

**NEWS RELEASE  
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**Plains Cotton Growers Applauds USDA For  
Agreeing to Implement APH Yield Exclusion**

The board of directors of Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., today commended the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Risk Management Agency for announcing the implementation of a key provision in the 2014 Farm Bill that will help keep farmers in business.

The provision allows growers of select spring crops, including cotton, to adjust their Actual Production History (APH) yields to offset the impact of drought that devastated cotton and other crops throughout several states, including Texas, over the past three growing seasons. Producers can elect to exclude any yield from their APH database in years where the yield of their county or an adjacent county was 50% or lower than the 10-year average. Drought reduced APH yields, coupled with the recent drop in commodity prices that threatens to further decrease insurance coverage by an additional 20 percent or more, have had growers concerned about their ability to secure adequate levels of risk protection via crop insurance in 2015. USDA originally had said it would delay the changes until 2016.

“We commend U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and RMA Administrator Brandon Willis for answering the call from farmers across the nation to get this done,” PCG President Shawn Holladay said. “We also greatly appreciate the efforts of the Southwest Council of Agribusiness, Sens. Udall and Bennet of Colorado, our own Texas Sen. John Cornyn, and so many others for their willingness to go to the front lines for our producers on this issue.”

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*Since 1956, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., has been tackling the tough issues facing cotton growers and advocating on their behalf. PCG's service area covers 41 counties from the top of the Texas Panhandle southward to the Permian Basin. For more information, call (806) 792-4904 or visit [www.plainscotton.org](http://www.plainscotton.org).*