

Senate Announces Farm Bill Conferees

Wednesday, August 1, 2018 From the Senate Ag Committee
U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., today are pleased the Senate has voted to move forward with the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee. The Senators also applauded the announcement of the Senators who will serve on the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee.

Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan.; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.; Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark.; Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D.; Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa; Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich.; Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.; Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio; Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D.

“This strong group of Senate conferees knows how to work together on a bipartisan basis to get the Farm Bill across the finish line,” said Roberts and Stabenow. “We look forward to beginning the conference process so we can provide certainty to our farmers, families, and rural communities.”

On June 28, 2018, the U.S. Senate passed the 2018 Farm Bill on a strong bipartisan 86-11 vote – the most votes a Senate Farm Bill has ever received. The bipartisan 5-year legislation encompasses a broad array of agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policy. The Senate bill has the support of more than 500 groups representing thousands of agriculture, food, nutrition, hunger, forestry, conservation, rural, business, faith-based, research, and academic interests. Click here to read the legislation, summaries, and amendments.

The Conference Committee will be composed of members of the U.S. House and Senate. The House conferees were announced earlier this month. A public meeting of the Conference Committee will be announced at a later date.

Upcoming Crop Tours, Field Days, and Seed Cotton Program Meetings
See the list at www.plainscotton.org

Tickets Available for Celebrate Cotton Game

Friday, August 3, 2018 By Mary Jane Buerkle
Individual tickets are available for the seventh annual Celebrate Cotton game, which will be Saturday, September 15, as the Texas Tech Red Raiders host the Houston Cougars at Jones AT&T Stadium in Lubbock. Kickoff is at 3 p.m.

Game tickets can be purchased by visiting <http://bit.ly/TTUCottonGameTickets> and entering COTTON18, or calling the Texas Tech Ticket Office at (806) 742-TECH (8324) and asking for the Cotton Game special pricing. Individual tickets start at just \$35 each with the promo code. 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.

Gameday partners include Nutrien Ag Solutions; Cavender's; BASF; City Bank; FiberMax; AgTexas Farm Credit Services; Netafim; NexGen; Winfield United; Hurst Farm Supply; and Wylie Implement and Spray Centers.

A complete list of 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.

Southwest, Far West Cotton Producers to See Mid-South Operations

Friday, July 27, 2018 From the National Cotton Council
Fifteen cotton producers from the Southwest and Far West cotton production regions will observe cotton operations in Arkansas and Tennessee on August 6-9 as part of the National Cotton Council's 2018 Producer Information Exchange program.

Sponsored by Crop Science, a division of Bayer, through a grant to The Cotton Foundation, the P.I.E. is now in its 30th year and has exposed more than 1,100 U.S. cotton producers to innovative production practices in Cotton Belt regions different than their own.

Specifically, the program aims to help the cotton producer participants boost their farming efficiency by: 1) gaining new perspectives in such fundamental practices as land preparation, planting, fertilization, pest control, irrigation and harvesting; and 2) observing firsthand the unique ways in which their innovative peers are using current technology.

NCC's Member Services staff, in conjunction with local producer interest organizations, conducts the program, including participant selection.

The Mid-South tour participants are: **Arizona** – Clayton Schulz and Hayden Melton, both of Buckeye; and Todd Thelander, Tempe; **California** – Connor McKean, Riverdale; and R.J. Errotabere, Visalia; **Kansas** – Brad Moberly, Wellington; **Oklahoma** – Jeron Park, Walters; and **Texas** – Ben Loya, Fabens; Bill Belew, Winters; Brad Byars, Lakeview; Greg Slough, Gruver; Heath Heinrich, Slaton; Kevin Corzine, Stamford; Mitchell Jansa, Garden City; and Ryan Netherland, Sudan.

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The group will begin their Mid-South activities in Tennessee on August 6 at the West Tennessee AgResearch & Education Center in Jackson with an overview of Tennessee cotton production, weed management and cotton research. They then will travel to Humboldt for tours of area cotton farms and a look at cotton yarn and nonwoven products at Jones Fiber Products.

