



**Technicians'
Corner**

November 30, 2009

Thanksgiving is over and we have a month left before we start a new year. Cotton harvest is now in full swing with all areas having seen a good freeze. Cotton ginning will finish earlier this year with less acres and less bales.

Water levels are generally increasing. Some of the shallow wells that are near recharge areas that had posted gains in water levels from the last rains are dropping again. The losses are due to equalization within the layer and draining into the deeper layers of our aquifers. Wells measured in non-irrigation areas had water levels ranging from 2 ft gains to 1 ft losses. Many of the deeper wells are now showing recharge. There is still a long way to go before the aquifers are half full.

There is some irrigating of wheat going on but it is somewhat limited due to low water levels and fewer acres of wheat planted. However, there were some water level increases this month. In the irrigated areas the deep wells were showing 5-10 ft gains in water levels and the shallow wells were showing 1-2 ft gains. In areas where irrigation pumps were running, some wells had water level declines of 5-20 ft.

Trees and brush should slow their water use now helping to increase recharge and increase the water levels in the aquifers. We will still need some good rains this winter to boost the recharge to where we see increased water levels in the aquifers.

Have a good Christmas

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