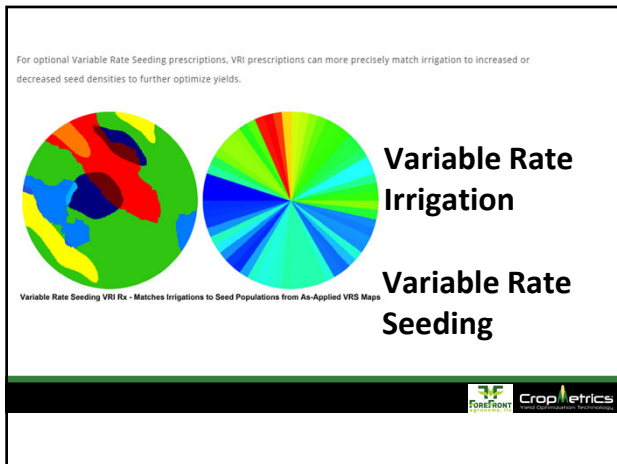
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39

**Don't Mess with Texas:
Water Edition**

Director Brooke T. Paup
Texas Water Development Board

TAWC Water College
January 23, 2020

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Texas Water Development Board

1

Mission

The mission of TWDB is to provide:

- Leadership
- Information
- Education
- Support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach

For the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas.

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Texas Water Development Board

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Texas Water Development Board

Science: Collecting water data, Texas population, Location of water, Collaboration with local communities

Planning: Assessing the state's future needs, Water management costs, Potential water shortages

GOAL: Securing the water future of Texas

Finance water, flood, and wastewater projects; Enable decision makers to manage and conserve existing supplies; Provide data and maps for public health and safety; Facilitate communities' abilities to create new water supplies

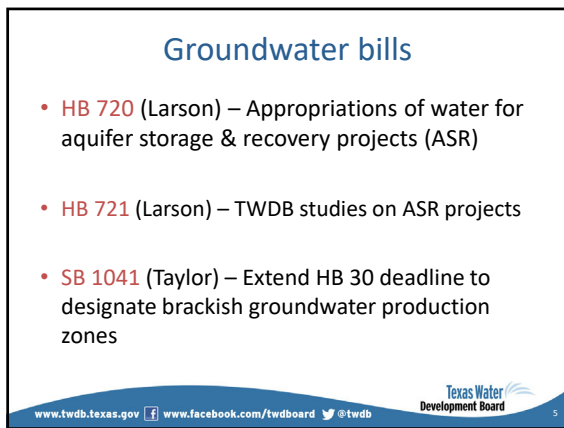
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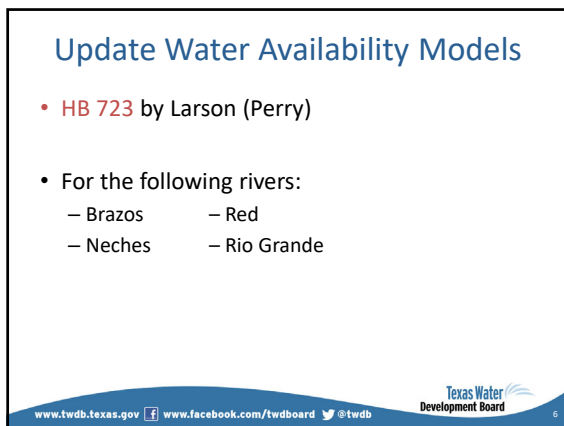
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Water Planning



- **HB 807** by Larson (Buckingham)
 - Requires TWDB to create an inter-regional planning council
 - For the following purposes:
 - Improve coordination among regional planning groups
 - Improve coordination between each regional group and the TWDB
 - Facilitate dialogue on water management strategies that could affect multiple planning areas
 - Regional planning groups encouraged to make legislative recommendations

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SB 7




Financing Flood Mitigation

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Senate Bill 7




- Relating to:
 - Flood planning
 - Mitigation
 - Infrastructure projects
- Creates two funds
 - Flood Infrastructure Fund
 - Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund

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Senate Bill 7




- Stated goal is to “encourage development of structural and non-structural flood mitigation”
 - Structural: physical barriers near rivers, coastline
 - Non-structural: policies or naturally-existing
- Recognizes financial need: preference for counties whose median income is lower than 85% of state median income

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Flood Infrastructure Fund




- Use of the fund
 - Loans (potentially below market rates) for:
 - Construction of flood projects
 - Costs for planning, design, regulatory approval
 - Grants for:
 - Matching funds for federal flood programs
 - Political subdivisions who would have difficulty repaying a loan
 - Flood projects outside of metro areas

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Flood Infrastructure Fund

- Additional requirements
 - Political subdivisions must “act cooperatively” with other nearby political subdivisions
 - All political subdivisions “substantially affected by a proposed flood project” must participate in planning process
 - Public meetings required
 - Must analyze whether a proposed flood mitigation project could capture floodwater for water supply purposes


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Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund

Four accounts comprise the TIRF:


- Floodplain Management Account
- Hurricane Harvey Account
- Federal Matching Account
- Flood Plan Implementation Account

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Floodplain Management Account


- Money in this account to be used for:
 - Collecting and analyzing flood-related data
 - Public outreach and education
 - Evaluating responses to flood events
- Funded by insurance taxes – about \$3.05 million each fiscal year
- The existing money in Floodplain Management Account #330 will be transferred and re-allocated as one of the 4 TIRF accounts

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Hurricane Harvey Account

- This account to provide money to TDEM to finance Harvey-related projects
 - Grants to provide matching funds for:
 - TDEM or FEMA hazard mitigation projects
 - TDEM or FEMA public assistance projects
 - Loans for planning/design, permitting, construction
- TWDB will develop a point system with TDEM to properly prioritize projects
- Highest priority to projects that:
 - Recommended by Director of TDEM
 - Meet emergency need in Governor-declared disaster area

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Federal Matching Account

- TWDB can only use these funds to meet matching requirements for federal projects
 - This includes US Army Corps of Engineers projects
- TWDB may also make subsidized loans to political subdivisions to provide the local share of a federal ship channel improvement project

16

Flood Plan Implementation Account

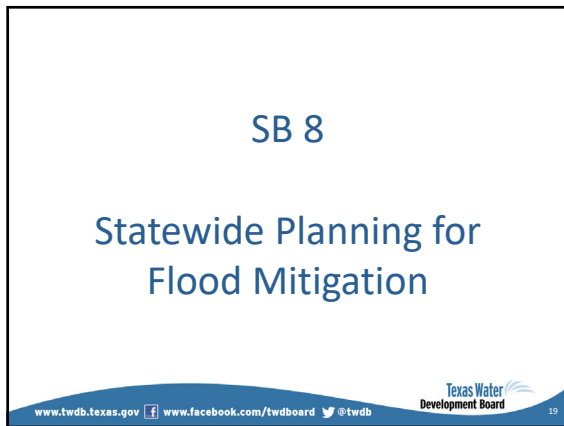
- This account will take center stage once the first State Flood Plan is adopted in 2024
- TWDB may only use money in this account to fund projects in the State Flood Plan, much like current SWIFT structure
- Other three accounts will finance projects over the next 4-5 years
- Money may be awarded to several political subdivisions for a single flood project

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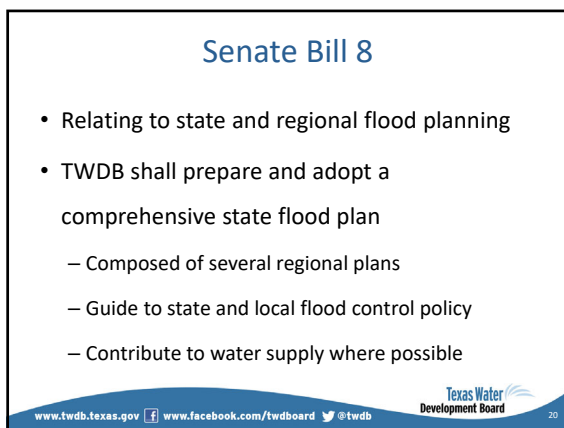
TIRF Advisory Committee

- Composed much like the existing SWIFT Advisory Committee
- 3 House members: Phelan, Metcalf, Walle
- 3 Senate members: Perry, Hinojosa, Kolkhorst
- 1 Comptroller's Office / 1 TDEM
- Can hold hearings, work sessions, meetings
- Committee will review operation, function, and structure of the TIRF
- TWDB will provide annual reports to committee

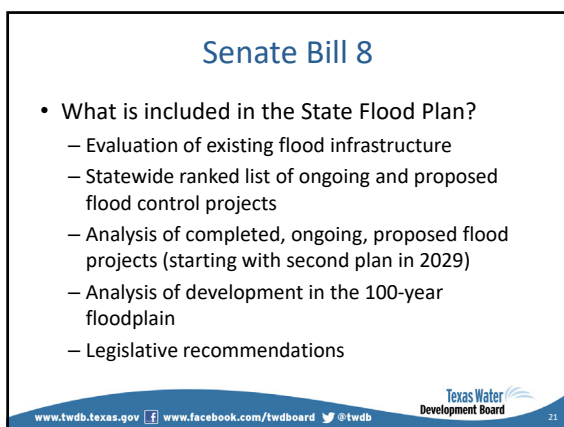
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Senate Bill 8

- Who will participate in the process?
- TWDB will adopt guidance principles with:
 - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - Texas Department of Agriculture
 - General Land Office
 - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
 - Texas Department of Emergency Management
 - State Soil and Water Conservation Board

22

Regional Flood Planning

- TWDB will first designate flood planning regions that correspond to river basins
 - Some river basins are so big that TWDB may subdivide those into multiple planning regions
- TWDB will provide financial and technical assistance to these regional planning groups
- Composed of the same interest groups that do regional planning for SWIFT

23




Regional Flood Planning

- Regional plans must:
 - Use information based on hard science and updated mapping
 - Describe existing flood infrastructure
 - Describe changes in land use and population increases that could have an effect on flooding
 - Indicate whether a proposed project:
 - Meets emergency need
 - Uses federal money as a funding source
 - Has water supply benefits

24

Regional Flood Planning

- Regions must hold open meetings that allow for substantive public comment
- Posting and notice requirements like most other political subdivisions
- TWDB then determines the following before the region adopts its plan:
 - Satisfies all statutory requirements
 - Whether proposed projects affect neighboring areas
 - If so, then TWDB would help coordinate a solution that accommodates all affected areas

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Advisory Committee

- Composition of committee
 - Chair of Senate Water and Rural Affairs
 - Chair of House Natural Resources
 - Chair of Senate Finance
 - Chair of House Appropriations
 - Representative from TDEM
 - Representative from State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Committee will oversee the implementation of the State Flood Plan

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Agricultural Conservation Grants

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27

Agricultural Conservation Grants

- Eligible applicants
 - Groundwater districts
 - University systems
 - Other political subdivisions
- Eligible participants
 - Ag producers
 - Crop consultants
 - Equipment dealers
 - Non-profit organizations

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Agricultural Conservation Grants

- \$1.2 million available this year
 - Amount recently doubled by the Legislature
- Focus this year
 - Improving soil health
 - Promoting irrigation conservation
- Applications due: February 19th, 2020

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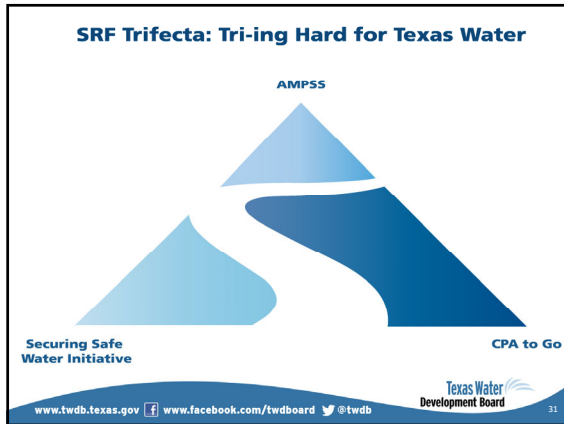
New TWDB Initiatives

