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Selected Posters

Annual Meetings

U.S. Cotton Producers—Past, Present, and Future, Evidence from the 1997 and 2002 Census of Agriculture. *A. Blake Brown, North Carolina State University; George Frisvold, University of Arizona; Kenneth Paxton, Louisiana State University; Jeanne Reeves, Cotton Incorporated.*

Agricultural Census data determined the U.S. cotton producer's status. All farms with cotton income and acreage were represented. Variables included income, labor, gross returns, land tenure, yield, size, and crops grown. Outreach and technology transfer implied that the cotton industry includes many producers whose primary commodity is not cotton.

Making Do without Methyl Bromide: The Financial Efficiency and Viability of Georgia's Bell Pepper Enterprises under Alternative Fumigation—Herbicide Systems. *Mark M. Byrd, University of Georgia; Cesar L. Escalante, University of Georgia; Esendugue G. Fonsah, University of Georgia; Michael E. Wetzstein, University of Georgia; Stanley Culpepper, University of Georgia; David Langston, University of Georgia.*

This study analyzes alternative fumigation—herbicide systems for Georgia's bell pepper production with production efficiency matching the methyl bromide system, which will be soon completely phased out. Enterprise cost and return analyses indicate the comparable financial feasibility of certain alternative fumigant systems vis-à-vis the conventional production plan involving methyl bromide.

A Partial Budget Analysis of Wildlife Habitat Buffers in the Mississippi Black Belt. *Philip J. Barbour, Department of Wildlife and*

Fisheries, Mississippi State University; Loren W. (Wes) Burger, Jr., Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University; Steven W. Martin, Delta Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University.

Partial budgets were used to examine fields with and without conservation practice CP33 habitat buffers for upland birds. Results for corn revealed enrollment of a 7.3-m CP33 buffer would increase net profits. Partial budgets for soybeans showed that enrolling in CP33 would not be economically advantageous for any APC type.

Usage Characteristics for Rural Business Web Sites. *Susan Watson, Louisiana Tech University; Gary Kennedy, Louisiana Tech University; John Nwoha, University of Arkansas; Kenneth Rea, Louisiana Tech University.*

This study examines the usage characteristics of Web sites based in rural communities in the Lower Mississippi Delta region. The consumers' usage patterns are analyzed in an attempt to help the rural businesses refine their Web site and marketing efforts to enhance the e-commerce aspect of their businesses.

Value of Factors that Drive Purchase of Flat Iron Steak. *Erin Tucker, Louisiana Tech University; Susan Watson, Louisiana Tech University; Darren Hudson, Mississippi State University.*

Willingness to pay for attributes of Flat Iron Steak, with respect to packaging, convenience, branding, and marbling were determined. Using a choice-based approach, results suggest that branding and packaging demand premiums. More interestingly, certain conve-

nience factors such as cut-up and preseasoned may not demand a premium.

Certainty Equivalent Farm Returns from Bt and Non-Bt Cotton. *Swagata "Ban" Banerjee, Mississippi State University; Steven W. Martin, Mississippi State University.*

Annual mean returns and certainty equivalent returns for 1983–2003 are calculated for specified non-Bt cotton (refuge) percentages for a cotton farm of average size in the Mississippi Delta. Certainty equivalents indicate that sprays influence mean profits more than the percentage of refuge in a cotton producer's portfolio, supporting an earlier study.

Water Management Strategies for Reducing Irrigation Demands in the Texas Panhandle. *Dustin Gaskins, Texas A&M University; Steve Amosson, Texas A&M University; DeDe Jones, Texas A&M University; Lal Almas, West Texas A&M University; Fran Bretz, Texas A&M University; Bridget Guerrero, Texas A&M University; Thomas Marek, Texas A&M University; Leon New, Texas A&M University.*

Seven water management strategies are identified to reduce irrigation demand in the Texas Panhandle. Each strategy is evaluated in terms of water savings, implementation cost, and regional economic impact over a 60-year period. Results suggest prioritization of conservation strategies may vary depending on how decision makers value the evaluation criteria.

