

Rain, Potential for Winter Weather Halts Regional Harvest Activity

Friday, December 2, 2016

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Producers across the Texas High Plains worked well into the night over the past week in anticipation of rainfall and the potential for winter weather in the weekend forecast, which would bring their progress to a standstill.

Although some growers are finished with the 2016 harvest, others still have acreage to cover. In the most recent U.S. Department of Agriculture – National Agricultural Statistics Service Crop Progress report, Texas was only at 62 percent harvested, compared to 71 percent at this time in 2015. However, growers had made significant progress since the previous week's report at 47 percent, and since this week's report was a summary from November 21-27, that number likely now is much higher after this past week of constant harvest activity. PCG's estimate for the 41-county service area is at about 70 to 75 percent harvested at press time.

Overall, quality is still very good, although numbers showed the impact of earlier precipitation events on open cotton. Predominant color for the past week in all three area classing offices – Abilene, Lamesa, and Lubbock – was 31, although predominant color for the season is still 21 in all three offices. The Lubbock office saw 11 as the predominant color for the first three weeks in November before dropping to 31 for the week ending November 24.

As of the latest reports at press time, the Lubbock and Lamesa offices combined had classed almost 2 million bales, which still could be less than the halfway mark. USDA-NASS will release their latest district production estimates next week.

COTTON USA Seminar in Hong Kong Provides Cotton Market Updates

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From Cotton Council International

More than 100 participants from the COTTON USA textile supply chain attended a seminar in Hong Kong that explored where the cotton market is heading in terms of price, sustainability trends and supply chain updates.

COTTON USA sponsored the conference and co-organized it with the Hong Kong Association of Textile Bleachers, Dyers, Printers and Finishers; the Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium; and the Textile Council of Hong Kong.

Attendees included ATO Hong Kong, Bondex, Byford, Bay Apparel, Cotton Incorporated, DXL, Esquel Group, Dali Garments, Focus HK, ICC, Sun Hing Knitting, Hanbo Enterprise, Inside Fashion, Li & Fung, Lotto Sports, Marks & Spencer, Nan Fung Group, S. Oliver, Target, VF, CBX Software, Pacific Textiles, Russell Group, SunBliss Resources, Tesco, TAL, WGSN and Yuen Shing, among others. Students studying for their Master of Arts in Fashion and Textiles from Hong Kong Polytechnic University also joined the seminar.

Upcoming Area Conferences and Meetings

December 7 – Texans for Property Rights: Eminent Domain Issues Meeting, 5:30 p.m., The Museum of Texas Tech University, 3301 Fourth Street, Lubbock. More information: <http://www.texansforpropertyrights.com>.

December 9 – High Plains Ag Conference, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, **Lubbock**, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. 5 CEU's offered. Individual preregistration, which includes lunch, is \$35 by Dec. 7 and \$45 thereafter with no lunch guarantee. Contact Robert Scott, County Extension Agent-AG, for more information at 806-775-1740.

December 13 – Swisher County Ag Day, Swisher Memorial Building, 127 SW 2nd, **Tulia**. Registration 8 a.m., 4 CEUs (2 General, 1 IPM, 1 L&R) offered. Contact John Villalba, Swisher County Extension Agent-AG, for more information at 806-995-3721.

December 15 – Yoakum County Cotton Quality Conference, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Plains Community Building, 1006 Avenue G, **Plains**. 3 CEU's in Agricultural Laws and Regulations will be offered. BBQ lunch provided and free to attend. Contact Bubba Lamolinare, County Extension Agent-AG, for more information at 806-456-2263.

January 4-6 – Beltwide Cotton Conferences, Hyatt Regency **Dallas**. Early registration deadline is December 16. More information can be found online at <http://www.cotton.org/beltwide/>.

January 13 – West Plains Ag Conference, **Levelland**, South Plains College in the Sundown Room, from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. 5 CEU's (3 Gen., 1 L&R, 1 IPM) will be offered. Contact Kerry Siders, Extension Agent-IPM, for more information at 806-894-3150.

January 17 – Ag Conference, American Legion Hall, 1021 S 8th St., **Brownfield**. Registration will begin at 7:45 a.m. 5 CEU's offered. Contact Zach Bradshaw, County Extension Agent-AG, for more information at 806-637-4060.

January 18 – Caprock Crop Production Conference, Floyd County Friends Unity Center at **Muncy**. Registration will start at 7 a.m., program from 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. 8 CEU's from TDA and 10 CCA are pending approval. Contact Caitlin Jackson, County Extension Agent-AG, 806-675-2347 or Cristen Brooks, County Extension Agent-AG at 806-983-4912 for more information.

February 7 – Hale/Swisher Crops Conference – Location TBA. Amount of CEU's not determined yet. Contact Jason Miller, Hale County Extension Agent-AG, for more information at 806-291-5267.

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