

Summary Statement  
Rules and Regulations For the Northeast Delta Zone  
Of Arkansas for Boll Weevil Eradication in 2005

The proposed Rule will serve as the guide for administering the Boll Weevil Eradication program in the NED zone of Arkansas.

The Northeast Delta eradication zone is geographically described as all of Mississippi county and the portion of Craighead county that lies east of the St. Francis river.

The rule will establish an assessment of \$14.00 per acre for each acre planted in cotton production. That assessment is to be shared by the producer of the cotton and the landlord according to the rental agreement and crop share percentages they have registered with the county Farm Service Agency (FSA). The reasoning being that these two entities, the producer and the landlord, will stand to reap the benefits gained from elimination of the boll weevil. The rule establishes the time frame for submitting assessment payment.

Payment schedules, prescribed procedures and applicable documentation are set forth and/or eliminated from the program, compared to other eradication zones, due to the timing experienced by the program in the Northeast Zone. Several penalties (late filing of intended acreage report, certified acreage reporting errors, late payment of balance of assessment and ginners penalty) that are in effect in other zones are not applicable in this zone.

Eradication of the cotton boll weevil is expected to benefit producers by resulting in increased yields under local production conditions. Also, as the program results in decreased weevil populations, it is projected that the amount of spraying will be reduced for other insect pests resulting in additional savings for producers. In some areas, yield increases have been estimated at 30 to 40 pounds per acre. If lint is marketed at 60 cents per pound, this increase would produce an additional \$18 to 24 per acre, or a net increase of \$4 to \$10 per acre. Higher market prices would generate additional income. Any additional savings from reduced sprayings that might result from the program would also increase the net income.