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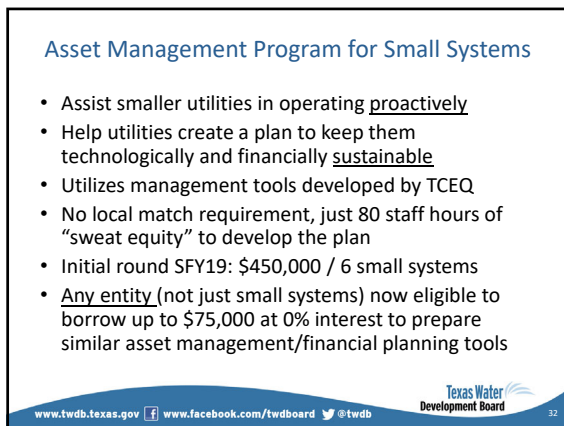
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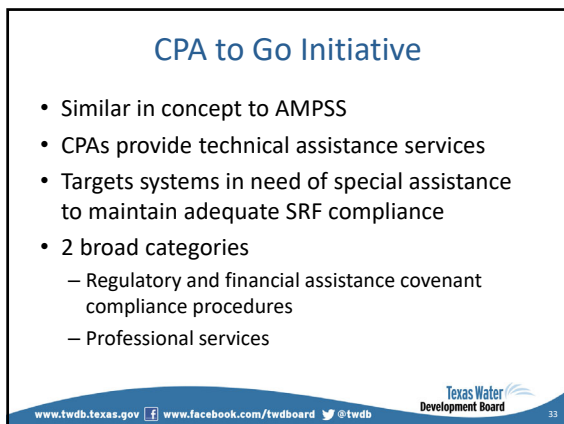
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Securing Safe Water Initiative

- EPA Strategic Plan goal: significantly reduce the number of systems with health violations
- April 2019: 261 public water systems in Texas had unresolved health issues
- Special allocations: Very Small Systems, Urgent Need, Disadvantaged, Small/Rural
- Outreach and determining need
- Technical assistance
- Track outcomes

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Program Updates

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SWIFT Update

- September 24th, 2019 bond sale
- Will provide approximately \$972 million for financing new state water plan projects
- Estimated savings of approximately **\$170 million** for these ten SWIFT borrowers
- Brings total savings to **over \$1 billion** since the first funding cycle in 2015
- SWIFT 2020 funding cycle is now open. Abridged SWIFT applications are due February 3rd




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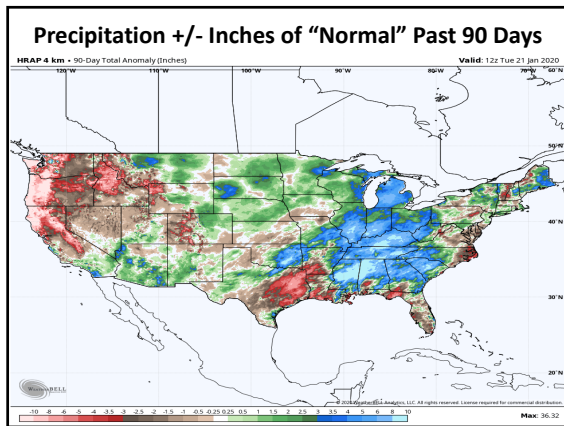
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Flood Update

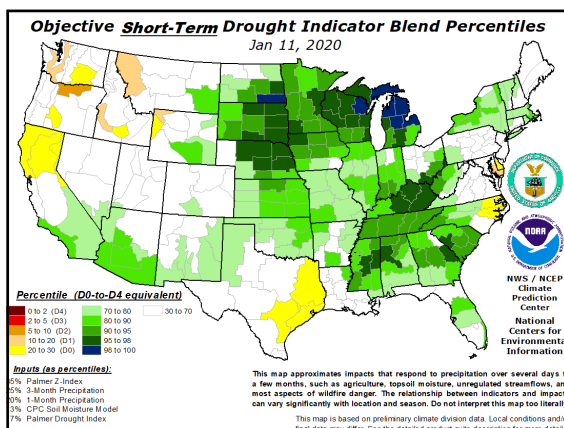
- SB 7: Flood Infrastructure Fund
 - Draft rule comment period: Closed January 13th
 - Special board meeting: January 30th
 - Adopt final rules: End of February
- SB 8: Guidance principles/Designate planning areas
 - Draft rule comment period: Closes February 3rd
 - Adopt final rules: End of March

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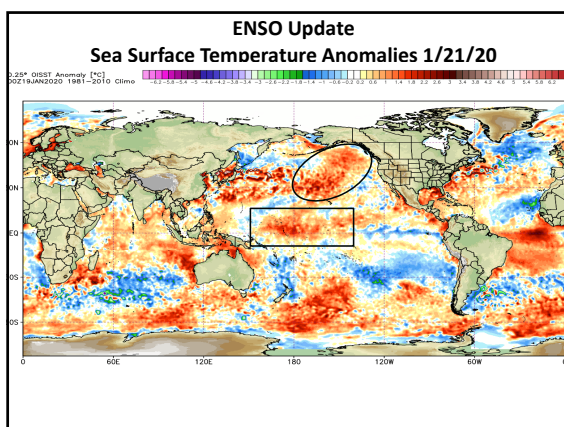
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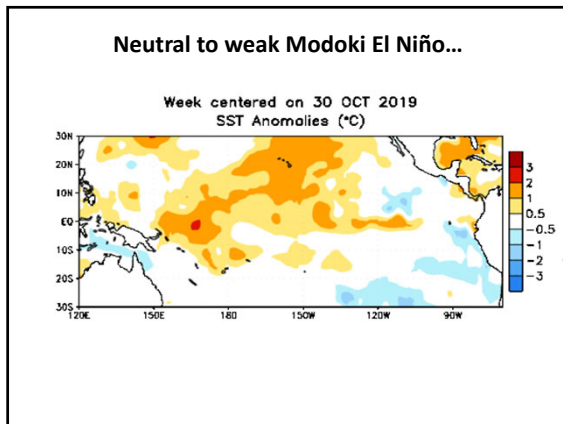
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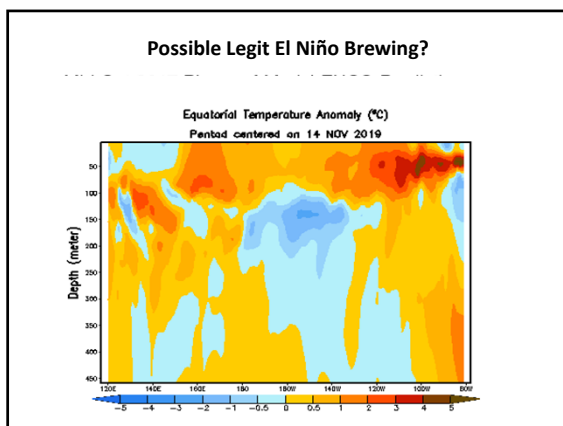
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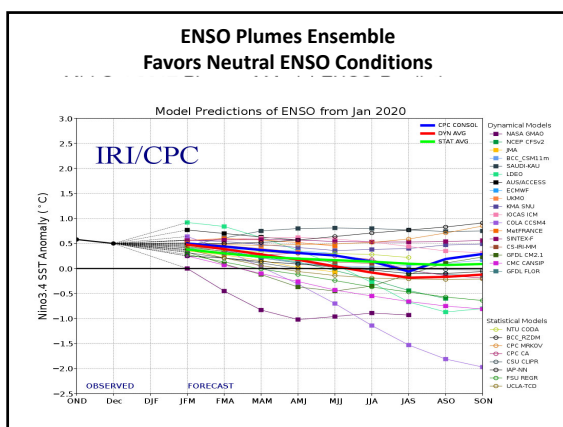
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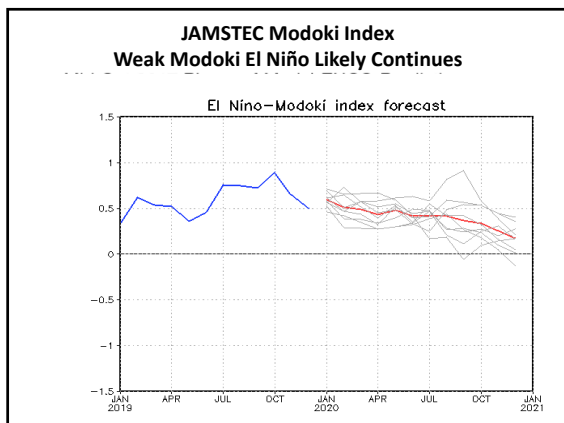
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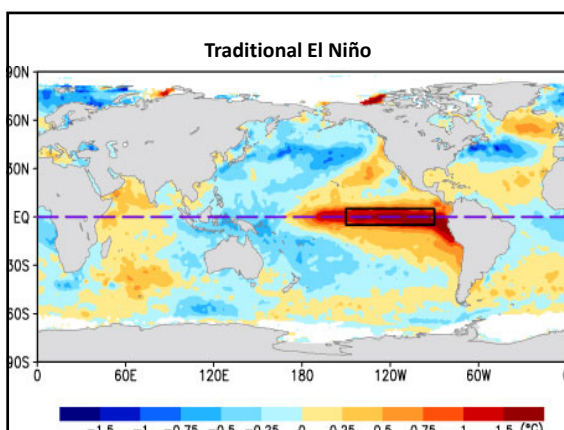
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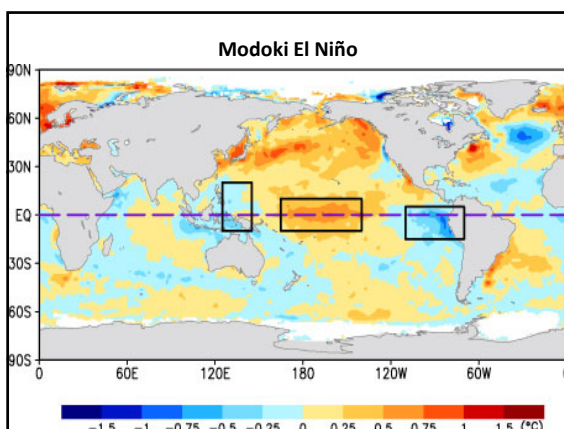
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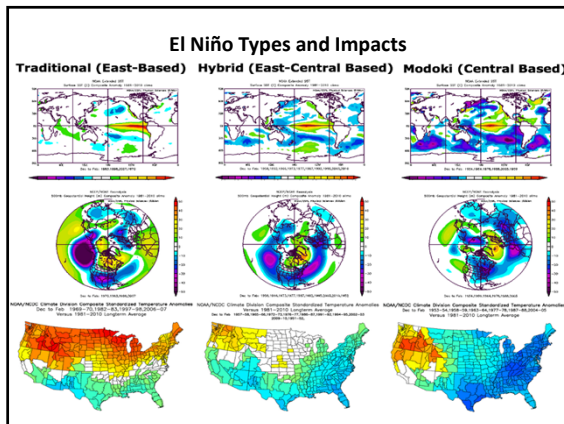
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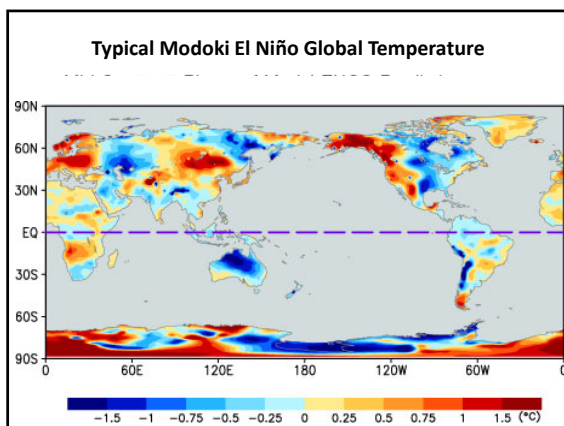
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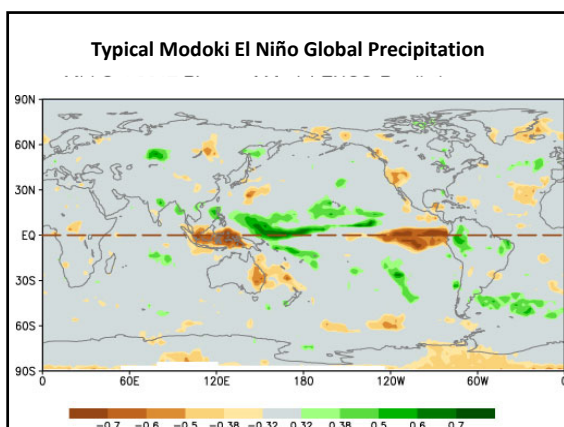
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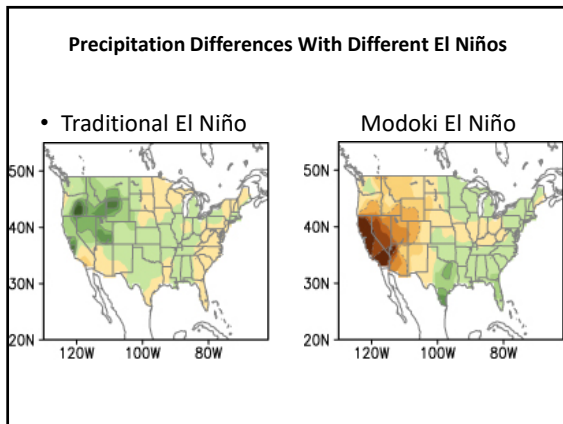
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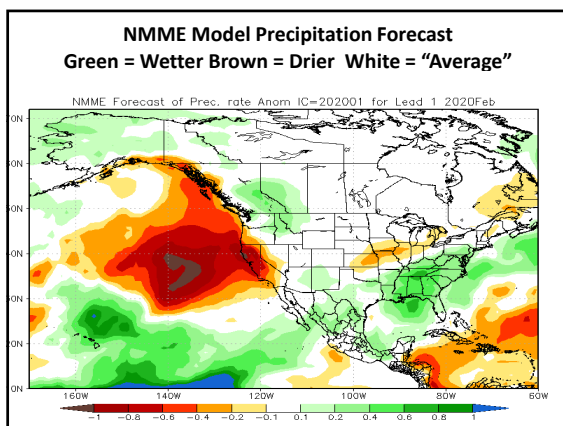
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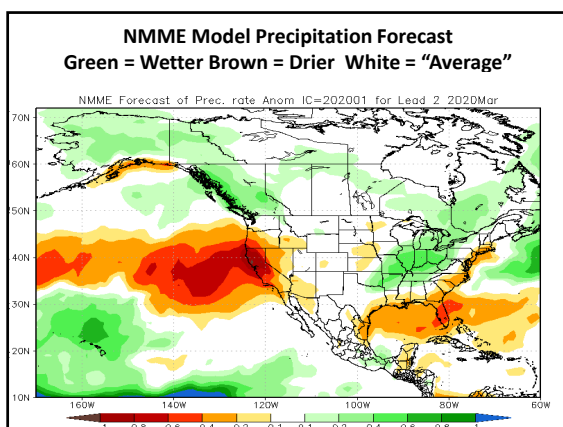
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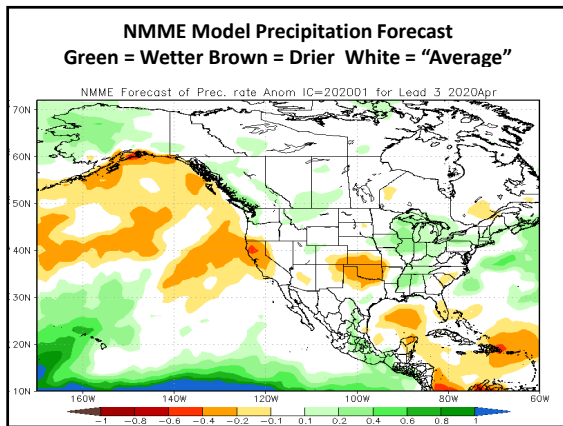
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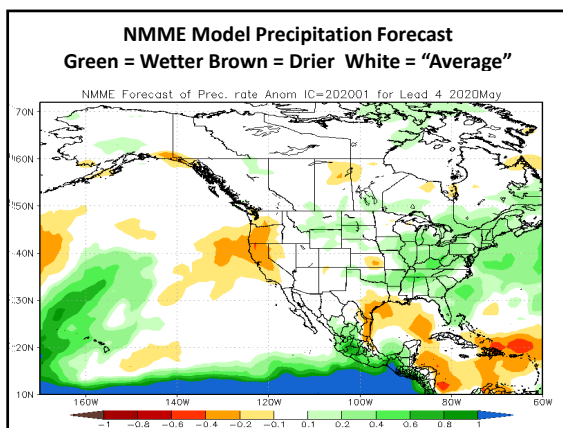
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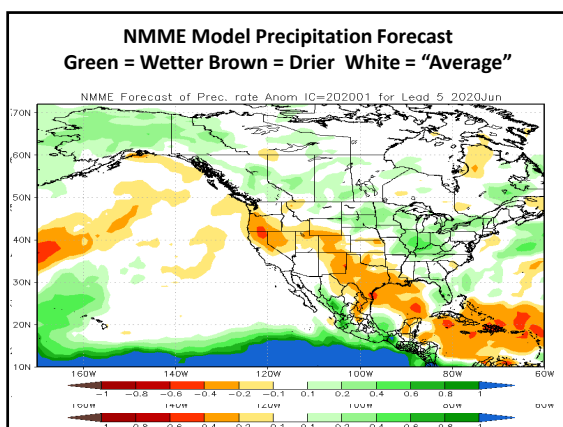
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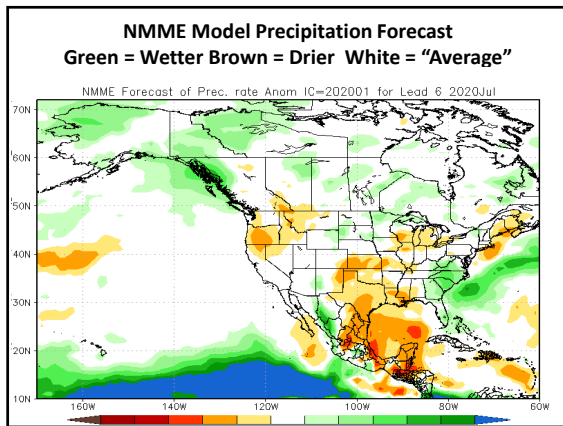
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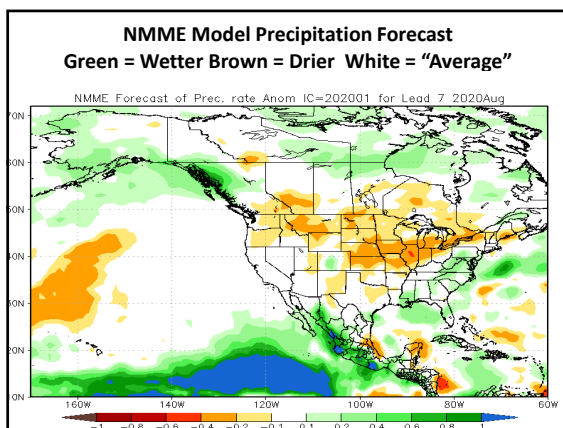
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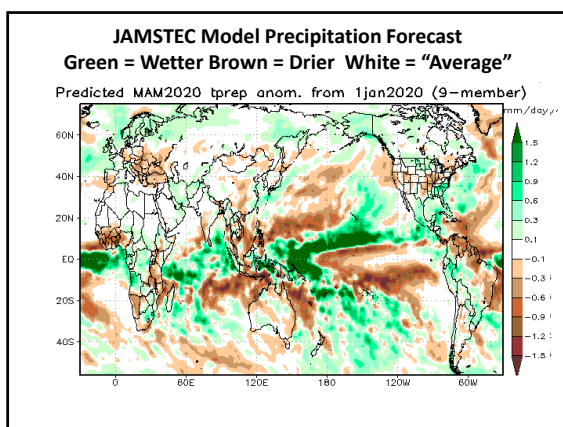
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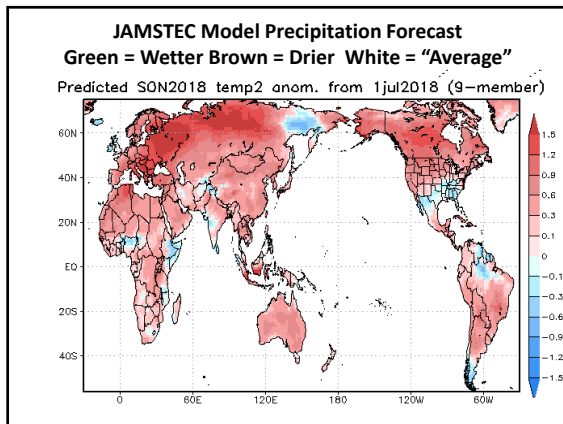
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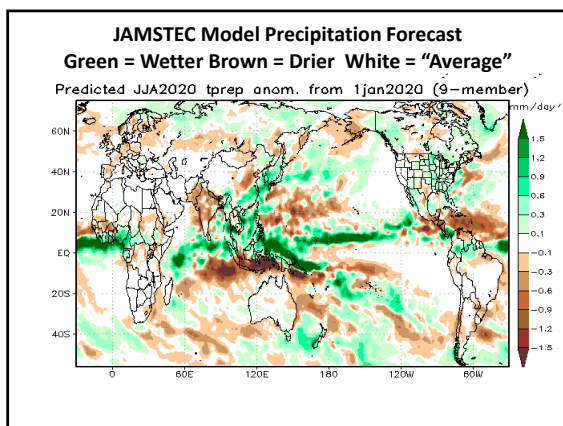
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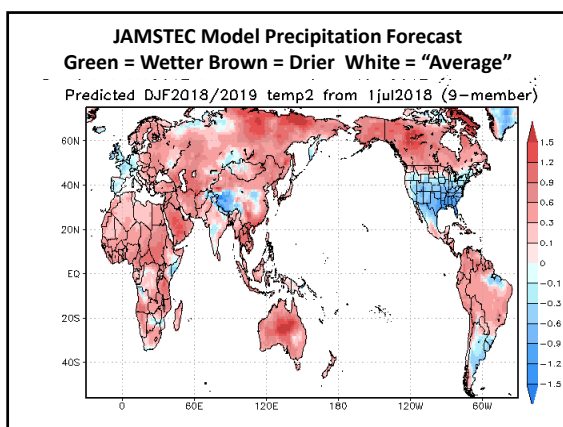
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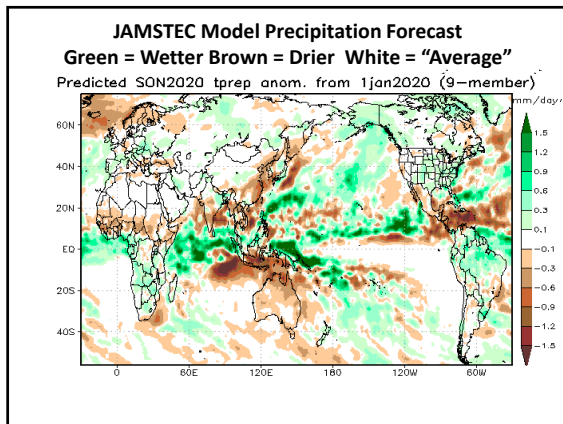
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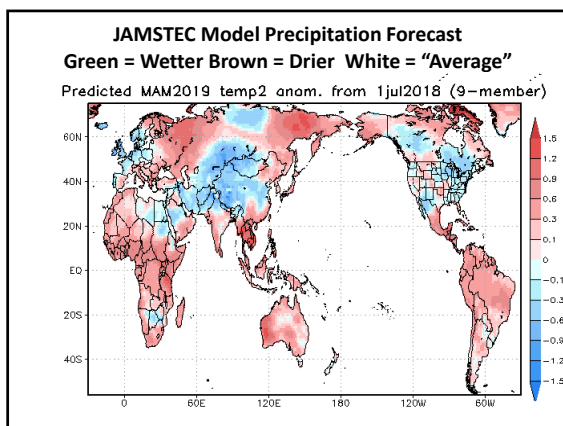
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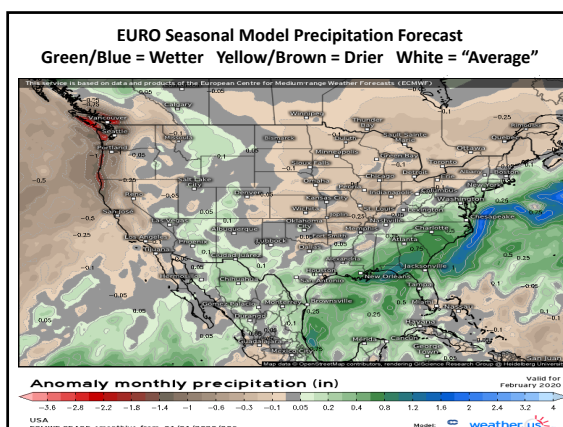
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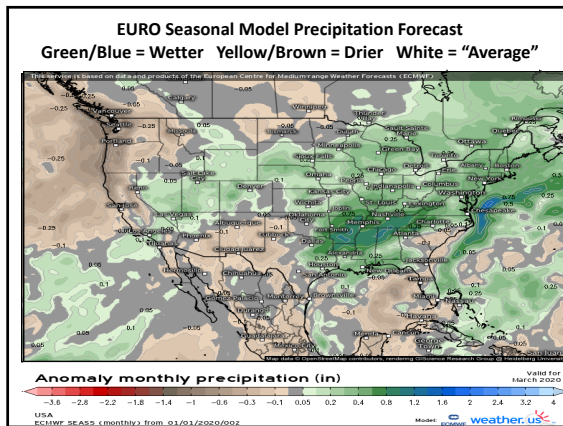
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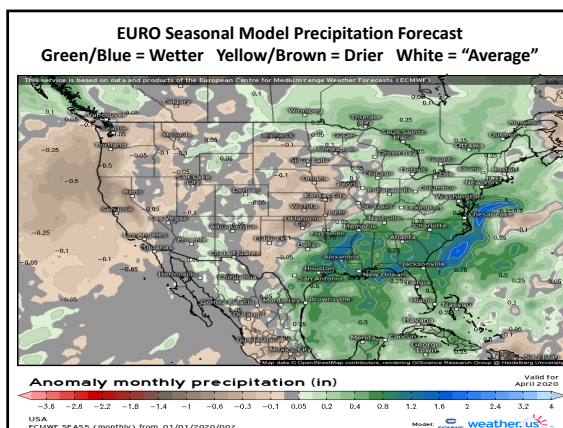
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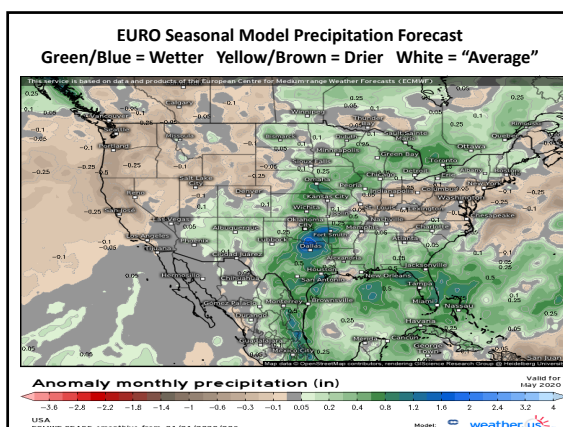
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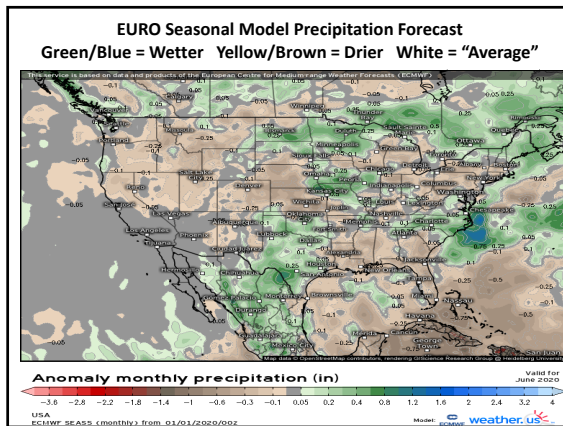
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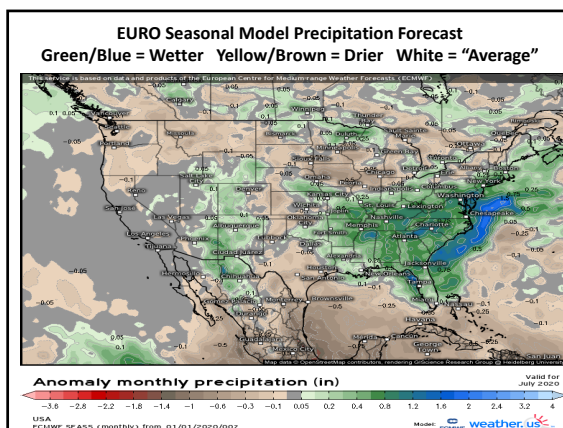
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Pacific Northwest Regional Outlook

Drought currently an issue, especially northwest...and could worsen according to models and analogs. Dry signal isn't strong for a prolonged stretch, but worth protecting against.

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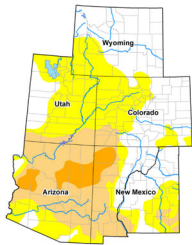
California/Nevada Outlook



Drought not an issue at this time. However, various models show the potential for the wetter than average at times, and much drier than average at times. The driest stretch could be Jan/Feb per models. Esp. if weak Modoki occurs...

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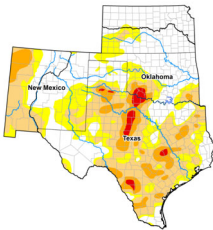
Four Corners Regional Outlook



Drought continues to expand due to monsoon season failure. May continue to worsen through the fall, before getting better through the winter and spring of 2020.

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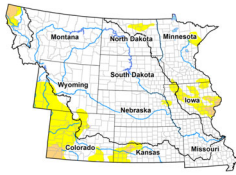
Southern Plains Regional Outlook



Drought has worsened in New Mexico and parts of Texas Panhandle. Drought has eased considerably farther east. Models optimistic for continued relief, especially east per Modoki. Less west...

36

Plains/Midwest Regional Outlook



Most areas not experiencing ANY drought. Models do not show stout dry signal for most areas. In fact, the winter/spring could be quite active for most of this region...esp. Northern Plains and Missouri Valley.

37

My Thoughts...

- ENSO neutral or weak Modoki El Niño continues...
- Drought not an issue for now...
- Models not exactly wet for spring, and it may take awhile to activate the pattern farther west. Cautious optimism for late spring moisture?
- Concerned about La Niña **POTENTIAL** late in 2020 into 2021...make sure you are prepared.


38

Weather 5280

- brianbledsoewx@gmail.com
- E-Mail Anytime
- Twitter @BrianBledsoe
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39

Texas Water Law Hot Topics



TAWC Water College ■ Lubbock, TX ■ Jan. 23, 2020

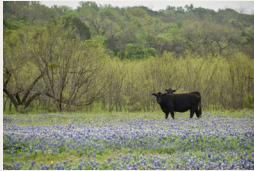

Tiffany Dowell Lashmet
Associate Professor & Extension Specialist – Ag Law
TAMU AgriLife Extension



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Disclaimer



This presentation is for educational purposes only as well as to give general information and a general understanding of the law, not to provide specific legal advice. This presentation does not create an attorney/client relationship and should not be used as a substitute for the advice of a licensed attorney.

2

Road Map



- Quick overview of Texas water law
- State line water law clash
- *Stratta* case
- Groundwater as a conduit

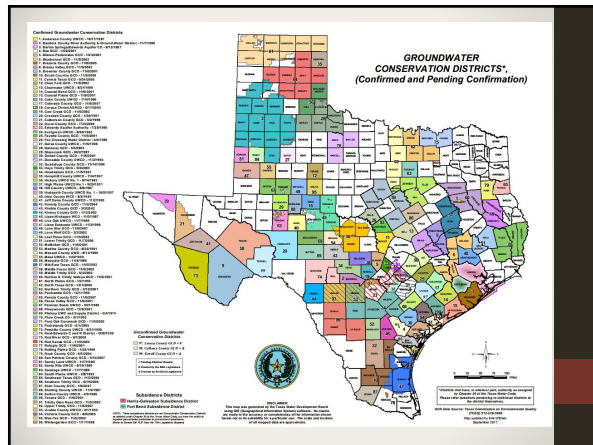
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Texas Water Law

- Applicable law depends on the type of water
 - Groundwater: water percolating in an aquifer
 - Surface water: water in a defined watercourse
 - Diffused surface water: storm runoff not yet in a defined watercourse
- Who owns the groundwater?
 - Landowner owns the water beneath his land.
 - Rule of capture, subject to limitations (common law & GCDs)
 - Exceptions from GCD permitting for domestic and livestock uses.
 - *Bragg v. Edwards Aquifer Authority*



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Texas Water Law (cont.)

- Who owns the surface water?
 - State of Texas
 - Must obtain a permit for use from the TCEQ
 - Prior Appropriation
 - Exceptions to permit requirement: domestic and livestock uses
- Who owns the diffused surface water?
 - Landowner has right to use but cannot divert to damage neighbor.

6

“Navigable Streams”



- Classification matters for two reasons.
 - Exempt diversions allowed only on non-navigable streams.
- Beds of navigable streams are owned by the state, meaning public can use the stream even if flowing across private land and the landowner may not fence or dam.
- Navigability tests
 - Navigable in fact: Can serve as “common highway for trade and travel.”
 - Navigable in law: Does streambed maintain average width of 30 feet from the mouth up?

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

7

State Line Water Law Clash

- Southeastern NM is major oil and gas country.
- NM water law requires a permit for groundwater use.
- Oil and gas companies have been refused fracking permits.
- So....across the state line they go.
- In TX, the landowner owns the groundwater.
 - Loving County, no GCD.
- Companies purchase water in TX, essentially run a hose across the line, use it in New Mexico.
- Former NMLC says this is theft of NM groundwater.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

8

Sending Texas water into New Mexico



NEW MEXICO

TEXAS

MEXICO

El Paso

Carlsbad

Orla

LOVING

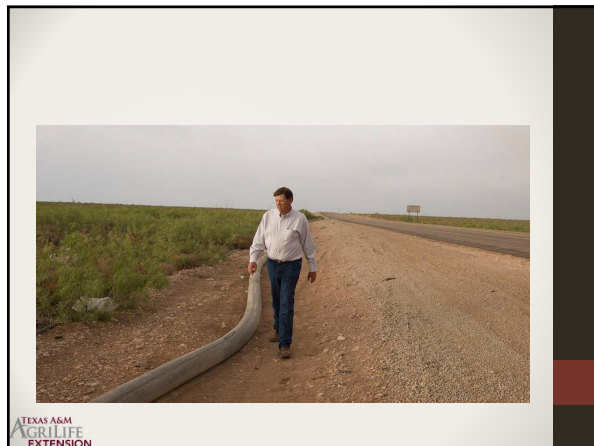
Midland

Odessa

Water pumped through hoses across state line

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

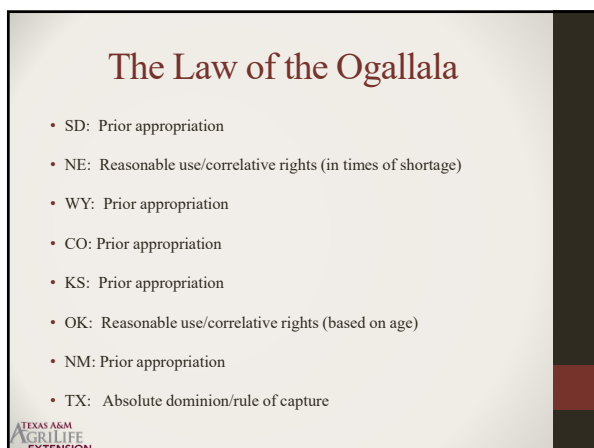
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Stratta Case

- Brazos Valley GCD uses formula to determine the number of acres required in order to for a certain amount of water to be pumped.

$$\left(\frac{\text{Average Annual Production Rate in Gallons/Minute}}{43,560} \times \frac{\text{District Spacing Requirement Between Wells}}{1} \right)^2 \times \pi = \text{Total number of contiguous acres required to be assigned to the well site}$$

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Stratta Case (cont).

