I met with Dr. John Idowu (NM State Extension Specialist) this morning and he filled me in on the last Cotton Task Force meeting. Here is some information pertaining to cotton cultivars and breeding lines that were mentioned in the meeting,

1. The new line GA2004230 was tested last year in my program as part of the Regional Cotton Breeders Testing Network and I am testing it together with other ~30 breeding lines from the public cotton breeders this year, but have not had any results for 2009 yet. Based on the field test in Las Cruces, 2008, it had similar yield to (a little higher than) 1517-99, but its fiber is not as strong as Acala. So I am not so sure if it can be considered as Acala cotton. We also need to wait to see what we are going to get from this year's test in my program.

2. I tested one Acala glandless cotton in 2005. But the line was obtained from the national cotton germplasm bank, so it is a pretty old germplasm line (at least developed 20 years ago, I guess). I do not think it will yield as well as the current cultivars (not even close). But certainly we can try to test it again in my plots and do some seed increase for large on-farm tests on yield, fiber quality and insect populations. But I do not have any breeding effort on glandless cotton unless there is a sufficient funding and market need since my program has gotten our hands full right now.

3. More information on new 1517 Acala lines including BGII and RF will be distributed when I get the data from this year. However, John and I, together with Dr. Joe Ellington and Ed will look into the possibility of testing some of these new lines together with whatever CI may have an interest on a large plot (on-farm) basis next year. We will get more agronomic, ginning and spinning data to identify the best possible cotton
cultivars for New Mexico.

Thank you for your attention and support!

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