

COTTON BIOTECH TRAITS TRANSLATE INTO HIGHER YIELDS, FARMING MORE ACRES

West Tennessee cotton producer Brad Williams has a full plate, no doubt about it. Together with his father-in-law, Richard Kelley, and brother-in-law, Michael Roane, Williams is part of Kelley Enterprises, a sprawling family farm operation that stretches across five Tennessee counties and a 40-mile radius of the farm's headquarters in the town of Burlison.

Richard Kelley and wife Charlotte also operate a cotton gin in Burlison and will gin 43,000 bales of cotton in 2008. William's wife, Kerry, and sister-in-law, Leslie, also are involved with book keeping responsibilities at the farm and gin. The farming operation comprises of 18,000 acres of cotton, 200 acres of corn and 400 acres of full-season soybeans.

Between the gin and the farming operation, Williams pretty much stays in a dead run. Not surprisingly, he credits Bollgard II® with Roundup Ready® Flex cotton with helping him stay on top of everything due to the time savings, flexibility and other management benefits these technologies provide.

In 2008, he had roughly one half of his cotton acreage planted to cotton varieties with these stacked traits. This was the third year he has planted Bollgard II with Roundup Ready Flex cotton.

"I credit these technologies with helping us farm more acres with the same or even less labor," Williams says. "And, with all of our cotton acreage spread out over such a large area, we are able to reduce moving spray equipment around as much when it comes to insect and weed control by planting these technologies. Farming today has become a matter of economy of scale."

Williams also gives the Bollgard II with Roundup Ready Flex traits credit for some good yields. He grows several stacked-trait cotton varieties and says that many of these varieties consistently yield 850 to



Brad Williams (right) and his brother-in-law Michael Roane find that Bollgard II cotton with Roundup Ready Flex is a good fit for their West Tennessee farming operation.

900 pounds per acre dryland. He even had some dryland cotton that yielded 2 ½ bales per acre. Yields of irrigated stacked-trait cotton usually range in the 2 to 2 ½ bale-per-acre range.

"Overall, I would say that our stacked trait cotton yields as well as any of our other cotton," Williams observes. "The cotton varieties are getting better. Of course, Mother Nature is key, but where we got the timely rains – even on late-planted cotton – the yields have been really good."

The Tennessee cotton grower likes the Roundup Ready Flex trait, saying it buys him some time when making

herbicide applications. "With this many acres of cotton, we were often hard-pressed to apply our Roundup PowerMax® before the fourth-leaf stage," Williams explains. "Now, we can focus on making those over-the-top herbicide applications on our Roundup Ready cotton, then come back and treat our Roundup Ready Flex cotton at a more convenient time."

Williams also says that he is often able to mix other chemistries with Roundup PowerMAX, especially during the second over-the-top application later in the growing season. "This saves us some trips over the field and having to move our spray equipment around so much," he says.

When it comes to controlling cotton bollworms and fall armyworms, Williams says he really appreciates the Bollgard II technology. "Our worm pressure is heavy some years," he explains. "We usually have to spray our Bollgard® cotton at least once. Before the advent of Bollgard, we would often spray our conventional cotton 5-6 times. We haven't had to spray our Bollgard II for worms, which allows us to focus instead on controlling plant bugs and other early-season insects in our cotton. The Bollgard II technology has paid for us."

Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible.

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ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Gin by-products of cotton containing Monsanto's biotech traits, including cottonseed for feed uses, are fully approved for export to Canada, Japan, Mexico, and South Korea. Cottonseed containing Monsanto traits may not be exported for the purpose of planting without a license from Monsanto. Roundup Ready® crops contain genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup® agricultural herbicides. Growers should be sure that the glyphosate product used over Roundup Ready® Flex cotton has been tested for that use so as to reduce the risk of leaf damage. See the Roundup Ready® Flex Technical Use Guide for details. Roundup® agricultural herbicides will kill crops that are not tolerant to glyphosate.

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