

PCG Supports HAC Chairman Conaway's Commitment to Protecting Agriculture During Budget Negotiations

Wednesday, June 28, 2017 From Plains Cotton Growers

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., commends House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Midland) for his unwavering support of farmers across the nation, most recently defending agriculture during budget negotiations.

"Growers in the PCG service area are fortunate to have excellent Congressional representation, including and especially Chairman Conaway," PCG President Johnie Reed, a cotton grower from Kress, Texas, said. "The Chairman has been relentless in his pursuit of solid farm policy and programs that will help not only his direct constituents, but all of us in agriculture whose livelihood depends upon growing food and fiber."

Reed noted that Conaway's leadership on the House Agriculture Committee has benefited growers and the entire agricultural industry.

"There are few in Congress who understand the importance of agriculture not only at the farm level but beyond as does Chairman Conaway," Reed said. "Agriculture powers our economy, and good policy enables United States growers like me and the thousands of growers in PCG's service area to be competitive in world markets."

"We thank Chairman Conaway for his leadership in helping ensure a strong future for agriculture."

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USDA-NASS: Cotton Acreage Up From 2016

Friday, June 30, 2017 By Mary Jane Buerkle

Texas High Plains farmers are on track to plant just more than 4 million acres of upland cotton this year, up 10.4 percent from 2016, according to acreage estimates released today from the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

As expected, acreage increased in both the northern and southern portions of the PCG service area. Growers in northern counties planted 970,000 acres, up 14.5 percent from 2016. Growers in southern counties planted 3,085,000 acres, up 9 percent.

The upward trend also is reflected statewide and nationwide. Texas growers planted about 6.6 million acres of cotton in 2017, up almost 17 percent from 5.65 million in 2016. Acreage almost doubled in the Blacklands and the Upper Coast area. Statewide,

corn planted acreage was down 500,000 acres, and sorghum acres were down 100,000 acres from 2016.

Nationwide, growers are estimated to have planted 11.8 million acres of upland cotton, up 19.48 percent from 2016. This means that Texas growers planted almost 56 percent of the nation's acreage, similar to 2016.

Actual estimated planted acreage is a little lower than the 12 million acres projected by the USDA in their Prospective Plantings Report in March, but a little higher than the 10.8 million acres projected by the National Cotton Council in their 36th Annual Early Season Planting Intentions Survey, which was released in early February.

Cotton Industry Seeks Volunteer Leaders

Friday, June 30, 2017

By Shawn Wade

The success of the High Plains cotton industry, like any group effort, is directly tied to the willingness of qualified individuals to volunteer to serve in various leadership positions. To identify these volunteers, the High Plains cotton industry caucuses each year with other cotton groups within Texas to identify producers interested in serving as a volunteer leader.

PCG encourages all qualified individuals interested in representing the High Plains as a representative to the Cotton Board, National Cotton Council, or Cotton Incorporated to contact PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett for more information at 806-792-4904.

Each year, a variety of volunteer positions within the NCC and Cotton Incorporated are filled directly through the industry's caucus process. In addition to naming representatives to the NCC and Cotton Incorporated, PCG and the Texas cotton industry also work together to identify and nominate qualified individuals to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for possible appointment as a Member or Alternate on the Cotton Board, which oversees the highly successful U.S. Cotton Research & Promotion Program.

To be a qualified producer nominee for the Cotton Board, an individual should be actively engaged in cotton production at the time of nomination, be committed to the mission of the Cotton Board and the Cotton Research and Promotion Program, and have demonstrated leadership skills and experience.

"Whether it is a nomination to serve on the Cotton Board or appointment to a leadership position within the National Cotton Council or Cotton Incorporated, the membership of Plains Cotton Growers has proven to be fertile ground for leaders within our industry," Verett said. "Our industry owes much to the dedicated men and women who step forward to serve their fellow producers. We look forward to extending that tradition of leadership in the years ahead."

Editor's Note: The Cotton Board seeks to promote diversity and ensure equal opportunity and inclusion for all those who qualify for nomination and appointment to the Cotton Board regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, disability, socio-economic status, religion or sexual orientation.