

Boll Weevil Bulletin



An Eradication Information Resource

October 2010

Permian Basin zone declared functionally eradicated

The commissioner of agriculture at the request of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation's board of directors has declared the Permian Basin (PB) boll weevil eradication zone "functionally eradicated."

Functionally eradicated, by definition, means that less than 0.001 weevils per trap/per week have been found during the most recently completed cotton growing season and no evidence of reproduction in the zone. In simple

terms this declaration of functional eradication means boll weevils are not reproducing or causing economic damage in the zone.

"This milestone for the boll weevil eradication effort in Texas would not be possible without the investment from the Texas Legislature, the federal government and our state's cotton producers," said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples. "These groups, through their cooperative efforts, have ensured that

Texas remains the number one cotton producing state in the United States."

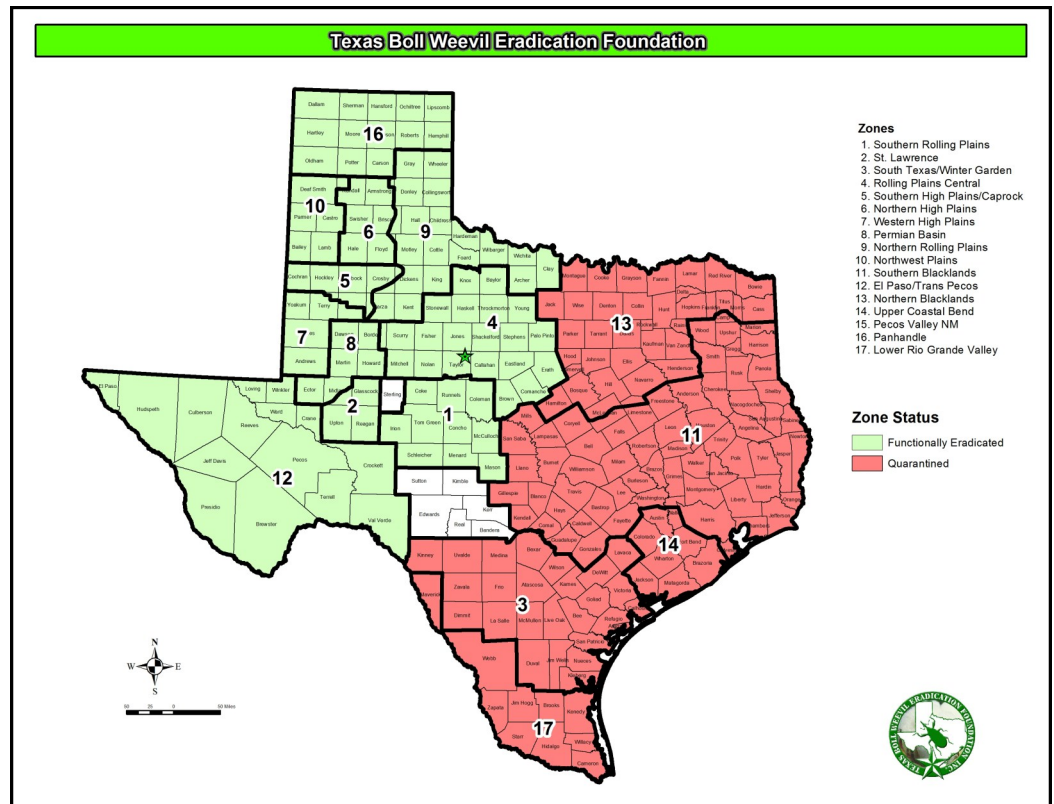
The PB is one of nine Texas zones that were declared functionally eradicated this year. In all, the nine zones planted more than 3.8 million acres of cotton in 2010. This status change for the nine zones brings the total number of functionally eradicated zones to 11 of 16, and establishes 89 percent of Texas' cotton acreage as weevil-free.

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Permian Basin debt paid off early, lower assessments for 2011

The Foundation is pleased to announce the Permian Basin (PB) boll weevil eradication zone's program debt is paid off, and paid off ahead of schedule. This is a result of some extraordinary circumstances and efforts put together by PB board representative Eddy Herm and former PB steering committee chairman Brad Vaughn, prior to Vaughn's tragic death earlier this year.

The debt was created in the early years of the program when multiple weevil treatments were required and expenses exceeded assessment revenue. When PB producers developed the original eradication plan and voted to start

the program, they knew long term financing would be required with the debt not scheduled to be paid off until 2014.

Although the program was operating as planned, the Foundation recognized some inequities due to the fact that the zone had been reinfested with weevils migrating from the south. This migration resulted in additional program expense PB producers had to incur to keep weevils from spreading into other areas of the High

Plains.

Vaughn and Herm began working on ideas to help deal with these concerns and worked with Foundation board members from the other High Plains zones to come up with a plan to reallocate a small percent-

age of state and federal funds initially allocated to those zones by the Foundation's board.

The result of this work provided some \$8 million to the PB zone to help pay off their debt. In addition, representatives from each of these zones worked with the Foundation to set up a fund to provide assistance with future weevil outbreaks in all

High Plains zones.

"The Permian Basin cotton industry will be forever indebted to Brad Vaughn," said Herm. "His leadership and dedication helped make this program so successful."

With the debt retired early, the zone steering committee will be able to recommend a lower assessment to the Foundation board and the Commissioner of Agriculture. The committee will meet after the end of the year, once the 2011 operating budget is approved by the commissioner.

"Our producers' commitment to the program and the hard work of Foundation personnel have paid off with increased yields and reduced production costs," said Herm. "Now with our debt paid off early we can look forward to a lower assessment in 2011."

"The Permian Basin cotton industry will be forever indebted to Brad Vaughn," said Herm. "His leadership and dedication helped make this program so successful."



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