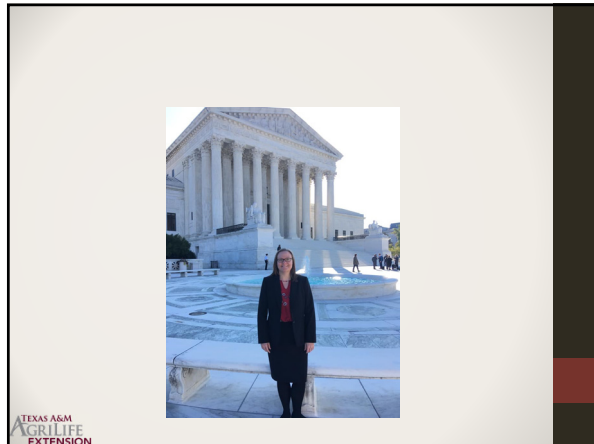
- City of Bryan owns 2.7 acres of land next to Fazzino.
 - Granted permit to drill well 3,000' from property line to pump 3,000 gpm and 4,838 AF/year.
 - Ignored formula, which would have allowed 192 gpm and 315 AF/year.
- Fazzino owns 26 acres of land.
 - He seeks permit to drill a well pumping 3,000 gpm.
 - Apply formula to determine he is limited to 192 gpm and 315 AF/year.
- Fazzino files suit claiming taking, violation of equal protection.

14

Clean Water Act: Groundwater as a Conduit

- Clean Water Act says a federal NPDES permit is needed if:
 - Point source discharge
 - Pollutant
 - WOTUS
- Question has arisen: does the discharge have to be direct, or can groundwater serve as a conduit?
- Cases around the country have reached different results.
- SCOTUS heard argument in November.

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Groundwater as a Conduit (cont.)

- Summary so far:
 - CWA does apply: 4th(twice); 9th
 - CWA does not apply: 6th (twice); trial court in 7th
- Three case examples:
 - *County of Maui* (9th Cir.): Disposal well for sewage goes into groundwater, out into Pacific Ocean. CWA does apply– “fairly traceable from point source to a WOTUS.”
 - *Upstate Forever* (4th Cir.): Pipeline ruptures, gasoline seeps into groundwater and then 1,000’ into WOTUS. “Sufficiently connected to navigable water.”
 - *Kentucky Waterways* (6th Cir.): Coal ash pond seeps into groundwater, ends up in lake. “Inconsistent with the text and structure of the CWA.”

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Groundwater as a Conduit (cont.)

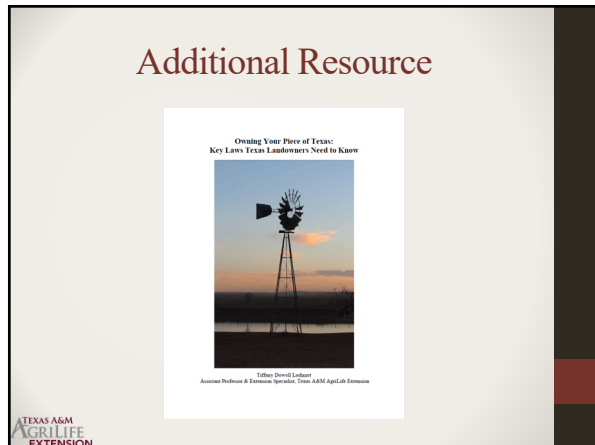
- Court seemed to struggle...
 - Concerned about “fairly traceable” test being far too broad.
 - Concerned about “directly into” test being far too narrow.
- Potential impacts for agriculture and for rural landowners.



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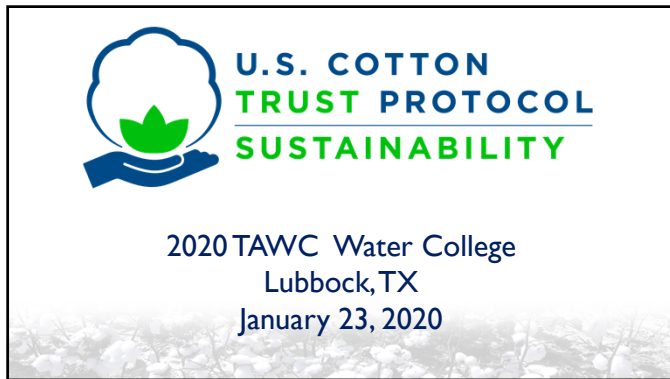
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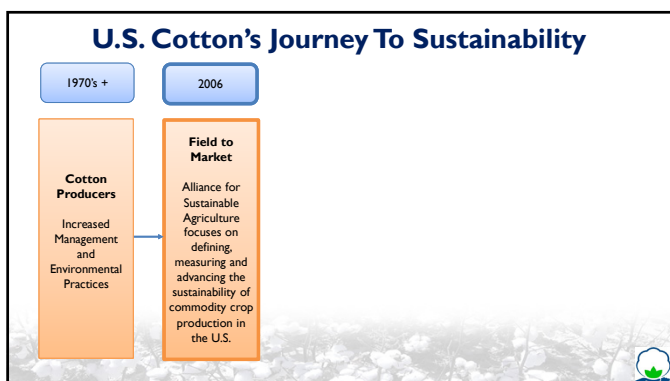
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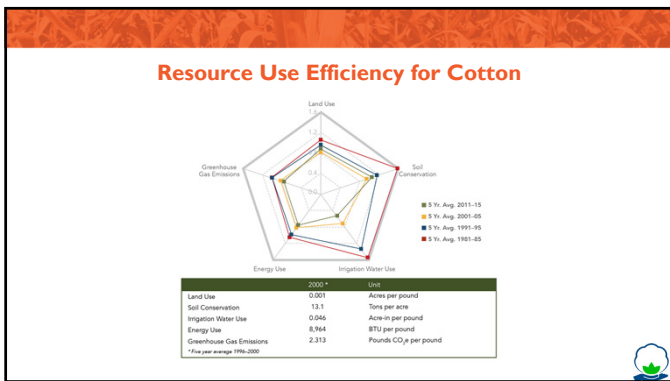
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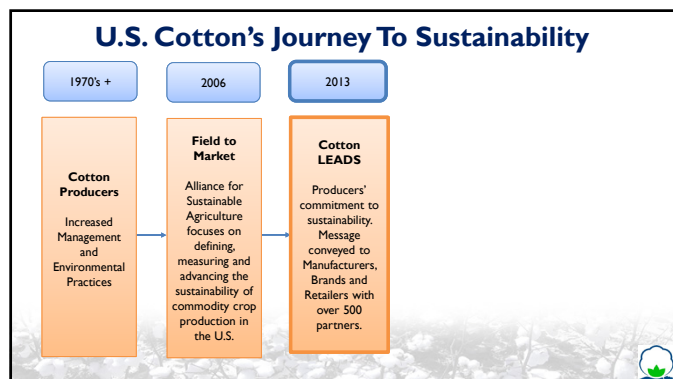
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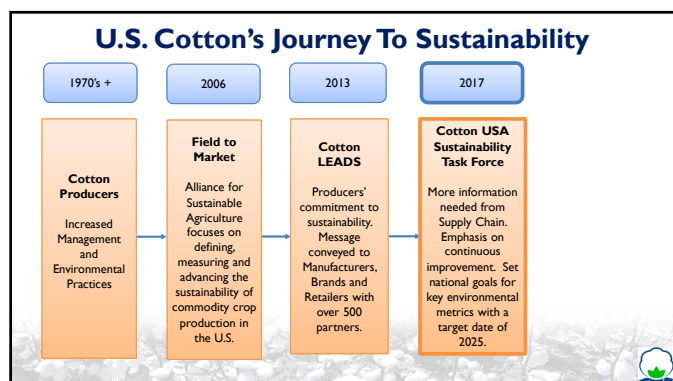
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COTTON LEADS™	
KEY POINTS ABOUT THE COTTON LEADS PROGRAM	
CREATION	
Created in 2013 as a means of promoting sustainability of US and AU cotton to retailers, brands and manufacturers	
DESIGN	
Founded on 5 principles	Strategically designed to address sustainability concepts, benevolence, and bale identification (traceability)
FUNCTION	
Joint promotion, with individual bragging rights	Cotton LEADS website features U.S. growers, researcher profiles, and videos. We control content of US postings and almost all the direct outreach to and meetings with Cotton LEADS partners.

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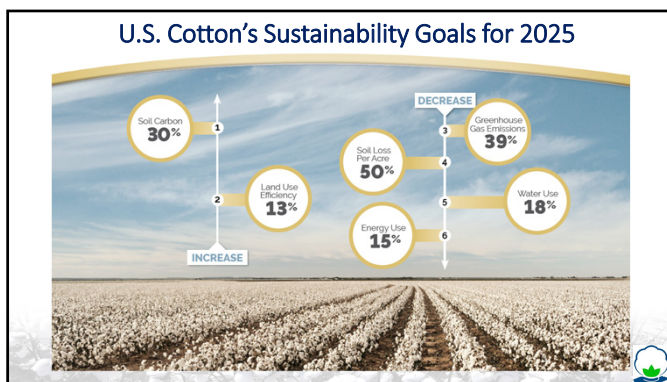
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COTTON USA Sustainability Task Force

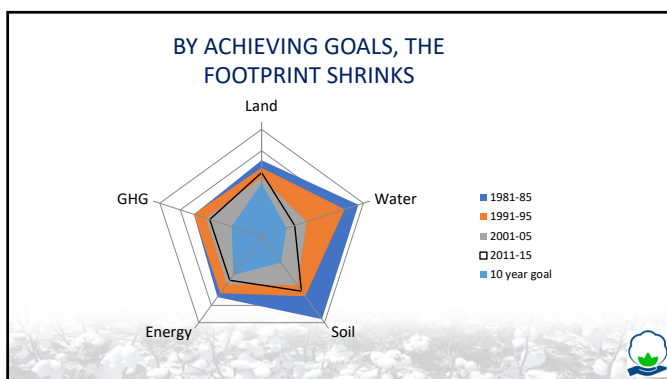
Producers Aaron Barcellos Matt Coley Dahlen Hancock John Hardwick Mark Nichols Ted Schneider Gregory Wuertz Cottonseed Fred Serven	Merchants Steve Dyer Tim North Cooperatives Kevin Brinkley Hank Reichle Ginner Curtis Stewart Warehouse Coalter Paxton III	Manufacturers Garry Bell Charles Little Jim Martin Advisors Jesse Daystar Bill Gillon Andy Jordan Marty Matlock Berrye Worsham
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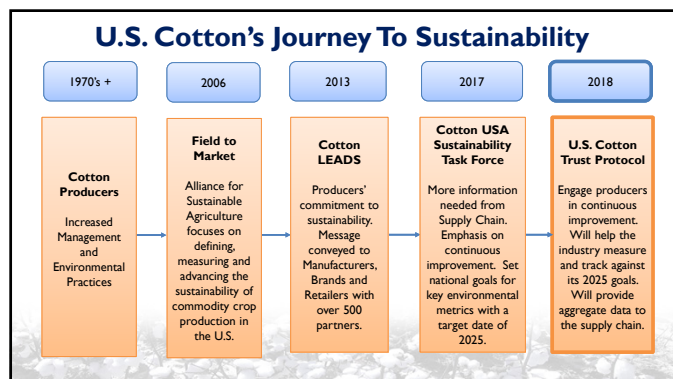
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U.S. COTTON TRUST PROTOCOL

- Two questions to answer
 - ✓ **What is the Trust Protocol?**
 - ✓ Why do we need it?



14

U.S. COTTON TRUST PROTOCOL

- Single-Member LLC within the National Cotton Council
- Governed by a Board comprised of growers, ginners, merchants, coops, spinning mills, civil societies, and Brands/Retailers. This includes people from the following organizations:
 - World Wildlife Fund
 - Environmental Defense Fund
 - Tesco
 - Levi Strauss & Co.
 - Louis Dreyfus Company



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U.S. COTTON TRUST PROTOCOL

- A voluntary farm-level program designed to engage growers in continuous improvement
- A program that can help the industry reach its 2025 goals
- A system that will provide aggregate data that can be passed through the textile supply chain which includes: producers, merchandisers, manufacturers, brands and retailers and others



16

KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRODUCER


- Self-assessment against standards
- Use of a data tool for environmental metrics
- Verification by an independent party





17


SELF-ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE


- 9 categories with approx. 100 questions
- Choices for answers
 - A. I do this now on my operation
 - B. I am implementing on 1 or more of my fields
 - C. I will consider in next 3 years
 - D. Not appropriate for my farming operation



 Soil Health



 Nutrient Management



 Water Management



 Crop Protection



 Harvest Preparation


 Wildlife Habitat


 Fiber Quality and Traceability


 Farm Management


 Worker Relations



18

Sample Questions for Water Management

Water Management

1. On installation of new wells or existing wells (where applicable), comply with local and state requirements including licensing if appropriate.

