

USDA Secretary Perdue Announces Cotton Ginning Cost Share Program for 2016 Crop

Saturday, March 3, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., commends the U.S. Department of Agriculture for authorizing a Cotton Ginning Cost Share program for the 2016 crop that will provide much-needed assistance to growers across the Cotton Belt.

“We greatly appreciate U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and the USDA, along with the House Committee on Agriculture led by Chairman Mike Conaway, for understanding the needs of cotton producers and acknowledging the success of the previous Cotton Ginning Cost-Share Program,” PCG President Johnie Reed, a cotton producer from Kress, said. “Re-authorizing this program for the 2016 crop will help cotton growers offset their ginning costs, which in turn will improve many growers’ financial situations and help keep them in business.”

The program will be similar to the one for the 2015 crop in that it will be a one-time payment determined by a producer’s 2016 cotton acres reported to the Farm Service Agency, multiplied by 20 percent of the average ginning cost for each production region. The payment rate for Texas will be \$19.65 per acre. The program has the same eligibility requirements as were used for the 2015 Cotton Ginning Cost-Share Program, including a \$40,000 per producer payment limit, requirement to be actively engaged in farming, meet conservation compliance provisions and a \$900,000 adjusted gross income limit.

“We are grateful for the opportunity for assistance, because our producers certainly need it,” Reed said. “We’ve been dealing with many factors over the past few years that are beyond our control, and we thank Secretary Perdue and the USDA for responding to their needs and helping ensure a stronger future for cotton.”

The sign-up period for the program begins March 12, 2018, and runs through May 11. Growers should watch for a letter and pre-filled application from FSA in the mail. For more on the Cotton Ginning Cost Share Program, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cgcs> or contact a local FSA county office.

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

<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

Regional Conservation Partnership Program Offers Opportunities for Producers

Friday, March 9, 2018

From High Plains Water District

Producers in the Panhandle-South Plains region are reminded that cost-share funding is still available for installation of irrigation system monitoring equipment, soil moisture probes, and other irrigation management equipment through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

Approximately \$600,000 is available for the remainder of the program, which ends in 2018.

Participation in RCPP is entirely voluntary. Interested producers can sign up for the program at their local USDA-NRCS service center. Additional information about RCPP is available at <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov>. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

In addition, be sure to visit <http://www.hpwd.org/rcpp> for information about eligible equipment, estimated payment rates, a contact list of USDA-NRCS Service Centers, and a map illustrating the 29 counties participating in RCPP.

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) in Lubbock serves as the lead RCPP partner. Supporting partners include Hemphill County UWCD in Canadian, Llano Estacado UWCD at Seminole, Mesa UWCD at Lamesa, North Plains GCD at Dumas, Sandy Land UWCD at Plains, and South Plains UWCD at Brownfield.

These groundwater conservation districts do not receive any funding for the program, but provide in-kind services to assist with water conservation efforts.

Be sure to “like” the High Plains Water District Facebook page to receive updates on district activities or follow us on Twitter at @HPUWCD.

Created in 1951 by local residents and the Texas Legislature, the High Plains Water District was created to conserve, preserve, protect, and prevent the waste of underground water within its 16-county service area. HPWD is the first groundwater conservation district created in Texas.

PCG Annual Meeting Scheduled for April 6

Friday, March 9, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., will host their 61st Annual Meeting on Friday, April 6, 2018 in the Banquet Hall of the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration, and the program will start promptly at 9 a.m. The meeting is held in conjunction with the Texas Cotton Ginners’ Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show, April 5-6, 2018, in Lubbock. For more information on the TCGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show, visit <http://www.tcgga.org/>.

Current PCG president Johnie Reed, who farms near Kress, Texas, will preside over the meeting and PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett will report on the status of PCG operations and activities. An award recognizing the 2017 High Plains Cotton Agent of the Year also will be presented at the meeting.

Congressman Jodey Arrington is scheduled to speak to the group. Bruce Atherley, executive director of Cotton Council International, will report on CCI’s export promotion activities. Tom Wedegaertner with Cotton Incorporated will report on that organization’s latest initiatives. The program will feature an update on the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. PAC and an announcement about the 2018 Celebrate Cotton Game.

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Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m., sponsored by Monsanto/Deltapine. Lunch, sponsored by Bayer CropScience/FiberMax/Stoneville, will follow the meeting.

