

Deadline Rapidly Approaching for Cotton Ginning Cost-Share Program

Friday, July 22, 2016 by Mary Jane Buerkle

Cotton producers should take note of the rapidly approaching August 5 deadline to participate in the Cotton Ginning Cost-Share Program. The program will provide an estimated \$300 million in much-needed assistance to growers across the Cotton Belt.

"Every cotton producer who had a share of the 2015 crop should have received a form in the mail from the Farm Service Agency indicating certified planted acres," PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said. "That form needs to be reviewed, signed and returned to FSA no later than August 5 in order to participate in this program. Producers who hold power of attorney may execute the ginning assistance form on the landowner's behalf.

"This deadline will not be extended, so it is absolutely imperative that producers take care of this before then," Verett said.

Signup for this one-time payment began Monday, June 20. Any disputed acres must be reconciled in person at the FSA office. Payments will be made periodically as signup takes place.

Qualifying payments will be determined by a producer's 2015 cotton acres reported to FSA, multiplied by 40 percent of the average ginning cost for each production region. Payments to Texas producers will be \$36.97 per acre.

The program has the same eligibility requirements as were used for the 2014 Cotton Transition Assistance Program, including a \$40,000 per producer payment limit, requirement to be actively engaged in farming, meet conservation compliance and a \$900,000 adjusted gross income limit. Producers will not need to have a 2016 AGI certification in place if they already have an AGI form for 2015 that represents tax returns from 2011, 2012, and 2013.

For more on the Cotton Ginning Cost-Share program, visit <http://www.plainscotton.org> or contact your local FSA office.

Cotton Futures Move Past 70-Cent Mark; 2016 High Plains Crop Stressed by Heat, Lack of Rainfall

Friday, July 22, 2016 by Mary Jane Buerkle

The past couple of weeks certainly have been a "good news and not-so-good news" scenario for cotton producers across the Texas High Plains, as markets responded to the most recent World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture by vaulting past the 70-cent mark for the first time in months, but growers and cotton plants alike certainly could use a timely rainfall.

Cotton markets exploded to the upside after the July 12 WASDE report, likely in part due to increased consumption estimates for China and overall adjustments to world stocks. At press time, December futures were trading at just more than 72 cents.

As for the Texas High Plains crop, spotty rains this past weekend gave some fields a boost, but much of the area is relatively dry. Heat also has been a factor, with many days during the first week of July reaching more than 100 degrees and overnights in the upper 70s. Although temperatures have dropped back to the 90s over the past few days, the high temperatures coupled with the lack of rainfall could affect development in some fields.

"Most of the cotton is between mid-square and the first week of bloom," Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Lubbock Cotton Specialist Seth Byrd said in the July 21 AgFax Southwest Cotton Report. "The size and quality of the crop still depends on what happens in the next 2 to 3 weeks with rainfall."

Insect pressure has been relatively low, although experts caution to still monitor fields closely. Weed pressure also has been lower than in previous years due to a combination of factors including lower-than-normal rainfall and producer diligence in ensuring that their fields are as clean as possible.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

5th Annual
Celebrate Cotton Game
Saturday, Sept. 17
6 p.m.

Texas Tech Red Raiders
Louisiana Tech Bulldogs
Tickets start at \$25

Visit <http://bit.ly/TTUCottonGameTickets>
Promo Code: COTTON16



West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute Annual Conference Set for September 13

Friday, July 22, 2016 From WTACI

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute will host their annual conference on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, located at 1121 Canyon Lake Drive in Lubbock.

This year represents the 64th meeting of WTACI, an unincorporated organization of dealers, industry representatives, agricultural producers, scientists, educators, and agribusiness members who support education and research programs promoting safe and effective use of agricultural chemicals and protection and preservation of the area's natural resources.

Topics to be discussed at the conference include pesticide application and laws and regulations, crop rotation and nutrient management strategies, weed resistance and insect resistance management, farm policy, unmanned aerial systems in agriculture, and much more. A detailed list of presentations and speakers soon will be available at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu>.

("COTTON NEWS" continued on Page 2)

CEUs for the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Certified Crop Adviser program, and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture will be available.

Pre-registration soon will be available online at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu/Registration.html>. On-line registration fees are \$75 for conference attendees and \$300 for a booth and must be completed or postmarked by August 31. On-site registration will begin at 7 a.m. the day of the conference and will cost \$95 for attendees and \$325 for booth sponsors. Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee.

Opportunities also exist to contribute to the WTACI Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than \$60,000 in scholarships to students majoring in agricultural fields at many Texas universities.

