

NCC: Grateful for Tariff Mitigation Assistance

Monday, August 27, 2018 From the National Cotton Council

The National Cotton Council thanks the Trump Administration for its recognition of the impacts of China's retaliatory tariffs and applauds the Administration's plan to assist U.S. farmers and ranchers facing trade disruptions from these tariffs. This support comes at a crucial time for the U.S. cotton industry.

While the NCC encourages continued dialogue between the U.S. and China to resolve the trade tensions, the NCC emphasizes the importance of producer support to help partially mitigate the impacts of these tariffs on U.S. cotton and additional funds for export promotion as the industry looks to expand markets for U.S. cotton.

The plan includes three components to assist farmers and ranchers: a Market Facilitation Program, a Food Purchase & Distribution Program, and a Trade Promotion Program. The Market Facilitation Program will provide \$0.06/lb on at least half of a producer's 2018 cotton production (upland and ELS). The payment rate on the second half of 2018 production will be determined later and may remain at the same payment level. Once harvest is complete, production evidence must be provided to the local USDA Farm Service Agency office before payments will be made. The Market Facilitation payments are subject to the existing \$900,000 adjusted gross income means test and a separate \$125,000 per person payment limit for the eligible crops.

NCC Chairman Ron Craft, a Plains, Texas, ginner, stated, "The National Cotton Council strongly commends Secretary Perdue and his team at USDA for their ongoing efforts to help U.S. agriculture manage through the current trade disruptions as the Administration seeks to address unfair trade practices and barriers. The tariff mitigation program announced today will help address a portion of the losses cotton producers are facing in the marketplace. However, there is continued economic stress on producers in areas of the Cotton Belt that have lost production this year due to severe drought. In addition, cotton and cottonseed industry participants throughout the marketing channels are also feeling the impacts of the retaliatory tariffs."

The other commodities eligible for the program include soybeans (\$1.65/bu), sorghum (\$0.86/bu), wheat (\$0.14/bu), corn (\$0.01/bu), dairy (\$0.12/cwt) and pork (\$8/head).

Celebrate Cotton Runway Show Set for September 13; Cotton Game Tickets on Sale

Friday, August 31, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

More than 40 models will strut the runway wearing the latest in cotton fashion in the fourth annual Celebrate Cotton Runway Show, scheduled for Thursday, September 13, at South Plains Mall. The show begins at 6:30 p.m.

This event is sponsored by South Plains Mall, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., the USDA-AMS Cotton and Tobacco Program,

Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, ARMtech, and Cotton Incorporated, and is open to the public.

Those in the cotton industry who want to see the Texas Tech Red Raiders take on Houston Cougars in the seventh annual Celebrate Cotton game have a special promotional code to purchase tickets. The game will be Saturday, September 15, at Jones AT&T Stadium in Lubbock. Kickoff is at 3 p.m.

Purchase your tickets 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.

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

A complete list of additional events during Cotton Game week is available at <http://www.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.

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

<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

USDA Unveils Rural e-Connectivity Webpage

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

From the USDA

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today unveiled a new webpage featuring information about the importance of rural e-Connectivity (<https://www.usda.gov/broadband>) and the ways the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing to help deploy high-speed broadband infrastructure in rural America.

"Rural high-speed broadband e-Connectivity is as important for economic development as rail, roads, bridges and airports – and as vital as the buildouts of rural telephone networks were decades ago," Perdue said. "USDA is committed to being a strong partner with rural leaders in deploying this essential infrastructure."

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Reliable and affordable high-speed internet e-Connectivity acts as a catalyst for rural prosperity by enabling efficient, modern communications between rural American households, farms, ranches, businesses, schools and health care centers. Yet, according to the Federal Communications Commission, 80 percent of the 24 million Americans who lack broadband access live in rural areas and on tribal lands.