There is no charge to attend and no RSVP is necessary. Additional information about PCG and the Annual Meeting can be found at <http://www.plainscotton.org>.

SAVE THE DATE!

April 5-6
 Texas Cotton Ginners Association Annual Conference and Trade Show, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

April 6
 PCG Annual Meeting, LMCC

September 15
 Celebrate Cotton Game, Texas Tech vs. Houston, Jones AT&T Stadium

New Cotton Incorporated Technology Adoptions at Retail

Thursday, March 8, 2018 From The Cotton Board
 Cotton's natural properties can be enhanced through application of technology innovations that allow cotton to perform in new ways. Several well-known companies have recently announced new product lines featuring Cotton Incorporated technologies.

Using Cotton Incorporated's TOUGH COTTON™ branded technology solution, cotton can be engineered for enhanced durability over the life of the garment. TOUGH COTTON™ girls' leggings are now available under Walmart's Wonder Nation label. Target's childrenswear line, Cat & Jack™, has adopted TOUGH COTTON™ technology for boys' school uniform pants, girls' leggings and girls' fashion pants. JCPenney brands Arizona and Okie Dokie are featuring TOUGH COTTON™ technology in over 6 million pairs of girls' leggings. JCPenney boasts the TOUGH COTTON™ trademark with a sticker on the product at retail to ensure shoppers are aware of this play-tested technology. TOUGH COTTON™ technology makes these items stronger and last longer for whatever kids put them through.

This week, Pampers announced a new line of diapers and wipes featuring cotton. According to its Web site, "Pampers Pure Protection Diapers have a Cotton Enhanced™ outer cover, which includes premium cotton, making it both soft and hypoallergenic, and Pampers is using cotton grown right here in the United States. Pampers Pure Protection diapers are also made without chlorine bleaching, fragrance, parabens, or natural rubber latex. Pampers Aqua Pure Wipes are made with carefully-selected ingredients, including 99% pure water and a touch of premium cotton."

A new hoodie from Vans features STORM COTTON™ technology fusing all-weather function with the Vans classic California style. This water-repellent finish allows for the comfort of cotton, but with added protection from moisture.

Vans showcases the STORM COTTON™ trademark within their online product text as well as on the garment hangtags at retail.

"Having this many new adoptions of Cotton Incorporated technologies speaks to the current health of the organization and the cotton industry as a whole," says Cotton Board Chairman and Louisiana cotton grower, George LaCour Jr.

For more information on these products, and to shop these cotton product lines, please visit the "Shop Cotton" section of <http://www.thefabricofourlives.com/>.

Upcoming Auxin-Specific Herbicide Trainings
PCG Seed Cost Calculator
 Both available at plainscotton.org

Seed Cotton Program Info Sessions Continue

Friday, March 9, 2018 by Mary Jane Buerkle
 PCG has scheduled several meetings across the service area for those interested in learning more about recently passed legislation that defines Seed Cotton as a covered commodity eligible for Title I ARC or PLC programs in the 2014 Farm Bill for the 2018 crop year.

- Upcoming meetings are as follows:
- PCG Regional Information Session #3 - Lamesa**
Date: Saturday, March 24, 2018
 Location: Forrest Park Community Center, 900 S. Houston Ave, Lamesa
 Time: 8:30am - 12:00pm

 - PCG Regional Information Session #4 - Plainview**
Date: Monday, March 26, 2018
 Location: Ollie Liner Center, 2000 S. Columbia St., Plainview
 Time: 8:30am - 12:00pm

 - PCG Regional Information Session #5 - Muleshoe**
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018
 Location: Bailey County Electric Cooperative - Community Room, 610 E. American Blvd, Muleshoe
 Time: 8:30am - 12:00pm

 - PCG Regional Information Session #6 - Amarillo**
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018
 Location: AgTexas Farm Credit Services - Amarillo, 2001 S. Soncy Road, Amarillo
 Time: 8:30am - 12:00pm

 - PCG Regional Information Session #7 - Dumas**
Date: Friday, March 30, 2018
 Location: 8th Street Event Center, 420 W. 8th Street, Dumas
 Time: 8:30am - 12:00pm

For more information and resources, visit <http://www.plainscotton.org/18SeedCottonInfo.html> or call PCG at (806) 792-4904.

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 U.S. all. Anyone interested in making comments about the contents of this column can call 806-792-4904 or Email PCG at: editor@plainscotton.org