Contact Ken Legé at 806-773-7310 or KELege@dow.com, or Shawn Wade at (806) 792-4904 or shawn@plainscotton.org for questions about the program and CEU's. If you have trouble or questions regarding registration contact David Pointer, 806-746-4021 or dpointer@ag.tamu.edu.

NCC Leadership Delegation Completes Successful China Visit

July 2016

From the National Cotton Council

A National Cotton Council leadership delegation visited China from June 27-July 1 to share information with the Chinese cotton/textile industries and update them on the U.S. cotton industry.

Coordinated by the NCC's export promotions arm, Cotton Council International, the visit was the seventh U.S. cotton industry delegation to China since the establishment of the U.S.-China Cotton Leadership Exchange Program by the NCC and the China Cotton Association in 2006. This ongoing exchange was initiated by a Memorandum of Understanding signed that year promising cooperation between the two countries' cotton industries.

In Beijing, delegation members heard presentations from the CCA, the China Cotton Textile Association and the China National Textile and Apparel Council regarding current challenges facing the cotton market. The session with CCTA concluded with an agreement between the NCC and CCTA to foster enhanced communication between the two parties. With a focus on quality, the two groups will explore opportunities to jointly promote both U.S. raw cotton and U.S.-manufactured yarn, as well as Chinese cotton, in an effort to combat the growing competition from synthetic fibers.

Later, in Hubei Province, the U.S. delegation met with the Hubei Provincial Cotton Association and visited the Hubei Yinfeng Logistic Park. The group toured Xiantao's cotton fields and Xiaogan's textile mill. In Shanghai, they toured CCI's office, met with Zhangjiagang Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau and toured its cotton laboratory. The group also visited the Zhangjiagang bonded cotton warehouse and Zhangjiagang Zhongrong Logistics Company, a bonded port warehouse.

The NCC delegation was led by NCC Chairman Shane Stephens, a warehouseman who serves as vice president of Cotton Services and Warehouse Division for Staplcotn Cooperative Association in Greenwood, Miss.

"We were pleased to gain a better understanding of the challenges facing the Chinese cotton industry, which traditionally has been a strong importer of U.S. raw cotton," Stephens said. "I believe this mutual exchange of information solidified our relationship with this important consumer of U.S. cotton and provided an opportunity to demonstrate the U.S. cotton industry's continued commitment to meeting the needs of our customers."

Other delegation members included William Barksdale, who is managing director of Cargill Cotton in Cordova, Tenn.; Plains Cotton Cooperative Association President and CEO Kevin Brinkley of Lubbock, Texas; National Cotton Ginners Association First Vice President David Blakemore of Campbell, Mo; and four cotton producers: B.E. "Sonny" Davis, Jr., Cottondale, Fla.; Patrick L. Johnson, Jr., Tunica, Miss.; Doyle K. Schniers, San Angelo, Texas; and Gregory C. Wuertz, Casa Grande, Ariz.

Want the facts about the U.S. agriculture and farm policy?
<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

U.S. Cotton's Environmental Story Resonates with German Consumers

Friday, July 15, 2016

From Cotton Council International

Cotton Council International's of U.S. cotton's responsible production practices has resonated with German consumers, as evidenced by the 2016 COTTON USA Global Lifestyle Monitor research. The latest GLM results show that Germans believe in cotton: 82% of German consumers say that cotton is safe for the environment, and 80% of the Germans view cotton as the most sustainable fiber.

To further support U.S. cotton's environmental message, CCI recently introduced a video by Cotton Incorporated on cotton's water consumption, a hot topic in discussions and media reports on sustainability. CCI launched the video on digital and social media in the Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, achieving 124,815 contacts and a total reach of 340,085.

CCI promoted the video on CCI's German COTTON USA YouTube and Facebook sites, and also distributed it to trade- and consumer-focused digital platforms, with a focus on decision-makers in the textile/apparel industry.

Ten digital business, news and blogger platforms already launched the cotton water video on their channels. Based on the ongoing daily increase of views, CCI expects a steady spread of the message.

Connect With PCG!

Find us on Facebook and Twitter

<http://www.facebook.com/plainscottongrowers>

<http://www.twitter.com/PCGNews>

Subscribe to PCG Email Services!

<http://ow.ly/gp7KZ>

Editor's Note:

"Cotton News", a weekly service of Plains Cotton Growers to the cotton industry and news media in the 41-county High Plains area, is mailed from Lubbock each Friday. Its contents are confined to news items and comments pertaining to the High Plains cotton industry which is so vital to us all. Anyone interested in making comments about the contents of this column can call 806-792-4904 or Email editor@plainscotton.org