

NASS Projects High Plains Production at 4 Million Bales in 2016

Friday, August 12, 2016

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Winter precipitation and a relatively good start to the growing season set the Texas High Plains up for what could be an above-average year if conditions continue to be favorable.

In their first official crop production estimates for the area this season, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service pegged the 2016 High Plains crop at 4.07 million bales, harvested from 3.325 million acres. Planted acres are estimated at 3.59 million, reflecting a projected 7.4 percent abandonment rate, which is lower than the average of 18 to 20 percent for the region.

Yield per acre is estimated at 783 pounds per acre in the northern counties of the PCG service area, and 530 pounds per acre in the southern counties.

Statewide, the NASS report estimates that Texas growers will produce 6.3 million bales of upland cotton from 5.1 million acres harvested. Statewide yield is estimated to be 593 pounds per acre, down from 610 last year. In 2015, 5.72 million bales of cotton were produced in Texas on 4.5 million harvested acres.

NASS estimates that the United States will produce 15.3 million bales of upland cotton, up 23 percent from 2015.

Some locations in the PCG service area received as much as three inches of rainfall earlier this week, although the range mostly was between a few tenths and two inches for those who saw precipitation at all. Although some High Plains fields already have reached the cutout stage, the rainfall still could help a little as bolls begin to grow and fill out on what is there.

"Rain in August is always welcome, so we will take it when we can get it," PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said. "It will help some more than others, but I think all of our growers would agree that it's welcome."

Although producers saw the rain as a positive, the market was not near as excited, retreating from the 75-cent range over the week. A neutral World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report for the United States, released on Friday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, didn't help and December futures closed Friday at 70.65.

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/TTUCottonGar>

Promo Code: COTTON16



Fifth Annual Celebrate Cotton Game Set for September 17; Tickets Available

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By Mary Jane Buerkle

Those in the cotton industry who want to see the Texas Tech Red Raiders take on Louisiana Tech in the Celebrate Cotton game on Saturday, September 17, at Jones AT&T Stadium in Lubbock have a special promotional code to purchase tickets to that game.

Be sure you have your game tickets by visiting <http://bit.ly/TTUCottonGameTickets> and entering COTTON16, or calling the Texas Tech Ticket Office at (806) 742-TECH (8324) and asking for the Cotton Game special pricing.

Individual tickets start at just \$25 each with the promo code, and the game time is at 6 p.m. Season tickets also are still available for purchase.

PCG has proudly partnered with Texas Tech Athletics to establish this fun event that puts the High Plains cotton industry on a national stage. Cotton will be everywhere before and throughout the game, from displays around the stadium to promotion, special graphics and fun cotton facts during the game.

Special gameday T-shirts, sponsored by PCG and Scarborough Specialties, will be distributed (first-come, first-serve!) and cotton bales will line each entrance to the stadium, each with signage talking about what the cotton in that bale can make or how it impacts our economy. Farmers Cooperative Compress assists with providing the bales.

The Celebrate Cotton Runway Show, featuring cotton products, will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, September 10, at South Plains Mall. Sponsorships are available for that event; please contact Plains Cotton Growers if your business is interested in sponsorship or in participating in the show.

Partners for Celebrate Cotton include AgTexas Farm Credit Services, BASF, Bayer CropScience, Cavender's, City Bank, Crop Production Services, Deltapine, Eco-Drip, Netafim, NexGen, Hurst Farm Supply, and Wylie Implement and Spray Centers.

Several additional cotton-related activities are scheduled during Cotton Game week.

The Texas Cotton Association will host their Flow Meeting Thursday and Friday, September 15 and 16, at the Overton Hotel and Conference Center.

They also will partner with the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the Texas Independent Ginners Association to host the "Teeling Off for Cotton Week" scholarship golf tournament on Thursday, September 15, at The Rawls Course.

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute Annual Conference will be Tuesday, September 13.

If you have an event to add to Cotton Game week, or for more information on any of these events, please call PCG at (806) 792-4904 or email maryjane@plainscotton.org.

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Upcoming Area Field Days

August 31 – Texas Alliance for Water Conservation Field Day, Edmonson, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Site directions and more information available at <http://www.tawc.us>.