Management Planning

2. Conserve and utilize natural rainfall and/or tail water through use of cover crops, terraces, furrow diking, holding ponds, reservoirs or conservation tillage.

Irrigation

4. Utilize variable rate irrigation (VRI) on fields with known spatial variability in soil types, topography, and/or non-crop areas.

5. Utilize flow meters to measure water use.

6. Use soil, climate, or plant-based measurements such as infrared guns or potential evapotranspiration (PET) data to monitor soil and crop water status.

7. Keep records of application dates, materials and rates to track efficiency and identify opportunities for improvement.

Legend:
 I do now on most of my fields
 I am implementing this on one or more fields
 I will consider in the next 3 years
 Not appropriate for my farming operation

19

Sample Questions for Soil Health

Soil Health

The first step in developing the farm's soil management plan is to evaluate each field for erosion potential. Important factors include slope, slope length, soil type, rainfall potential, wind erosion potential and a residue. The soil management plan should correct situations with potential for erosion.

Management Planning

3. Utilize conservation tillage practices such as minimum, strip, mulch or no-till.

4. Prevent or alleviate soil compaction through prescribed tillage operations, controlled traffic patterns and avoidance of traffic where soil moisture is above field capacity.

5. Use permanent and/or annual windbreaks to reduce wind erosion.

6. Apply practices to minimize plant damage from wind erosion (e.g., surface residue or sand fighters).

7. Orienting rows along contours.

8. Construct and maintain erosion control structures such as contour terraces, catch basins, diversion channels and graded waterways.

Soil and Residue Management

9. Rotate cotton with other crops.

Legend:
 I do now on most of my fields
 I am implementing this on one or more fields
 I will consider in the next 3 years
 Not appropriate for my farming operation

20

Sample Questions for Crop Protection

Crop Protection

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices defined as an ecosystem management approach managing pests that anticipates and prevents pests from reaching economically damaging levels by all suitable

14. Use licensed qualified consultants or certified crop consultants to monitor crop and pest status and make recommendations for management.

15. Use plant-based measurements to help determine economic thresholds.

16. Use science-based action thresholds to initiate insecticide treatments.

17. Monitor for pest resistance and follow resistance management guidelines.

18. Use production practices that promote healthy stands such as appropriate date of planting, optimum soil temperatures, seeding rate to avoid dense stands, seed viability and seedbed preparation.

19. Keep annual records of fields and weed, insect, disease pressure.

20. Inspect and document fields in spring and fall for weed species and density to select appropriate weed strategy.

Chemical Control


21. Manage weed seed bank by spot-applying post-emergence and layby herbicides or hand rogue sporadic infestations to prevent seed buildup.

Legend:
 I do now on most of my fields
 I am implementing this on one or more fields
 I will consider in the next 3 years
 Not appropriate for my farming operation

21

SELF-ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE


Categories	Required Practices	Recommended Practices	Total
Soil Health	1	10	11
Nutrient Management	1	9	10
Water Management	1	11	12
Crop Protection	13	10	23
Harvest Preparation	2	7	9
Wildlife Habitat	0	5	5
Fiber Quality and Traceability	0	4	4
Farm Management	9	13	22
Worker Relations	11	5	16



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SELF-ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

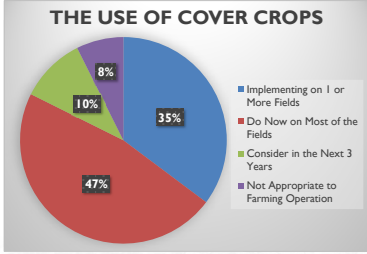
- 33% Required Management Practices
- 67% Recommended Management Practices with 4 Choices
- Provides Cumulative Data as Producers Answer Questionnaire



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SELF-ASSESSMENT DATA RESULTS

Plant cover crops with a goal to have living roots on as many months of the year as possible to protect soil and improve soil organic matter.

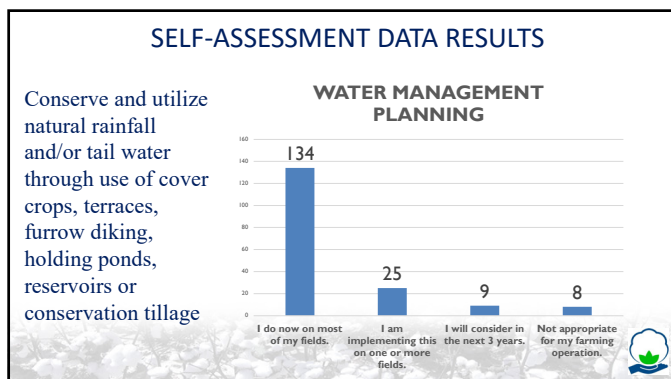


THE USE OF COVER CROPS

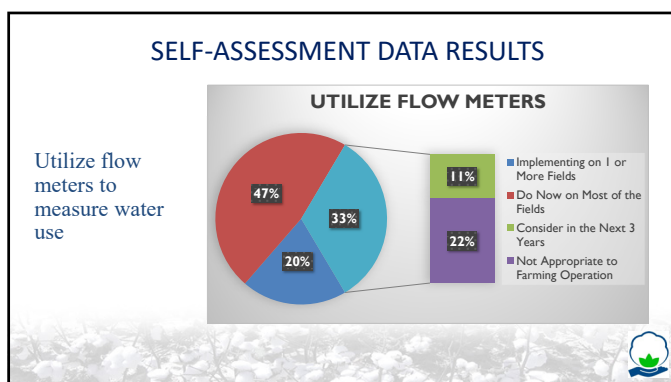
- Implementing on 1 or More Fields
- Do Now on Most of the Fields
- Consider in the Next 3 Years
- Not Appropriate to Farming Operation



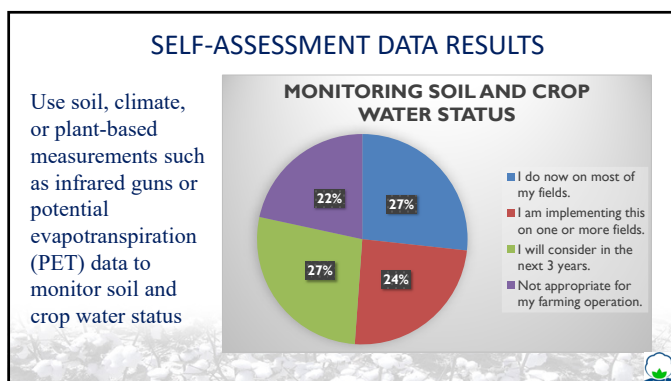
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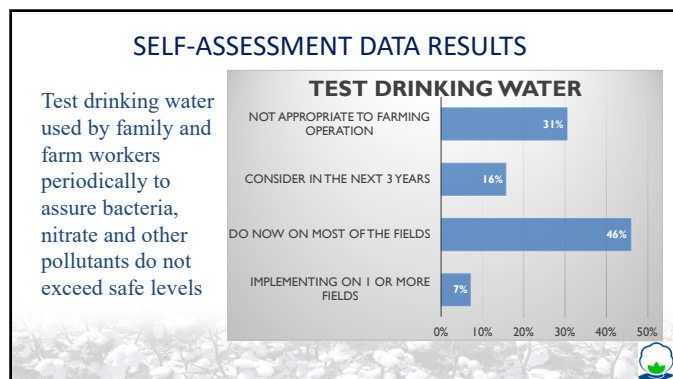
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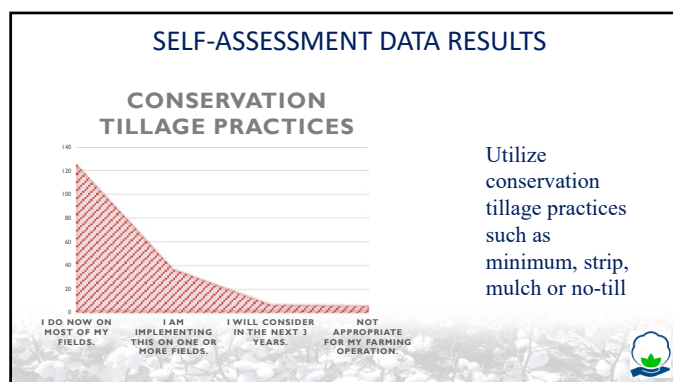
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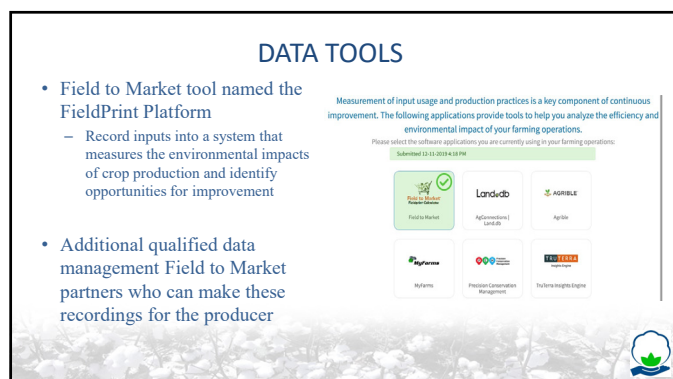
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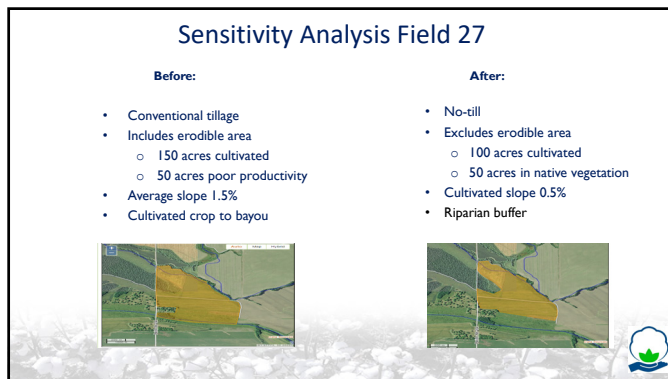
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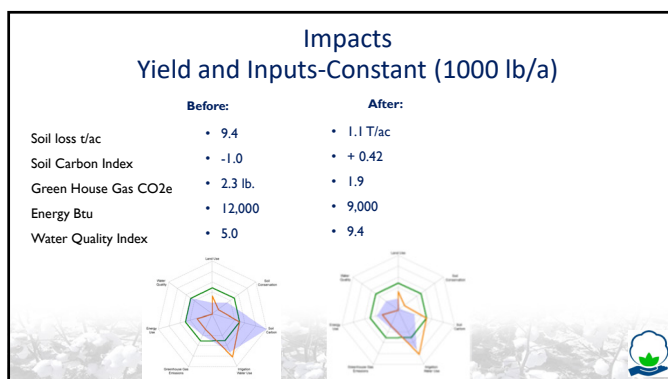
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VERIFICATION


- Validate accurate use of the on-line enrollment tool such as the self-assessment questionnaire and the data tool.
- A statistically valid random sample of the producers will be selected each year for an independent third-party verification of their questionnaire and data.

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U.S. COTTON TRUST PROTOCOL

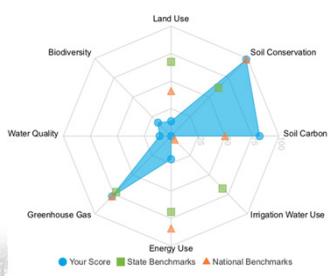

- Two questions to answer
 - ✓ What is the Trust Protocol?
 - ✓ **Why do we need it?**



35


Why? To Drive Continuous Improvement

- Annual quantitative measurements
- Feedback for the producer
- How do you compare?

