

Plains Cotton Growers Applauds Passage of Senate Farm Bill

Thursday, June 28, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., commends the U.S. Senate for passing their Farm Bill, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, by a vote of 86-11.

"We thank the U.S. Senate for helping ensure a viable future for our family farms by passing this crucial piece of legislation," PCG President Stacy Smith said. "We appreciate their understanding of the need for strong farm policy, which helps our farmers and ranchers to stay strong as well."

Smith expressed appreciation to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts of Kansas and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow of Michigan for their diligence in moving the policy package through the Senate and gathering the necessary votes to pass the bill. He thanked Texas Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz for voting in support of the bill.

"We look forward to working with the House and the Senate as the bill goes to the conference committee, and ultimately toward final passage of the Farm Bill before the expiration of the 2014 Farm Bill in September," Smith said.

**Hailout-Replant-Late Plant Guide
Herbicide Label and Use Reminders
Available at www.plainscotton.org**

USDA Helps Texas Producers Prepare for Seed Cotton Addition in Key Safety Net Programs

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

From Farm Service Agency

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is sending acreage history and yield reports to agricultural producers in Texas with generic base acres covered by the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs. Farm Service Agency State Executive Director for Texas, Gary Six, said the information will help producers decide the best options for how to allocate generic base acres, given the addition of seed cotton as a covered commodity in the programs.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 amended the 2014 Farm Bill, adding seed cotton as a covered commodity under the ARC and PLC programs. This week, FSA will start sending information on current generic base acres, yields, and 2008-2012 planting history.

Per the Act, FSA is using the period 2009 through 2012 to compute the conversion of generic base acres to seed cotton base acres. Also, FSA is using 2008 through 2012 to calculate yield updates to seed cotton. The updates are an important part of preparing agricultural producers in Texas and other states to make decisions on allocating generic basic acres and updating yields for seed cotton.

This summer, producers will have an opportunity to allocate their generic base acres and update their seed cotton yield.

All producers electing to participate in either the ARC or PLC program will be required to make a one-time, unanimous and irrevocable election, choosing between price protection and county revenue protection for the 2018 crop year for seed cotton only. Producers who elected ARC with the individual farm option will continue with that option since that election is applicable to all base acres on the farm. The final step to participate requires producers with farms with seed cotton base acres to sign contracts for ARC or PLC for 2018 this summer.

The anticipated timeline is:

June 29: Letters mailed to producers; notification of current generic base acres and yields, and 2008 to 2012 planting history

July: Online ARC and PLC Decision Tool becomes available; Producers have opportunity to update yields and allocate generic base acres for ARC and PLC

Late July: ARC and PLC one-time elections occur for seed cotton

Late July: ARC and PLC sign-up for 2018 starts for farms with seed cotton base acres

COTTON USA Western Hemisphere Sourcing Fair Develops Business Relationships for U.S. Cotton

Friday, June 22, 2018

From Cotton Council International

The COTTON USA Western Hemisphere Sourcing Fair held in Cancun, Mexico, provided global sourcing assistance for companies looking for U.S. cotton fiber and yarns to manufacture high quality textile products. The event brought together 13 U.S. mills, 21 retailers/brands from the United States, Canada and Latin-America and 44 apparel manufacturing companies from Colombia, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru.

The Sourcing Fair included a conference session with a panel of experts who spoke about "COTTON USA, The Cotton the World Trusts," "U.S. Cotton Fiber: A Closer Look" and "U.S. Global Trade Policy."

Following the seminar, the U.S. mills and retailers met during two days with Central American, Mexican and Andean textile and apparel executives in private meetings to discuss business opportunities. Approximately 800 individual meetings took place to develop business opportunities for U.S. cotton.

Participating U.S. mills included: Antex Knitting Mills, Buhler Quality Yarns, Corp, CAP Yarns, CCW, Cotswold Industries, Contempora Fabrics, Frontier Spinning Mills, Hamrick Mills, Inc., Milliken, Mt. Vernon Mills, Parkdale, Swisstex Direct and Zagis USA. Retailers and brands at the show were: Alpha Broder, Amazon Fashion, Aramark, Augusta Sportswear, Columbia Sportswear, Cutter & Buck, Dillard's, Duluth Trading Co., Game Sportswear, Levi's, Lilly Pulitzer, Macy's, Totto, Perry Ellis International, Ripley Chile, S.A., Studio F., Target, PVH, Timberland Pro Apparel, Unisync and VF Sourcing Latin America.