



BIG SPRING ZONE OFC.

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Commissioner approves reduced assessment for Permian Basin

This year, as a result of the Permian Basin (PB) zone debt being paid off early, the zone's grower steering committee was able to recommend a much reduced \$2.00 per acre producer assessment for the 2011 growing season.

The steering committee met earlier this year to review the zone's operating budget and the financial status of the zone. Helped considerably by the additional reallocated state and federal dollars received last year, they recommended the commissioner of agriculture lower the assessment from \$12.00 per irrigated acre and \$6.00 per dryland acre, the maximum approved by grower referendum, to \$2.00 per planted acre.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation's board of directors agreed with the steering committee recommendations, and forwarded them to the commissioner of agriculture for approval.

Last year, because of recommendations by the High Plains boll weevil eradication grower steering committees, the Foundation board of directors voted to reallocate \$8 million in state and fed-



Permian Basin has not caught a weevil since 2007. In 1999, when the program started, over 1 million weevils were captured.

eral funds to the PB zone. The vote was instrumental in helping the Permian Basin zone pay off its operating loan early. Without the infusion of reallocated funds, Permian producers may have had to pay the zone's maximum assessment for several more years.

Producers with assessment questions can contact the Foundation at 800-687-1212.



PB zone no longer eligible for failed acre credits

The overall reduction of weevils in the Permian Basin (PB) zone, together with zone's debt pay off, has allowed the PB zone to enter into a new phase of eradication in 2011. This maintenance operation phase allows for continued monitoring of the weevil with

diminished program expense, resulting in a much reduced assessment. In order to provide for the reduced assessment, however, the zone is no longer eligible for credits on failed acres. Allowing credit for failed acres would affect the zone's budget and cash-flow,

and prevent the assessment reduction all together.

At this phase of the program when state and federal dollars are no longer readily available, it is critical that the program assessment is adequate to cover operation expenses. The commissioner of agriculture considers this, and sets assessment rates for debt-free zones at levels no lower than that which the zone can sustain itself. Failed acre credits make budgeting difficult and higher assessments necessary. This is particularly important in areas where a majority of the acres are susceptible to failure.

2011 assessment and discount dates

The commissioner of agriculture has set the annual assessment for the PB zone at \$2.00 per acre. State-ments will be mailed Sept 1, and payments are due Oct 4.

Key 2011 Dates	
Assessments mailed.....	Sept 1
Pay by for 2% discount.....	Sept 19
Due date.....	Oct 4

a two percent assessment discount. Assessments are based on crop share as reported to FSA.

Growers who pay by Sept 19 are eligible for



Permian Basin
Boll Weevil Eradication Program
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED