

## COTTON SEED COATING BURST SEMINAR

- 1.) Why cotton seeds?
  - A.) Fairly easy to procure. Many feed coops carry them. Used for cattle roughage feed.
  - B.) Cheap! Less than \$20 per 50 lb. sack.
  - C.) Clean and easy to work with.
  - D.) Easy to use different ratios of burst made with different burst comps. for 'tweaking in' burst strength.
  
- 2.) Where are they used?
  - A.) Ball shells 5" dia. and up.
  - B.) Not used in smaller dia. shells because not enough burst density, and more difficult to load.
  
- 3.) Materials needed:
  - A.) 2 larger size stainless 'salad' mixing bowls, or equivalent.
  - B.) Dust particle mask.
  - C.) Latex rubber gloves.
  - D.) Clean, dry cotton seeds.
  - E.) Mixed burst composition--hand mixed.
    - a.) BP--Black Powder (standard 75, 15, 10, + 4 % add. Dextrine)
    - b.) KP--Potassium Perchlorate ("K" --Potassium symbol, "P"--Perchlorate.)
    - c.) H-3--Potassium Chlorate ("H"--1 part hemp coal dust, "3"--3 parts Potassium Chlorate, + 4% add. Dextrine.)
  - F.) Clean water.
  
- 4.) Coating Procedure:
  - A.) Don your protective gear.
  - B.) Weigh out an equal amount of cotton seeds and desired burst comp. I always use a 1:1 ratio for ease of arithmetic. However this ratio can be adjusted somewhat for a denser or less denser burst charge. Today I am working with 500 gms. of each for a total of 1000 gms. of mixed burst.
  - C.) Put the weighed out cotton seeds into one of the stainless bowls and sift through them to clean out any debris--husks or tufts of cotton. Add enough water to cover the seeds. Pat and work the seeds into the water to make sure they soak up enough water, as the dry seeds tend to repel the water a bit at first. This should take just a few minutes. Do not soak any longer than necessary. We don't want them germinating inside your long stored shell and starting to grow!
  - D.) Grab a hand full of the wet seeds between your hands and squeeze them moderately hard to get the water out of them. Shake them while squeezing until no more water drips out of them and then transfer them to the other dry stainless bowl. Do this with the remaining seeds. This is the trick to coating the seeds. If you don't squeeze out enough water, you'll have a big gooey mess that can't be fixed and will be much harder to work with! It is better to err on squeezing out too much water. It can always be drizzled in later if the seeds are getting too dry during the coating process.