Are Precision-Farming Technologies for Farms with Limited Resources?—An Economic Decision Aid for Potential Precision Farming Technology Adopters. *Vijay Subramaniam, University of Kentucky; David Debertin, University of Kentucky; Carl Dillon, University of Kentucky.*

A spreadsheet model was developed to analyze the economic feasibility of ten different precision farming technologies. The benefits, costs, and required components for each tech-

nology are identified. Two hypothetical corn farm sizes of 500 and 1,650 acres with same characteristics were selected to determine the feasibility of adopting each technology.

Panhandle Model Farms—Case Studies of Texas High Plains Agriculture. *DeDe Jones, Texas A&M University; Dustin Gaskins, Texas A&M University.*

Texas agricultural producers have many financial and legislative concerns that need to be communicated to local officials and commodity associations. Regional focus groups were conducted to develop model farms that describe representative operations of the northern Texas Panhandle. Farm characteristics and projected 10-year financial viability is presented.

Evaluating the Impact of Increased Fuel and Fertilizer Prices on 2006 Rice Base Planting Decisions. *Michael Salassi, Louisiana State University; Brian Roule, Louisiana State University.*

Rising input prices are anticipated to have a substantial impact on the projected cash flow of rice farms for the 2006 crop season. The projected rice farm cash flow model was developed as a decision tool to assist producers in evaluating the impact of alternative rental arrangements and planting decisions.

Quizbowl Benefits: Attitudes and Performance of Southern Region School Students at the SS-AAEA Quizbowl Competition. *Jennie Popp, University of Arkansas; German Rodriguez, University of Arkansas; Bruce Dixon, University of Arkansas.*

Each year students from southern region schools participate in the SS-AAEA Quizbowl Competition. Surveys of the 2001–2005 competition participants were undertaken to ascertain how beneficial competition preparation and participation are to class performance. Additionally responses indicate factors that enhance chances of success in the competition.

Futures Hedging Strategies for Arkansas Cotton and Soybean Enterprises. *Germán Rodríguez, University of Arkansas; Andrew McKenzie, University of Arkansas; Lucas Parsch, University of Arkansas.*

Several marketing strategies of different hedged (cash and futures) positions for cotton and soybean enterprises are evaluated using stochastic dominance with respect to a function. Hedging is ineffective for soybean enterprises, whereas hedging at a moderately small level (short hedges) is preferred to a cash marketing strategy for cotton enterprises.

Growing Goat Meat Industry in Selected Southern States: Profile, Issues, and Opportunities. *Safdar Muhammad, Tennessee State University; Crystal A. Doss, Tennessee State University.*

The demand for goat meat has increased significantly over the last few decades. An increase in domestic production, imports, and ethnic population indicates that prospects for the goat meat industry in the United States are promising. Goat farming has the potential as an alternative livestock enterprise to supplement the income of small farms.

Value-Added Marketing of Edible and Medicinal Mushroom. *Kelli Ennis, North Carolina A&T State University; Kenrett Y. Jefferson-Moore, North Carolina A&T State University.*

North Carolina has experienced economic devastation in the tobacco industry. Small-scale farms will only survive if there are alternative enterprises suitable for adoption. This poster presentation will focus on the value-added marketing of shiitake mushroom encouraging mushroom growers to promote various outlets for fresh and dehydrated shiitake.

Examining the Economic Trade-Offs between the Poultry and Water Recreation Industries: A Case Study in Environmental Management. *Nathan Kemper, University of Arkansas; Jennie Popp, University of Arkansas;*

Wayne Miller, University of Arkansas; Dennis Robinson, University of Missouri; H.L. Goodwin, Jr., University of Arkansas; Gerald Doekson, Oklahoma State University.

The poultry and water recreation industries are vital to the Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri economies. Poultry litter has been linked to water quality degradation that can negatively impact water recreation activities. Development of water quality policy requires science-based information. This study offers the regional economic importance of both industries.

A Trend toward Economic Accountability for Extension. *Dean McCorkle, Texas A&M University; Dan Hanselka, Texas A&M University; Sarah McMahon, Texas A&M University; Steven Klose, Texas A&M University; David Anderson, Texas A&M University; Mark Waller, Texas A&M University; Scott Cummings, Texas A&M University; Garen Evans, Mississippi State University.*

Increasing demands on state and federal governments in allocating scarce public funds has led to an increasing need for Cooperative Extension to demonstrate the economic benefits of Extension programs. Economic impact studies of Extension programs in Texas serve as the primary vehicle used to demonstrate economic accountability.

