



COTTON LINK

MEDIA GUIDE
TO THE
COTTON INDUSTRY

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TEXAS BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION FOUNDATION

DEFINITION

The Foundation is a nonprofit, grower-initiated and funded organization dedicated to eliminating the cotton boll weevil from Texas cotton fields. A 2/3 referendum of growers in each active zone is required to establish the program and assessment for that zone.

DETAILS

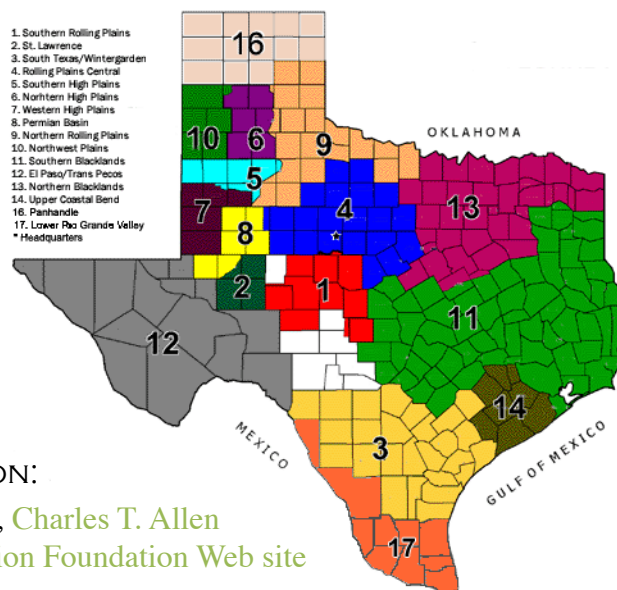
- * In 1993 the state legislature gave the TBWEF the authority to implement a state-wide eradication, which is overseen by the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- * Grower assessments primarily fund the program with supplemental state and federal funds. Assessment rates do not cover the program's operating cost from year to year, therefore, as the program progresses and costs decrease, assessments will be used to pay the accrued loan deficit.
- * Eradication is accomplished in 4-6 years by GPS mapping, monitoring through trapping and control by means of strategic malathion ULV application, stalk destruction and good production practices.
- * Eradication Equation:
Trapping data + TBWEF personnel & extension + TBWEF Technical Advisory Committee + TDA guidelines = TDA commissioner declaration of eradication

STORY IDEAS

- * Compare the insecticide use prior to the eradication program with current use.
- * Highlight the environmental stewardship of cotton producers, who fund the eradication program.
- * Update the general public on the progress of the program and how it Texas is nearing total eradication.

IMPACT

- * Without the boll weevil, cotton yields increase and production costs decrease.
- * Upon eradication, boll weevil insecticide use is practically eliminated, and other insecticide use is usually drastically reduced.
- * Studies show that communities lose millions of dollars through the loss of trade and jobs associated with cotton support industries due to reduced producer income.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact CottonLink expert, [Charles T. Allen](#)
[Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Web site](#)

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