USDA plays an important role in helping rural communities bridge this infrastructure gap through program investment, strategic partnerships and best practice implementation by investing in rural telecommunications infrastructure. This new website will provide direct access to information on our decades-long programs that offer more than \$700 million per year for modern broadband e-Connectivity in rural communities. In the coming months, USDA will almost double these longstanding programs with an additional \$600 million to expand rural broadband infrastructure in unserved rural areas and tribal lands.

As we are working to set up the new pilot program, USDA wants to hear the thoughts and needs of Americans living and doing business in rural communities. The new website includes a feedback form for the general public and interested stakeholders to provide input on the design and requirements of the new pilot program.

In April 2017, President Donald J. Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018, Secretary Perdue presented the Task Force's findings to President Trump, which included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America.

To view the report in its entirety, please view the Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity (PDF, 5.4 MB, available at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rural-prosperity-report.pdf>).

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

Upcoming Seed Cotton Program Meetings, Crop Tours and Field Days

September 4 - Seed Cotton Educational Meeting, 9 a.m., Women's Building, South Ninth and Houston Avenue, **Lamesa**. More info: Dawson County Farm Service Agency, 806-872-8371.

September 5 - Seed Cotton Educational Meeting, 1:30-4 p.m., Randall County AgriLife Extension Service located at 200 N. Brown Rd., **Canyon**. More info: Deaf Smith County FSA, 806-364-0530.

September 6 - Texas Alliance for Water Conservation Field Day, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Floyd County Unity Center, **Muncy**. No charge, lunch served, 7 CCAs available. More info: <http://www.tawc.us>

September 6 - Seed Cotton Educational Meeting, 9 a.m., Bovina XIT Recreational Building, 205 North Bovina St., **Bovina**. More info: Parmer County FSA, 806-481-3311.

September 7 - **Hockley County** Field Tour, 9 a.m., 3 mile south of FM 300 or ¾ mile north of FM 1585 on Blackgold Road. More info: Kerry Siders, EA-IPM, 806-894-3150.

September 10 - Hemphill County Mini-Ag Conference, Hemphill County Exhibition Center, Sand Sage Room, 10865 Exhibition Road, **Canadian**. Registration \$25/person and begins at 8 a.m., program 9 a.m. Lunch provided. More info: Andy Holloway, 806-323-9114, Andy.Holloway@ag.tamu.edu

September 14 - TTU Quaker Research Farm Field Day, 8 a.m.-Noon, 200 N. Quaker, just off Fourth Street and Quaker Avenue, **Lubbock**. Lunch provided. More info: Reagan Anders, 806-239-5604 or reagan.k.anders@ttu.edu

September 11 - West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute Annual Conference, 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Bayer Museum of Agriculture, **Lubbock**. \$75 registration fee before August 31, \$95 after August 31 and on-site. Lunch included. Six TDA and six CCA CEUs pending. More info: <http://wtaci.tamu.edu>.

September 11-12 - Quickbooks Pro Short Course hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 E. Farm-to-Market Road 1294 north of **Lubbock**. Registration \$150, includes computer use and teaching materials. Class size limited. More info or RSVP: DeDe Jones, 806-677-5667, dljones@ag.tamu.edu or Kim Garcia, 806-677-5600.

September 19 - Lubbock area PhytoGen/Enlist Field Day, TAMU Agrilife Research and Extension Center, and an area on-farm trial. Registration at 8:30 am, ends with lunch. More info: Ken Lege, 806-773-7310.

September 19 - Seed Cotton Educational Meeting, 9 a.m., Floyd County Friends Unity Center, **Muncy**. More info: Floyd County FSA, 806-983-3763.

September 20 - Plainview area PhytoGen/Enlist Field Day, Location TBD. Registration at 8:30 am, ends with lunch. More info: Ken Lege, 806-773-7310.

September 27 - FiberMax Field Day, location and time TBD.

If you have a meeting or conference to add to this list, please email maryjane@plainscotton.org or call (806) 792-4904.

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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