Using GIS Techniques to Identify Marginal Cropland: A Cotton Example. *Kenneth W. Paxton, Louisiana State University; Huizhen Niu, Louisiana State University.*

Spatial data identifying specific fields on which cotton production occurred during the period 1998–2004 was used to identify marginal land. Land on which contraction or expansion occurred was identified as transitional or marginal land. Areas were evaluated for the number of consecutive years in production and potential for irrigation.

Marketing Opportunities for Two Ark Clam Species: Blood Ark (*Anadara ovalis*)

and Ponderous Ark (*Noetia ponderosa*) Clams. *Robert L. Degner, University of Florida; Kimberly L. Morgan, University of Florida.*

In 2003, U.S. certified shellfish dealers were surveyed to determine potential markets for aquacultured Blood Ark and Ponderous Ark clams. Results revealed that over 90% were unfamiliar with these species. Fifty-two firms provided evaluations of clam samples and indicated the clams could be marketed to Hispanic and Asian consumers.

Food Advertising during Children's Television Programming. *Anne Jones, University of Florida; Dr. Lisa House, University of Florida.*

Children's television programming was recorded and analyzed for food commercial content. The nutritional information of advertised foods was gathered and used to calculate and compare a "composite food" for each TV network, rating code, and use of cross promotion. Composite foods are also evaluated for nutritional contribution to children's diets.

Estimation of Economic Impacts of Russian *Varroa*-Resistant Honey Bees. *John Westra, Louisiana State University; Seon-Ae Kim, Louisiana State University.*

Varroa mites have contributed to a significant decline in the U.S. beekeeping industry. Commercial release of Russian queen honey bees, developed by USDA-ARS to mitigate mite damage, has benefited beekeepers, primarily in the South, by \$250,000 to \$2.5 million annually, depending on the level of miticides saved and honey production.

An Examination of Environmental Liability Costs to Landowners. *Gregory Ibendahl, Mississippi State University.*

Outdoor recreation is becoming increasingly popular in the United States. Federal and state land available for these uses is somewhat limited, which means there are opportunities for

private landowners to utilize their land for fee-based activities. One of the problems facing farmers is the potential for liability damages from property or human damage. This poster examines some of those concerns.

An Economic Comparison of the Efficacy of Defoliation Recommendations. *Joey Mehlhorn, University of Tennessee at Martin; Timothy Burcham, University of Tennessee at Martin; Richard Joost, University of Tennessee at Martin; Barbara Darroch, University of Tennessee at Martin; Melissa Lowery, Southeastern Bollweevil Eradication Program.*

Five defoliation treatments on a typical west Tennessee farm were compared with respect to percentage open boll, percentage defoliation, and regrowth potential. Our study found that a combination of Def 6, Finish 6 Pro, and Prep was statistically better than other treatments with respect to percent open bolls.

Economic Contribution of Varying Agro-nomic Practices in South Carolina Soybean and Corn Production. *Todd D. Davis, Clemson University; Charles E. Curtis, Jr., Clemson University; Jason Norsworthy, Clemson University.*

Corn and soybean yield data for various tillage and herbicide practices from 2001 through 2004 were used in determining the economic value of row spacing, tillage system, and glyphosate-resistant technology. Conservation tillage and glyphosate-resistant technology had positive effects for corn and soybeans while row spacing had differing effects.

Quality and Cost Adjusted Economic Impacts of Alternate Tillage and Production Practices in South Carolina Cotton. *Charles Curtis, Jr., Clemson University; Todd Davis, Clemson University; Phillip Bauer, USDA-ARS; Jim Frederick, Clemson University.*

This study identifies the partial net value contributions of alternate soil types, tillage, and rotational and pesticide treatments on cot-

ton. Output and practice data were utilized from USDA-ARS cropping studies conducted from 1997 through 2002 in Florence, South Carolina. Data were then converted to gross revenues net of quality adjustments and additions to cost from a baseline reflecting contin-

uous cotton produced on Bonneau soil with conventional (disk) tillage and no Temik application. A hedonic-type regression was conducted to elicit the significance of the explanatory practice variables and their partial net contribution.

