

Adopting new cotton tech see Page 8

Angus have it all see Page 12

Dairy diet serves up hay see Page 14

Cotton's switch

Key Points

- Growers still diffident about leaving DP555 behind.
- Growers like new technology but seek best variety using it.
- 2009 will be a year for careful investigation of varieties.

the new varieties that contain Bollgard II, WideStrike and Roundup Flex.”

Somewhat the same feeling is true for Vip cotton (based on a vegetative insecticidal protein known as the Vip3A protein), although so far that technology is still only on the very

edges of their radar screens.

Picking and choosing

In the meantime, which of the new varieties that southern North Carolina and South Carolina growers planted this year seem to be the most likely candidates to eventually

emerge as the winner to replace DP 555 BR?

“Wow, that is a long answer and a tough answer,” Walker says. He rattles off a list of top varieties, then adds that while one clear winner may emerge, it is unknown right now which one it will be.

“It might even be a variety that hasn't been released yet,” he quips.

■ **Learn more about new technology cotton growers in the Carolina-Virginia region are adopting in our Buckling the Belt feature on Page 8.**

By **RICHARD DAVIS**

AS South Carolina and southern North Carolina cotton growers enter the middle of the growing season, it is apparent many still have some reticence about changing over to new varieties — even though these have superior technology in Bollgard II, WideStrike and Roundup Ready Flex.

“Growers like the technologies,” notes Clemson Extension agent Tommy Walker. “They like the capability of applying Roundup Flex beyond four true leaves. And both Bollgard II and WideStrike offer better technology than the original Bollgard. Also, Bollgard II and WideStrike have significant activity on fall armyworm, which is routinely a pest down in the southeastern corner of South Carolina.”

So the new technologies work, Walker notes. Growers' uncertainties are not based around that fact.

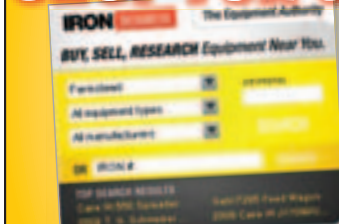
“What growers here don't quite have a comfort level with yet are the new varieties that those technologies are in,” Walker says. “We planted nearly half our acreage in South Carolina in Deltapine 555 BR, and our growers are comfortable with that variety. They'll have to establish that same comfort level with some of



AgriSafe-NC takes health screenings out to the farm

KAREN Sirucek, an AgriSafe-NC community health worker, shows Johnston County farmer C.B. Marcom the correct way to take blood sugar levels. Having worked with AgriSafe a number of times, Marcom says he has become more health- and safety-conscious from the experience. AgriSafe-NC is a program of the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute. With funding from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the program takes health screenings and farm-safety education out to the farm with no service fee to the farmer. The group can assist farmers with safety equipment recommendations. AgriSafe also has a clinic space at the Carolina Oaks Family Health Center in Four Oaks, N.C., for use when in-house service is preferred. See Page 4 for more information.

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