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The Signs Are Up

Every year prior to the start of deer season, one task is to go around and check the property lines (the “boundary”). “Posted” signs are put up if they’ve come down since the previous year. We especially make sure signs are up in areas close to where we know we have neighboring hunters—you know, just to remind them.

Over the 10 years I’ve hunted this property, we’ve had a problem with trespassing only 3-4 times. Still, it doesn’t hurt to give my hunting neighbors a friendly reminder.

Cotton producers have now been reminded. The signs have been put up. Take notice. 2010

crop December futures closed today at 75.28 cents per lb—down 1.12 cents for the day and down 3.33 cents for the week. Prices have now declined almost 4 cents since the most recent peak back on May 27th. There is not yet reason for alarm, so don’t panic. But this week’s action should grab our attention.



Cotton acreage and production, both US and World, will be up this season. There can be little doubt about that although weather will impact the amount of production. Despite the expected increase in supply, prices have remained very good for at least 2 reasons—(1) improvements in World demand which would keep supply/demand relatively tight despite increased production and (2) “bullish” speculative interest.

US and global economics are very fragile right now. The jobs report and subsequent stock market decline today is a prime example. The oil spill situation and it’s possible impact on the US economy is also worth keeping an eye. US cotton exports have been good. Reports have been encouraging. The decline in cotton and other commodity prices this week, however, is a sign of how fragile things are.

Demand and optimism are the primary reasons why cotton has been knocking on 80 cents’ door. There should be support at the 74-cent area. This next week will be a test of whether cotton can stay in the 74 to 78 cent range that it’s been in for about 3 ½ months. The June USDA supply/demand numbers will be out on Thursday.

Last weeks progress report shows planting continuing at good pace. Tennessee remains behind schedule but has made considerable progress catching up. Most other states are near or ahead of normal. Beltwide, the crop was 63% good to excellent—Georgia was 67% good to excellent and Texas was 61%. Around the Mid-South, Mississippi was 76% good to excellent and Missouri and Tennessee were 73%



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