36

Why? To Achieve Industry Goals		Industry's 10-Year Goals For Environmental Metrics						
		Reduce Land Use by 13%	Increase Irrigation Efficiency by 18%	Reduce GHG by 39%	Reduce Energy Use by 15%	Reduce Soil Loss by 50%	Increase Soil Carbon by 30%	
Best Management Practices	Environmental	Soil Health	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
		Nutrient Management	✓		✓	✓		
		Water Management	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		Crop Protection	✓		✓	✓		
		Harvest Preparation			✓	✓		
		Wildlife/Biodiversity			✓		✓	✓
Social	Worker Relations	Provide a safe work place for all employees, assure fair treatment and compensation.						
	Farm Management	Maintain household and farmstead operations which assure safety for family, workers, farm animals and the environment.						
	Fiber Quality/Traceability	Work to assure fiber quality is maximized by selecting appropriate varieties, managing for fiber quality consistent with yield goals and preserving quality during harvest and ginning.						




37

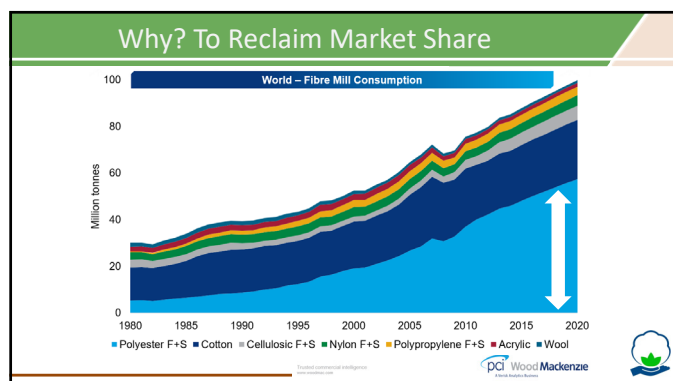
Why? To Meet the Needs of Our Customers

"It's the Wild West out there right now," says Paul Magel, president of the business applications and technology outsourcing division at CGS, a software company that works with retail clients.

- The needs of customers will vary
- Many brands/retailers accept U.S. cotton as sustainable or responsibly produced
- However, not all have done so. They point to the lack of a standard or independent verification
- We must be flexible in the ability to pass data to the textile supply chain



38



39

Why? To Be the Supplier of Choice

- The Protocol is NOT about
 - One grower or one bale being more sustainable than another, or
 - Guaranteeing a premium
- The Protocol IS about U.S. cotton
 - **Competing in every market and every supply chain**
- The United States cannot afford to lose market access because of a perceived lack of sustainability

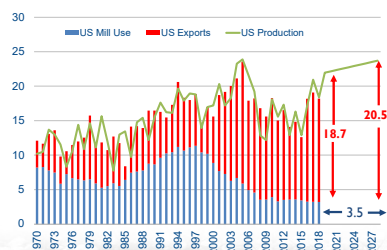


40

U.S. Cotton is Poised to Compete

With 14 million acres and increasing yields, there is excellent potential for 20-25 million bales of production

But, we must have the demand base!



41

Compete in Every Market & Every Supply Chain

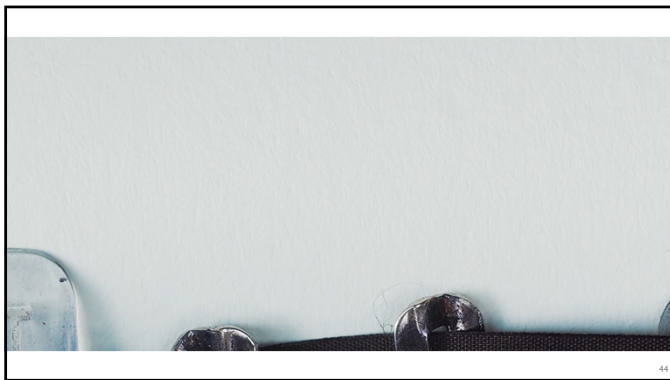
- To be the Supplier of Choice, We Must Meet the Customer's Needs for
 - Quality
 - Cleanliness
 - Timeliness
 - Sustainability
- The Protocol allows U.S. cotton to tell an even stronger story to our customers and provide support for their various reports.



42



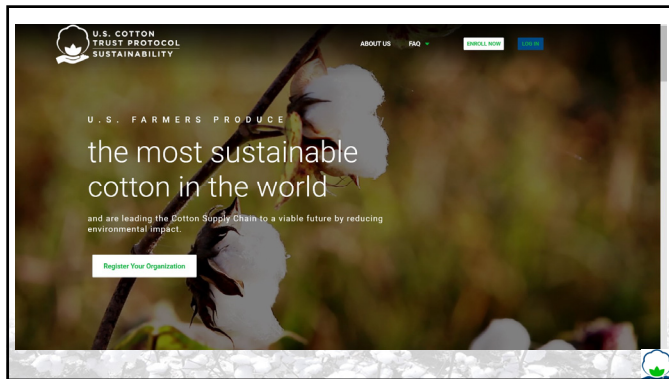
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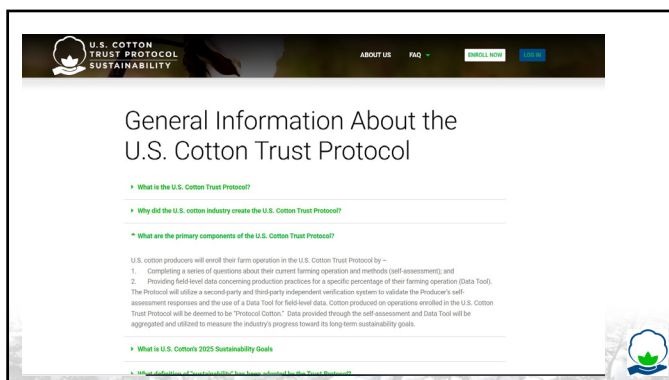
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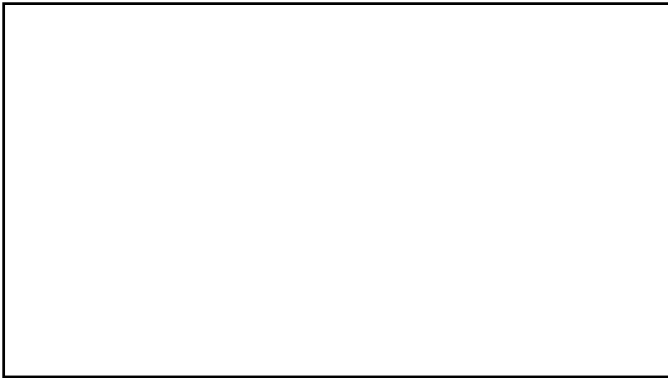
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47



48




49



"The future of Cotton Genetics and Weed Control"


Texas Alliance for Water Conservation
(TAWC) Water College
Jan 2020

Laboratorio Nacional de Genómica
para la Biodiversidad



1

Institute of Genomics for Crop Abiotic Stress Tolerance (IGCAST)




Vision
In the next 10 years IGCAST will be one of the top 10 institutes in plant genomics worldwide, with a large production of high impact publications and patents.


Mission
Develop relevant research and technology to contribute to a more sustainable agriculture.

Optimize the use of natural resources and decrease the use of agrochemicals to diminish the impact of agriculture on the environment and create a significant social and economical benefit to the farmer.


2

Current IGCAST Faculty Members






Damar López-Arredondo: Cotton and microalgae
Nutrient stress, lipid metabolism, novel herbicides



Jinping Jiao: Maize and sorghum
Comparative genomics, drought and salinity tolerance




Gunvant Patil: Soybean and cotton
Genome editing, plant transformation, drought and heat tolerance



Mylea Lovell: Greenhouse Manager

3


Potential Associated Faculty Members:

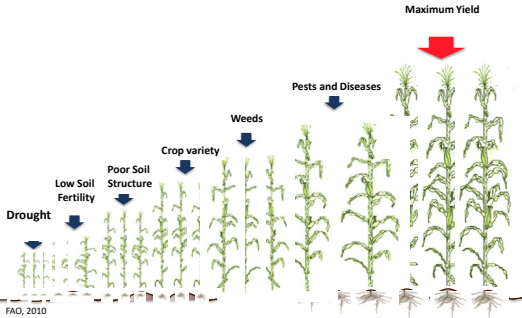


Dr. Eric Hequet, PSS, CASNR
Dr. Benildo de los Reyes, PSS, CASNR
Dr. Nouredine Abidi, PSS, CASNR
Dr. Wenxuan Guo, PSS, CASNR
Dr. Venugopal Mendu, PSS, CASNR
Dr. Lindsey Slaughter, PSS, CASNR
Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, PSS, CASNR
Dr. Rosalyn Shim, PSS, CASNR
Dr. Jaime Malaga, AAE, CASNR
Dr. Edurado Segarra, AAE, CASNR
Dr. Hong Zhang, DBS, CASNR
Dr. Chris Rock, DBS, CASNR
Dr. Amanda Brown, DBS, CASNR
Dr. Natasja van Gestel, DBS, CASNR
Dr. John D'Auria, DCB, CASNR
Dr. Huazhong Shi, DBS, CASNR
Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa, CHS

4

Many factors affect crop productivity





The diagram illustrates the progression of crop growth from left to right. On the far left, a small plant is labeled 'Drought'. Moving right, a plant is labeled 'Low Soil Fertility', followed by 'Poor Soil Structure'. Then, a plant is labeled 'Crop variety'. Next, a plant is labeled 'Weeds'. Then, a plant is labeled 'Pests and Diseases'. Finally, on the far right, a large, healthy plant is labeled 'Maximum Yield'. A red arrow points down to the 'Maximum Yield' plant. The diagram is credited to 'FAO, 2010' at the bottom left.

5





6

Water Use concerns

- In 2014, the USDA designated 240 Texas counties as primary natural disaster areas due to drought.
- Texas' agricultural industry suffered losses attributable to drought of \$7.6 billion in losses in 2011 alone.
- If water supply needs are not met by 2060, the Texas WDB projects that the state will lose over 1 million jobs and as much as \$115.7 billion per year.
- If extreme droughts persist by 2060, Texas businesses and income might suffer \$12.8 billion in losses, leading to lost jobs and income that can result in a reduced population by 1.4 million people.

2017 Surface & Groundwater Use Estimates
Approximately 54% of the 2017 estimated water use in Texas was from groundwater sources, 43% from surface water sources and only 3% from reuse.

2017 Surface Water Estimates
by Category

Category	Percentage
Irrigation	64%
Municipal	34%
Power	2%
Other	2%

2017 Groundwater Estimates
by Category

Category	Percentage
Irrigation	56%
Municipal	20%
Power	12%
Other	12%

56% Of total water use for irrigation

7

Desiccation tolerance is a marvelous trait that has evolved in many organisms (Cryptobiosis)

Artemia salina

A. salina eggs are viable for over 10 years in the desiccated state

**Tardigrades
Water bears**

Water bears survive 50 years in the desiccated state

8

Desiccation tolerance in plants

Cinvestav - Irapuato
Unidad de Genómica Avanzada

Resurrection Plants

9

Desiccated seeds maintain viable embryos for centuries

Germination of 151-year old *Acacia* spp. seeds

Matt W. Leino - Johan Edqvist

Germination, Genetics, and Growth of an Ancient Date Seed

Sarah Salton,¹ Elaine Selway,² Naomi Cohen,³ Rula Kuchinsky,³ Marko Fajl,⁴ Ivan Woodhatch,⁵ Orit Simchen,⁶ Haimshel Kishor⁷

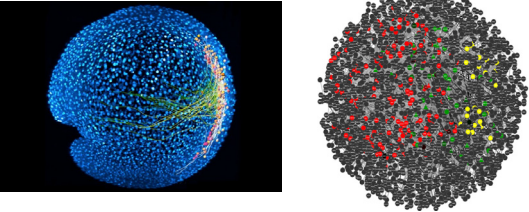
A **B** **C** **D** **E** **F**

2,000 year old date seed

1,300 year old Lotus seed

10

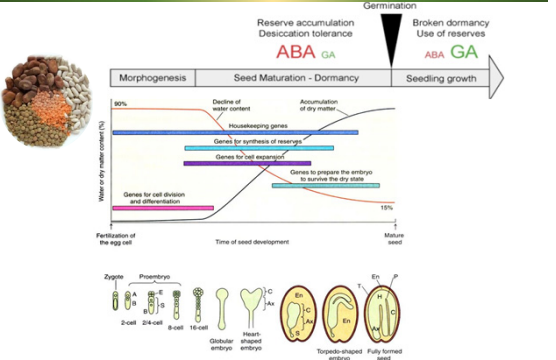
Biological processes are controlled by genetic networks that function similar to brain circuits



Plants have between 30,000 and 50,000 genes that can produce up to 500,000 different proteins, which functions are interconnected.

