

Farm Bill Process Advances with Formation of House Conference Committee

Friday, July 20, 2018 By Mary Jane Buerkle

The 2018 Farm Bill becomes one step closer to reality upon the U.S. House's formation of a conference committee designed to work with members of the Senate to iron out differences between each policy package and marry them back into one solid bill bound for final passage.

PCG-area Congressional members Rep. Mike Conaway, who serves as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and Rep. Jodey Arrington, who serves on the HAC, both were named to the House conference committee.

Republican members are as follows:

House Agriculture Committee: Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX); Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA); Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA); Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK); Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL); Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA); Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR); Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-MO); Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL); Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL); Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC); Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS); Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)

House Education and the Workforce Committee: Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC); Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA)

House Energy and Commerce Committee: Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL); Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)

House Financial Services Committee: Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX); Rep. Sean Duffy (R-WI)

House Foreign Affairs Committee: Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA); Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH)

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee: Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC); Rep. James Comer (R-KY)

House Natural Resources Committee: Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT); Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)

House Science, Space, and Technology Committee:

Rep. Ralph Abraham (R-LA); Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL)

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee: Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA); Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH)

Democrat members are as follows:

House Agriculture Committee: Collin Peterson (D-MN); David Scott (D-GA); Jim Costa (D-CA); Tim Walz (D-MN); Marcia Fudge (D-OH); Jim McGovern (D-MA); Filemon Vela (D-TX); Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM); Ann Kuster (D-NH); Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ)

House Education and the Workforce Committee: Alma Adams (D-NC)

House Energy and Commerce Committee: Paul Tonko (D-NY)

House Financial Services Committee: Maxine Waters (D-CA)

House Foreign Affairs Committee: Eliot Engel (D-NY)

House Natural Resources Committee: Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee: Stacey Plaskett (D-VI)

House Science, Space and Technology Committee: Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee: Cheri Bustos (D-IL)

The Senate is expected to follow by selecting their conference committee possibly as early as next week. At that time, negotiations will begin to move forward with the goal of coming to an agreement in time to ensure a new bill is passed before the expiration of the 2014 Farm Bill at the end of September.

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Textile Manufacturers from Vietnam Discovering More About U.S. Cotton's Value

Wednesday, July 18, 2018 From Cotton Council International

Textile executives representing 11 companies from Vietnam will get a better understanding of how U.S. cotton can add value to the products they manufacture when they travel across the U.S. Cotton Belt on July 22-26. This COTTON USA Special Trade Mission is coordinated by Cotton Council International, the National Cotton Council's export promotions arm.

Vietnam has emerged as the world's second largest cotton fiber importing country – and currently is the largest market for U.S. cotton. U.S. export sales commitments to that country are approximately 3.3 million bales for the 2017-18 marketing year while commitments for the 2018-19 marketing year already stand at 930,000 bales.

CCI President Ted Schneider, a Louisiana cotton producer, said this trade mission will 1) heighten these important customers' awareness of U.S. cotton fiber's quality, sustainability, transparency, and premium value and 2) facilitate face-to-face sessions between U.S. cotton exporters and the 14 participating textile executives from Vietnam.

"This event not only should generate additional sales of U.S. raw cotton but strengthen our exporters' relationships with these important Asian customers," Schneider said.

Overall, mills in Vietnam are expected to import 7.7 million bales in 2018-19 – with the companies represented on this COTTON USA trade mission expected to import 41 percent of those bales (about 3.2 million).

The Vietnamese delegation will begin its tour in New York with a CCI briefing and an ICE Futures seminar. They will see cotton research in North Carolina and tour the USDA cotton classing office in Bartlett, Tenn., and visit a cotton farm, gin and warehouse in South Texas.

The group also will meet with exporters in the Cotton Belt's four major regions and with these industry organizations:

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AMCOT, American Cotton Producers, American Cotton Shippers Association, Cotton Incorporated, Lubbock Cotton Exchange, the NCC, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., Southern Cotton Growers Association, Texas Cotton Association, Western Cotton Shippers Association and Supima.

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**Filing Period Begins July 21 For
 HPWD Board Positions**

Friday, July 6, 2018 From High Plains Water District
 Candidates for the position of High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Director in Precincts One, Two, or Five must file an application for place on the ballot with the Water District office between July 21 and August 20, 2018.

An application for place on the ballot may be requested by contacting the HPWD office, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX 79411-2499 during regular business hours. The district office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

In August, the Board is expected to order a Nov. 6, 2018 election allowing residents in HPWD Precincts One, Two, and Five to choose a District Director to represent them in groundwater matters for the next four years.

Precinct One: District Directors' Precinct One consists of the portion of Crosby County above the Caprock Escarpment and all of Lubbock and Lynn Counties. Dan Seale of Lubbock is the incumbent District Director.

Precinct Two: District Directors' Precinct Two consists of Cochran County, most of Hockley County, and all of Lamb County. Brad Heffington of Littlefield is the incumbent District Director.

Precinct Five: District Directors' Precinct Five consists of the portion of Floyd County above the Caprock Escarpment and all of Hale and Swisher Counties. Ronnie Hopper of Petersburg is the incumbent District Director.

According to Section 141.001 of the Texas Election Code, a candidate for public elective office (including Water District Director) must:

- be a United States citizen;
- be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as applicable;
- have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated; or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;
- have not been finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities;

- have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six months immediately preceding the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for place on the ballot;
- and be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected.

Created in 1951 by local residents and the Texas Legislature, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No.1 is charged with the responsibility of conserving, preserving, protecting, and preventing waste of groundwater within its 16-county service area. HPWD is the first groundwater conservation district created in Texas.

Additional election information is available at www.hpwd.org/election2018 or by calling the district office at (806) 762-0181.

You can also follow HPWD on Facebook and Twitter.

Mark Your Calendars!

**West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute
 Annual Conference
 Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018
 Bayer Museum of Agriculture, Lubbock
 Program Available Soon at wtaci.tamu.edu**

Celebrate Cotton Game Set for September 15

Friday, July 20, 2018 By Mary Jane Buerkle

The seventh annual Celebrate Cotton game has been set for Saturday, September 15, as the Texas Tech Red Raiders host the Houston Cougars at Jones AT&T Stadium in Lubbock. Kickoff currently is at 3 p.m.

Game tickets will be available soon, and there will be a promo code especially for the cotton industry. Season tickets also are still available for purchase.

PCG and other ag industry supporters proudly have partnered with Texas Tech Athletics to establish this fun event that puts the High Plains cotton industry on a national stage. Cotton will be everywhere before and throughout the game, from displays around the stadium to promotion, special graphics and fun cotton facts during the game.

Special gameday T-shirts, sponsored by PCG and Scarborough Specialties, will be distributed (first-come, first-serve!) and cotton bales will line each entrance to the stadium, each with signage talking about what the cotton in that bale can make or how it impacts our economy. Farmers Cooperative Compress assists with providing the bales.

The Celebrate Cotton Runway Show, featuring cotton products, will be held Thursday, September 13, at South Plains Mall. Sponsorships are available for that event.

A complete list of Celebrate Cotton gameday partners and additional events during Cotton Game week will be online soon at plainscotton.org. If you have an event to add to Cotton Game week, or for more information on any of these events, please call PCG at (806) 792-4904 or email maryjane@plainscotton.org.

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