September 8 – PhytoGen/Enlist Field Day, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 E. FM 1294, Lubbock. Two identical sessions; morning tour, 8:30 a.m. registration, ends with lunch; afternoon tour begins with lunch and ends at 4:30 p.m. Questions: Ken Legé, 806-773-7310, or your local PhytoGen sales rep.

September 20 - Americot Field Day, Inside 4 Bar K, 302 E. 82nd St, Lubbock. 9:30 a.m. registration, tour of the Heinrich Brothers farms begins at 10 a.m.; ends with lunch at Inside 4 Bar K. Questions: Chiree Fields, 806-793-1431.

September 22 – Deltapine Field Day, Steve Chapman Farm near Lorenzo. 11 a.m., lunch served. Questions: Eric Best, 806-790-4646.

September 27 – Deltapine Field Day, Nichols Barn in Seminole. 10 a.m., lunch served. Questions: Eric Best, 806-790-4646.

September 29 – Bayer CropScience West Texas Field Day, location in the Lubbock area to be determined. Questions: contact your local Bayer CropScience sales representative.

If you have a field day to add to this list, please email maryjane@plainscotton.org or call (806) 792-4904.

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Far West Cotton Producers to See Texas Operations

Friday, August 12, 2016 From the National Cotton Council

Eight cotton producers from Arizona and California will see cotton and other agriculture-related operations in Texas on August 15-18 as part of the 2016 National Cotton Council's Producer Information Exchange.

Sponsored by Bayer CropScience LP through a grant to The Cotton Foundation, the P.I.E. is now in its 28th year and has exposed more than 1,100 U.S. cotton producers to innovative production practices in Cotton Belt regions different than their own. Specifically, the program aims to help the cotton producer participants boost their farming efficiency by: 1) gaining new perspectives in such fundamental practices as land preparation, planting, fertilization, pest control, irrigation and harvesting; and 2) observing firsthand the unique ways in which their innovative peers are using current technology. The NCC's Member Services staff, in conjunction with local producer interest organizations, conducts the program, including participant selection.

The tour participants are: Arizona – Sam Daley, J.R. Howard and Matthew Palmer, all of Thatcher; and Thomas Wuertz of Coolidge; and California – Travis Fugitt of Bakersfield; Cannon Sanchez of Hanford; and Douglas Mederos and Mike Silva, both of Tulare.

The tour will begin on August 15 in Lubbock where the group will get an overview of the Texas High Plains from Plains Cotton Growers Executive Vice President Steve Verett, a presentation on the Plains Cotton Improvement Program from Dr. Carol Kelly with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and a report on the e3 Sustainable Cotton Program at Bayer's Seeds Innovation Center.

The group then will travel to Meadow for tours of Nick Seaton's and Anthony Ferguson's farms where they will see both conventional and organic cotton production as well as production of black eyed peas, peanuts and wine grapes. They will end the day with a visit to Cotton Creek Farms in New Home and tours of other cotton farms in the area.

On August 16, the group will travel to Plainview for a briefing on water conservation, watering systems and cropping systems from the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation.

The next two days will be spent in Texas' Coastal Bend area. On August 17, the group will visit begin their day in Corpus Christi with a visit to Stover Equipment Company for a look at module trucks and round module handling and then see ginning of round modules at the Edcot Gin Coop in Odem and stripper harvesting with round module machines at Randy Rachal Farms in Taft. They also will visit Bayer's field site in Taft. That afternoon in Corpus Christi, the group will tour the Gulf Compress, the Port of Corpus Christi and Gatefront, LLC before touring individual farms in the Odem area.

On August 18, the producers will see local operations in Kleberg County and get a report on the "Status of Boll Weevil Eradication in South Texas" from Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation staff. The Texas tour will conclude with a visit to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi.

This season's other P.I.E. tours had Mid-South cotton producers visiting the Carolinas on July 18-21; Southeastern producers seeing operations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee on July 24-28; and producers from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas observing cotton and other agricultural operations in California's San Joaquin Valley on August 1-4.

Want the facts about the U.S. agriculture and farm policy?

<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

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 PCG at: editor@plainscotton.org