

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 21, 2010

Scott Research & Extension Education Center
212 Macon Ridge Rd.
Winnsboro, LA 71295

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Logan at 10:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Eva Wales.

Members present: Todd Parker representing Commissioner Strain, Dr. Roger Leonard, Danny Logan, Jack Dailey, Boyd Holley, Tim White and Travis Walker; George Lacour joined the meeting at 10:10 A.M.

Members absent: none

Others present: LDAF employees Marc Bordelon, Craig Roussel, Kurt Moreau, Chad Price, Dan Tullos, John Dumas, Nathan Oliver, Nolan Adcock, Gene Edmondson, Vernon Thomas, Becky Wilkerson and Eva Wales; Jess Barr, Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association; John Barnett, LSU Ag Center; cotton producers Jewell Armstrong, Sr. and Jeffery Armstrong.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey and passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF FAILED ACRES

Jewell Armstrong, Sr., Franklin Parish - Planted 256.9 acres; failed 236.9 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; few scattered plants remaining in one field; did not pay assessment on failed cotton. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Holley made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 236.9 acres. Producer owes assessment on 118.45 acres; late fee will be waived if paid within 30 days. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey; the motion passed unanimously.

Jewell Armstrong, Jr., Franklin Parish - Planted 408.7 acres; failed 359.9 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; few scattered plants remaining in one field; did not pay assessment on failed cotton. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Holley made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 359.9 acres. Producer owes assessments on 179.95 acres; late fee will be waived if paid within 30 days. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey; the motion passed unanimously.

Jeffery Armstrong, Franklin Parish - Planted 393.3 acres; failed 67 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; no cotton plants remaining; did not pay assessment on failed cotton. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Holley made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 67 acres. Producer owes assessments on 33.5 acres; late fee will be waived if paid within 30 days. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey; the motion passed unanimously.

Danny Baker, Concordia Parish - Planted 1427.8 acres; failed 244.62 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; no cotton plants remaining; paid assessment on failed cotton.

Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Holley made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 244.62 acres. Refund to producer the assessment on 122.31 acres. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey; the motion passed unanimously.

Todd Casiday, Franklin Parish - Planted 194.6 acres; failed 194.6 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; no cotton plants remaining; did not pay assessment on failed cotton.

Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Holley made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 194.6 acres. Producer owes assessment on 97.3 acres; late fee will be waived if paid within 30 days. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey; the motion passed unanimously.

David Cook, Madison, Richland and Franklin parishes - Planted 424.84 acres; failed 75.6 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; no cotton plants remaining; paid nothing.

Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Lacour made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 75.6 acres. Producer owes assessment on 387.04 acres; late fee will be waived on failed cotton if paid within 30 days. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holley; the motion passed unanimously.

Marcus Evans, Catahoula Parish - Planted 346.95 acres; failed 268.66 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; scattered plants remaining in one field; paid assessment on failed cotton. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Lacour made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 268.66 acres. Refund to producer the assessment on 134.33 acres. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey; the motion passed unanimously.

RDG Farms LLC (Robbie Gwin), Franklin Parish - Planted 230.1 acres; failed 230.1 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; no cotton plants remaining; paid assessment on failed cotton. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Daily made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 230.1 acres. Refund to producer the assessment on 115.05 acres. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lacour; the motion passed unanimously.

KT Farms Partnership II (Charlene Guin), Tensas Parish - Planted 1336.96 acres; failed 588.33 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; scattered plants remaining; paid assessment on failed cotton. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Lacour made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 588.33 acres. Refund to producer the assessment on 294.17 acres. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey; the motion passed unanimously.

Lavada's Partnership (Michelle Ogden), Franklin and Tensas Parishes - Planted 2095.36 acres; failed 456 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; scattered plants remaining; paid assessment on failed cotton. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Holley made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 456 acres. Refund to producer the assessment on 228 acres. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey; the motion passed unanimously.

Ed Lester, Red River Parish - Planted 334.63 acres; failed 210.84 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications; no cotton plants remaining; did not pay assessment on failed cotton. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Holley made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 210.84 acres. Producer owes assessment on 105.42 acres; late fee will be waived if paid within 30 days. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lacour; the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bordelon asked the Commission to review two stalk destruction cases from 2002 as follows:

Dexter Eaton - \$500 payable fine - deferred because Mr. Eaton was in the military. Mr. Bordelon recommended that the fine be suspended because Mr. Eaton is still on active duty and is currently deployed overseas. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Lacour made a motion to suspend the fine. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parker; the motion passed unanimously.

Sam Anderson - \$892 payable fine – was not collected because Mr. Anderson could not be located. Mr. Bordelon stated that Mr. Anderson is deceased and recommended that the fine be suspended. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Parker made a motion to suspend the fine. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holley; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bordelon reported that, following the Commission's recommendation, the last two newsletters were sent out in card format; he called attention to these in the handout. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Commission to continue with this format using the larger size card.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bordelon gave a brief update on 2010 assessments, stating that our reporting and payment form, along with an instruction letter, were mailed to producers on June 1; these will be mailed later next year. Extra forms were placed in the parish FSA offices; this will also be done next year. He asked Commission members for input on any changes that need to be made to the form. He stated that assessment collection went well this year. Parish FSA offices assisted when possible, which helped make the transition easier. We have collected \$1,450,956.71 to date and have 16 liens in place totaling \$39,654.

Mr. Bordelon stated that we received a request for waiver of late fee from a new producer in Catahoula Parish. This producer's FSA loan was submitted timely and approved; however, FSA ran out of funds June 24 and the producer did not get his money until August 16. Mr. Bordelon added that there were two other producers in the same situation. Discussion followed. Chairman Logan called for public comments; there were none.

Motion: Mr. Dailey made a motion to assess the late fee on these producers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lacour; the motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Bordelon gave a brief update on program activities this year, reporting that pinhead applications were made on 24,000 acres. One weevil was caught on May 21; the field where this weevil was caught has been picked and shredded. Mr. Bordelon reported that we have 13 totes of Malathion on hand, which we can either keep or return for credit. It was the consensus of the Commission to return the Malathion and, if possible, hold the credit until next year in the event we do need to spray. Managers from each office gave brief updates on cotton harvest and stalk destruction for their respective units.

REPORT FOR THE COMMISSIONER

Mr. Parker commended program personnel for their dedication and for the success of the program this year. Commission members expressed appreciation to Commissioner Strain for his support of the program and his efforts in securing funding.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT

Dr. Leonard stated that there was some concern that trapping may end early this year. Mr. Bordelon stated that traps on fields being run weekly will remain until at least a killing frost. We will begin picking up traps the end of October on fields that are being run every three weeks. Discussion followed regarding next year's activities, including budget and protocol. Dr. Leonard stated that the budget will need to be carefully reviewed since the program will be running on assessments only. He reported that the TAC will meet and review post-eradication protocols. He recommended that this information be made available to the farming public so they will be aware of post-eradication activities.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding excess equipment. Mr. Bordelon stated that we are sending some equipment to surplus; however we will keep enough ground equipment to operate and handle any weevil outbreaks.

There was a discussion regarding future budgets and how the program will operate on assessments only. Mr. Bordelon stated that the two main areas of reduction in next year's budget will be in employees and spraying. Discussion followed regarding cotton acreage next year. Mr. Bordelon stated that even with the reduction in employees, we will have adequate personnel to handle an increase in cotton acres next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 P.M.