11

Acquisition of seed desiccation tolerance in plant seeds



Baud et al., 2002.

12

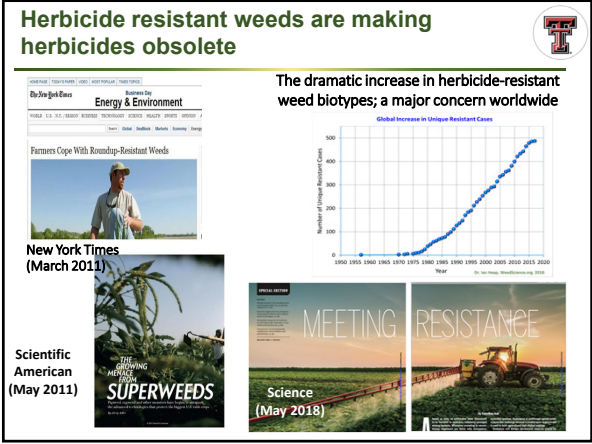




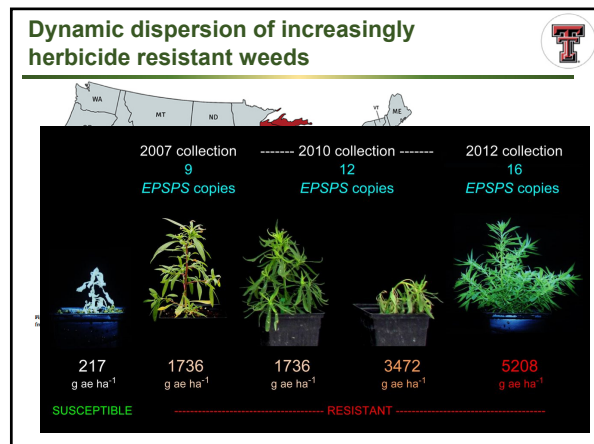
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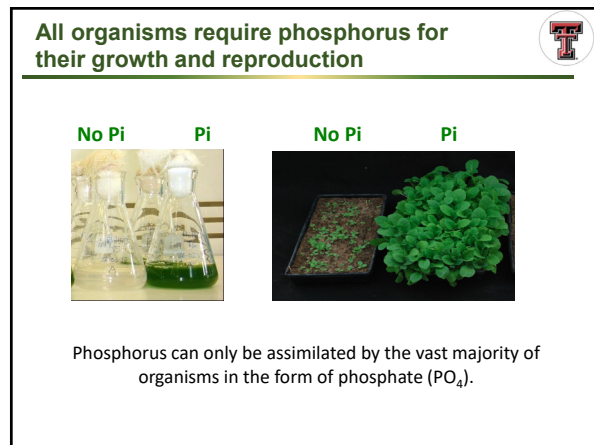
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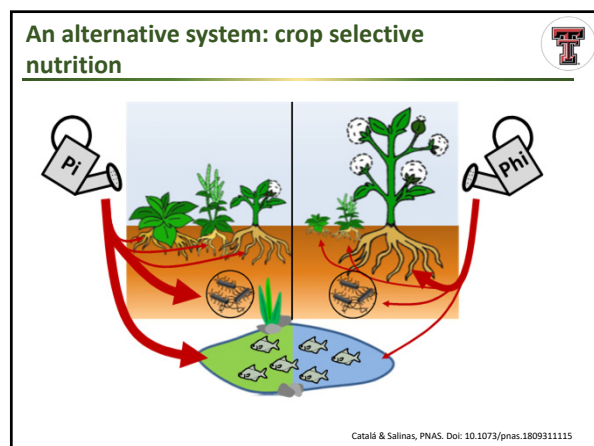
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21

Phosphites (Phi): a more efficient source of Phosphorus

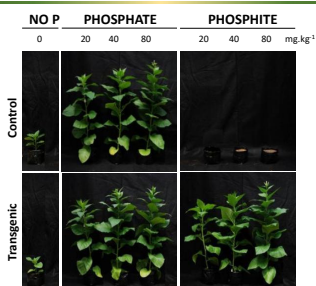


Phosphite was proposed after Second World War as a superior alternative source of phosphorus-fertilizers over phosphate because of its physicochemical properties:

- Phosphite solubility is less dependent on pH than phosphate.
- Phosphite is less reactive than phosphate with soil components.
- Phosphite is already widely used in agriculture as an effective treatment against Oomycetes (i.e. Phytophthora, etc.).
- No toxicity reported for humans and animals (FDA).

22

Plants capable of using phosphite as a nutrient source



Transgenics are able to use phosphite as sole phosphorus source with a phenotype and yield comparable to non transformed control plants grown in phosphate.

López-Arredondo and Herrera-Estrella, Nat Biotechnol 2012.

23

Phosphite is not a herbicide, however, it cannot be used as a source of Phosphorus by conventional plants and inhibits their growth because it competes with phosphate for the entry into the plant via a common set of transporters.

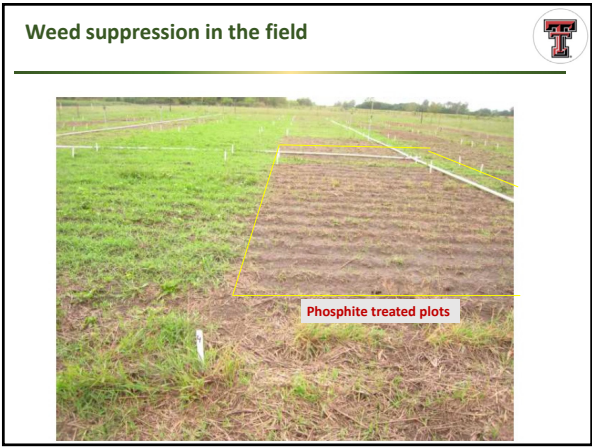
Can phosphite be used to selectively fertilize crops and reduce weed growth?

Can we replace phosphate fertilizer and herbicides with phosphite?

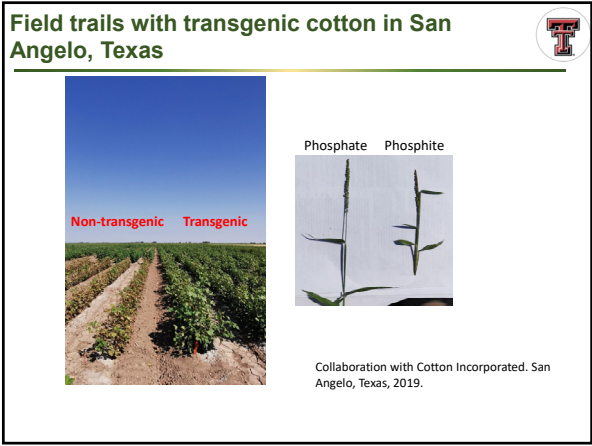
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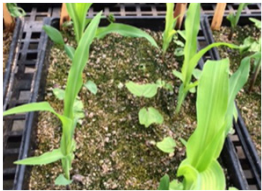


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Control of one of the most important weeds for maize production in Mexico



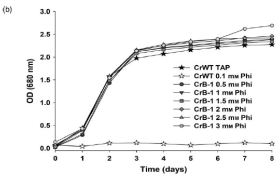
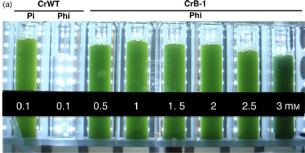
Pi

Phi

- Ipomea purpurea*

28

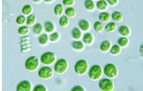
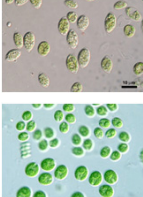
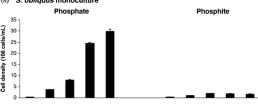
Chlamydomonas reinhardtii expressing *ptxD* are able to grow using Phi as a sole P source

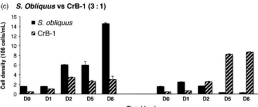


- Kinetics of growth in Pi and Phi are quite similar.

29


Engineered *C. reinhardtii* outcompetes the faster growing *Scenedesmus obliquus* in media containing Phi as a sole P source





30

Transgenic *C. reinhardtii* grown in media containing Phi can outcompete a natural mix of bacteria-microalgae-cyanobacteria




0.1 mM Phi
CrB1-MIX

1:1 1:10 1:100

Day 3

Day 6





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31

The Phi systems allows a robust control of biological contaminants in open air reactors

Chlamydomonas reinhardtii expressing *ptxD*





October 26 (4 days culture) October 29 (7 days culture)

Media and reactors were NOT sterilized.

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32

Development of industrial applications: hydrolytic enzymes for the degradation of lignocellulosic residues

CHLOROPLAST

MAIN HC ENZYMES

Endoglucanase from *T. longicollaris* (T-EG)

CelB from *C. neoformans* (C-CelB)

Beta Glucuronidase from *P. putida* (P-BG)

HC ACCESSORY ENZYME

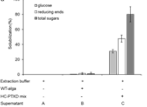
Xylanase from *T. longicollaris* (T-X)

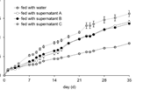
NUCLEUS

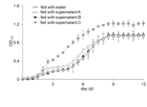
CYTOSOL

FIXED ENZYME

Phosphatase hydrolytic expression from *P. putida* MMB (P-MMB)







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33

Dr. Luis Herrera-Estrella - 2020 TAWC Water College

11

Technology to optimize light harvesting

The system is based on mutants that have altered light harvesting complexes to prevent an excess of harvested light that is eliminated as heat by the microalgae

Ecologically adapted to harvest an excess of light to prevent competition

Engineered to optimize growth and light use

Sistema de cultivo actual

Fertilizado con ortofosfato

Luz solar

- Pérdida de lotes completos de cultivo.
- Baja eficiencia de uso de luz.

Organismos contaminantes

Sistema de cultivo con tecnologías

Control de contaminaciones + alta eficiencia de uso de luz

Fertilizado con fosfito

Luz solar

- Establecimiento óptimo.
- Alta eficiencia de uso de luz.

Microalgas de interés

Developed by Dr. Roberto Bassi, Verona University, exclusive rights StelaGenomics en 2017.

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Technology to optimize light harvesting

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Concentración celular respecto al tiempo de cultivo

Chlorella sorokiniana

TAM-2 WT

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35

Applications and benefits

Applications

- Biomass production
- Production of enzymes
- Production of vaccines
- Production of pigments

Benefits

- Facilitates the use of open air raceway systems
- Reduces production costs
- Eliminates de use of antibiotics and herbicides
- Increases biomass production

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36





Funding





**GOVERNOR'S
UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH
INITIATIVE**



Kan Wang-Iowa State U
Keerthi Rathore- Texas A&M
Kazimierz Wrobel and Kasha
Wrobel- U Guanajuato
Stefan de Folter and Ricardo Eric
Lyons-U. Arizona
Victor Albert-SUNY-Buffalo

37

General Notes



The TAWC project was made possible through a grant from the

Texas Water
Development Board

General Notes



The TAWC project was made possible through a grant from the

Texas Water
Development Board

General Notes



The TAWC project was made possible through a grant from the

Texas Water
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Hurst Farm Supply*
Lindsay Zimmatic*
Miller Chemical*
Ogallala CAP Project*
Plains Cotton Growers
Plains Land Bank
Prairie View A&M*
South Plains Valley Irrigation*
Texas Ag Irrigation Association*
T-L Irrigation*

The TAWC project was made possible through a grant from the

Bronze Sponsors

City Bank
Texas Sorghum Producers

Special Thanks to:

HPWD (Provided Doughnuts and Coffee)
AgTexas (provided water)
Indigo Ag, Inc. (Provided lunch)
CASNR (Live Radio Coverage Sponsor)
Texas Water Development Board (Project Sponsor)

***Please see Display Booth in Exhibit Hall.**

The TAWC project was made possible through a grant from the

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