The next day in Arkansas, the group will learn about Mid-South irrigation and see McClendon Farms' cotton operations in Soudan before traveling to Marianna for a tour of the Lon Mann Research Station where they will hear a presentation on the University of Arkansas cotton breeding program and a comparison of Mid-South and Southwest cotton production. While in the Marianna area, they will tour the W.G. Huxtable Pumping Station where they will get briefed on Delta flood management and see Reed Farms' cotton operation for a discussion of cover crops.

On August 8, the participants will learn about 1) rice production during a tour of the White & Flye Farms in Weona and 2) rice processing at Windmill Rice Company in Jonesboro. They also will see Bayer variety trials at Wildy Farms in Manila and then tour individual cotton farms in the area.

The tour concludes on August 9 with a presentation on Mississippi River commerce and a port tour by the Osceola Port Authority in Osceola and a look at cotton operations in the Wilson area.

This season's other P.I.E. tours had cotton producers from the Southeast observing cotton and other agricultural operations in California's San Joaquin Valley the week of August 13 and will have Mid-South producers touring two Texas cotton production regions the week of August 20.

Class size is limited to 15 people to provide a hands-on experience for all participants. Those planning to attend should RSVP by Aug. 17 for Amarillo and by Sept. 7 for the session in Lubbock. Payment is due upon arrival on the first day of the course.

The class will be taught by Jones and Will Keeling, AgriLife Extension risk management specialist in Lubbock.

For more information or to RSVP for either location, contact Jones or Kim Garcia at 806-677-5600.

Want the facts about the U.S. agriculture and farm policy?
<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

NRCS to Host Local Working Group Meetings

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts are hosting conservation planning meetings through local work groups across the state.

The purpose of the Local Working Group Meetings is to collect input from farmers, ranchers, federal, state and local agencies, agricultural leaders, organizations, businesses and other individuals who have an interest in natural resource conservation.

LWG meetings are established processes for Soil and Water Conservation Districts and NRCS to engage the local community and stakeholders to develop conservation needs assessment and to assist NRCS to develop local conservation programs and program delivery strategies.

Input is needed to help determine local natural resource priorities and criteria for USDA conservation activities and program planning in 2019.

Meeting recommendations are provided to and reviewed by the State Technical Advisory Committee which advises the State Conservationist on the conservation programs offered by NRCS.

For more information, contact the local USDA-NRCS office in your county, listed under USDA in the Yellow Pages.

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations and/or alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, Large print, audiotape, etc.) associated with this meeting should contact the local NRCS office in their county.

Area meetings coming up are as follows:

August 7 – 8:30 a.m., USDA Service Center, 208 W. Main St.,

Post

August 7 – 8:30 a.m., NRCS Field Office, 801 South Bliss, Suite 104, **Dumas**

August 8 – 8:30 a.m., USDA Service Center, 1601 S. 2nd St.,

Tahoka

August 8 – 9 a.m., **Hereford** Community Center, 100 Ave. C

August 8 – 9 a.m., USDA Service Center, 102 N. Main St, Suite B, **Stinnett**

August 8 – 9 a.m., XIT Activity Center, 205 North St., **Bovina**

August 8 – 9 a.m., Happy State Bank, 100 N. Main, **Stratford**

August 8 – 9:30 a.m., USDA Service Center, 109 E. 14th St.,

Lamesa

August 9 – 9:30 a.m., USDA Service Center, 800 N Main,

Perryton

August 10 – 9 a.m., USDA Service Center, 304 S. Garland Street, **Plainview**

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AgriLife Extension to Offer QuickBooks Training in Amarillo, Lubbock

Sunday, July 29, 2018 by Kay Ledbetter, AgriLife TODAY

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer Panhandle District QuickBooks Pro Short Courses on Aug. 21-22 in Amarillo and Sept. 11-12 in Lubbock.

The two-day trainings will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day at the respective Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Centers, located at 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd. in Amarillo and 1102 E. Farm-to-Market Road 1294 north of Lubbock.

DeDe Jones, AgriLife Extension risk management specialist in Amarillo, said through the years, attendees have indicated they've seen thousands of dollars in benefit from what they learned during QuickBooks courses.

QuickBooks Pro is a double-entry business accounting program often used by agricultural lenders and producers, Jones said. During the two-day course, participants will learn to enter transactions into the program and analyze costs and profits. No prior computer experience is necessary.

Registration is \$150 and includes computer use and teaching materials. Couples are encouraged to attend and will be charged only one registration fee if they share a computer.

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