



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1:

Journal Name:	<u>American Journal of Experimental Agriculture</u>
Manuscript Number:	2013_AJEA_5222
Title of the Manuscript:	Effect of Skip-Row Cotton Planting Pattern and Plant Density on Cotton Growth, Yield, Fiber Quality, and Net Returns
Type of the Article	Research paper

General guideline for Peer Review process is available in this link:

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- This form has total 7 parts. Kindly note that you should use all the parts of this review form.



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PART 2: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	1) Authors presented only 2 years of experiments with very different climatic conditions and dramatic differences in the rainfall (41% below normal in 2003, and 40% above normal in 2004). Adding experimental results from further years would be a big advantage, considering it's already year 2013 and most likely more data are available. 2) The experimental plots had only 8 rows each. Is it enough? Please, justify the number of rows chosen. 3) " These studies were in different fields each year but in the same general area". – Please, justify the choice of different fields in each year. Even being in the same general area, the fields could have been very different to affect the experimental results. 4) Two different factors tested (row pattern and plant density) are confusing in terms of the experiment setup – how many plots total were used in the experiment? 5) In 2003, the plot area was cultivated three times while in 2004, glyphosate at 0.6 L/ha was applied once and plots were cultivated three times. – It looks like there was difference in the plot treatment between years 2003 and 2004. Would this affect the	These studies were only done for those two years. Since very little variation in results was seen in the 2 years it was felt that the issue had been addressed under different rainfall conditions. Plots were 8 rows wide by 972 m long so I do not see the need to increase the number of rows. I do not see the need to be in the same field each year as every is constant over the planting patterns and seeding rates. 2 X 2 factorial X 3 reps for a total of 12 plots. Mentioned in Abstract under Study Design. Yes, but these cultivations and herbicide treatments were constant across all variables. No, it should not affect the results.



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	<i>experimental results?</i> 6) “FiberMax 832B was planted in 2003, DPL 444 BG/1 RR was planted in 2004” – <i>different cotton cultivars were planted in 2003 and 2004. Even though they both are “medium-early and both have the same maturity”, they are NOT the same and could have had very different response in terms of yield, fiber quality and net returns.</i> 7) “2012 prices were used in the partial budgets with the following assumptions for each year [22]” – <i>I have hard time understanding how 2012 prices were used for the crop of 2003 and 2004. Better explanation for calculations/prices is needed.</i>	The 2 varieties are very similar and I would not expect drastic differences between the two. Again, the varieties were constant across all planting patterns and seeding rates so the change in varieties is a minor issue. The research is very applicable to today's concerns and the economic analysis should be up-to-date and based on current prices.
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Minor REVISION comments	1) “The days [to cut-out] reduction (5%) seen in 2003 is important in getting the crop out of the field” – <i>this reduction was seen only in 2003, not in 2004. Is it enough to justify the statement?</i> 2) “Seeding rate had no effect on any variable evaluated” – <i>refer to the evidence from this experiment</i> 3) <i>Most of the literature cited is quite old and needs to be updated.</i> 4) Lint yield was 1504 kg/ha for the solid pattern while with the skip-row pattern lint yield 20 was 1247 kg/ha. In 2004, lint yield with the solid pattern was 26% greater than the skip-row pattern. – <i>What about percentage comparisons for 2003?</i>	Yes, since there were differences in the 2 years. Table 2 added Can be seen by the reader in the tables. Since all variables were not significant for seeding rate it was not necessary to list each individually. This literature review was for the reader to become familiar with previous research efforts and does include recent work. Just a different method of expressing the results for each year.
Optional/General comments		