

## **NCC: Tariffs Would Undermine U.S. Cotton Trade with China**

Wednesday, April 4, 2018 From the National Cotton Council  
The National Cotton Council is concerned that China's announcement of significantly higher proposed tariffs on U.S. raw cotton shipped to that country would significantly harm the economic health of the U.S. cotton industry.

For the current 2017 crop year, China stands as the second largest export market with purchases of approximately 2.5 million bales of U.S. cotton.

"I cannot overstate the importance of China's market to U.S. cotton farmers and the importance of U.S. cotton in meeting the needs of China's textile industry," NCC Chairman Ron Craft said. "The cotton industries of the United States and China enjoy a healthy, mutually beneficial relationship."

According to the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service GAIN Report, cotton has been listed among multiple U.S. agricultural products that could potentially be hit with higher tariffs from China -- specifically an in-quota tariff that would increase from one percent to 26 percent. Following the announcement, the cotton market reacted accordingly -- almost limit down on nearby contracts.

The GAIN Report noted that China's proposal of retaliatory tariffs on selected U.S. agricultural products is in response to the recent U.S. proposed tariffs on Chinese imports resulting from the Section 301 investigation into the forced transfer of U.S. technology and intellectual property.

Craft said the NCC strongly encourages the two governments to engage in immediate discussions "that can resolve trade tensions and preserve this long-term collaborative relationship. The U.S. cotton industry stands ready to assist the U.S. government and our trading partners in China to find a resolution to this damaging trade dispute."

## **Upcoming Auxin-Specific Herbicide Trainings** See the list at [plainscotton.org](http://plainscotton.org)

## **Ginning Season Rolls On; Cotton Acreage Expected to Jump Again in 2018**

Friday, April 6, 2018 By Mary Jane Buerkle  
With back-to-back crops of 5 million bales plus, ginners across the PCG service area have become more accustomed to longer-than-usual ginning seasons, and as planting time approaches, this one isn't even over yet for some.

A few gins in the northern portions of the PCG service area still have a couple of weeks of ginning remaining, which reflects an acreage shift and subsequent increase in production that has happened over the past couple of years.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest Prospective Plantings Report, those numbers could climb even higher, with their estimate at 7.3 million acres of upland cotton to be planted in Texas in 2018, a six percent increase from 6.9 million in 2017 and up from 5.65 million acres planted in 2016.

The USDA report is up slightly from the National Cotton Council's estimate in February of about 7.15 million acres to be planted in Texas. Nationwide, the USDA predicts 13.2 million acres of upland cotton to be planted, also up slightly from the NCC survey at just more than 12.8 million acres.

Soil temperatures are inching up toward the 60-degree mark at the 8-inch depth, and with warmer weather expected over the next few weeks, optimal planting conditions should be in place by the usual planting time of late April through May. However, growers certainly could further benefit from rainfall, particularly in areas that missed the most recent rains in the latter part of March.

## **Cotton Ginning Cost Share Signups Happening Now!**

Contact Your Local FSA Office  
More Info: <http://fsa.usda.gov/cgcs>

## **2018 PCG Seed Cost Calculator Now Available**

Friday, April 6, 2018 By Mary Jane Buerkle  
The 2018 version of the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. Seed Cost Calculator is ready and available for download from the PCG website at <http://www.plainscotton.org>.

The PCG seed cost calculator is an interactive Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that allows producers to calculate an estimated cost per acre, for both seed and technology, based on published suggested retail prices.

The calculator has become a popular tool among producers interested in comparing seed and technology prices as they work to finalize their cotton variety selections.

The 2018 version of the spreadsheet includes recently updated listings for 116 conventional, Roundup Ready FLEX, XtendFlex, GlyTol, Bollgard II, TwinLink, Enlist and Widestrike varieties, including numerous stacked gene versions of these technologies that will be available for sale in West Texas in 2018.

Questions about the seed cost calculator can be directed to Shawn Wade at (806) 792-4904 or [shawn@plainscotton.org](mailto:shawn@plainscotton.org).

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