

Texas High Plains Growers Begin to Prepare for Harvest; PCG Officers Visit DC

Friday, September 7, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

It won't be long now before cotton harvesters are running on the Texas High Plains, and although the first bale hasn't yet been harvested, that is expected to come within the next few weeks.

Overall, it's certainly still safe to use the word "mixed" to describe the condition of this year's Texas High Plains cotton crop, but recent spotty rains have improved the potential in some parts of the PCG region. Attendees at PCG's Friday Morning Meeting today reported seeing the potential for up to four-bale cotton in some isolated areas. However, that is certainly the exception rather than the rule.

Some dryland cotton that was planted early and managed to survive likely will be defoliated soon. Bolls in some fields are beginning to open, some from maturity and others from bacterial blight. Weed control overall has been good, but weed management experts encourage growers to stay vigilant and on top of any emerging late-season weeds that may spread seed.

In policy-related news, PCG President Stacy Smith, Vice President Brent Nelson, Secretary Martin Stoerner, and Chairman Johnnie Reed joined Kody Bessent in Washington, DC, to make visits to several Congressional offices. The group attended the first hearing of the Farm Bill Conference Committee on Wednesday.

"Today my colleagues in the House and Senate highlighted the urgency in farm and ranch country and just how desperate times are as net farm income is slated to fall again this year," House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway said in a statement after the hearing. "While I'm pleased with progress on the farm bill – we must pick up the pace. This will all come together quickly if all four principals are willing to make meaningful compromises. I have made it very clear that I am willing to do so. We still have a lot of work to do, but I believe we can get this done on time."

USDA also announced the launch of their recently announced trade mitigation package. The sign-up period is open through January 15, 2019, and more information and instructions can be found at <http://www.farmers.gov/mfp>.

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). A payment rate, if any, 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.

Celebrate Cotton Runway Show Set for Thursday; Cotton Game Tickets on Sale

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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.

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Upcoming Seed Cotton Program Meetings, Crop Tours and Field Days

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 12 - Netafim Grower Success Day, 11 a.m., Texas Tech Research Farm, 200 N. Quaker Avenue, **Lubbock**. Topic: rodent management practices for subsurface drip irrigation systems. Lunch included, no cost, no RSVP required. More info: Craig Jones, Netafim USA, 806-782-6114, Craig.Jones@netafim.com

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. CEUs: 6 TDA, 6 CCA. 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 13 - Seed Cotton Educational Meeting, 9 a.m., Gaines County Park, Seagraves Highway, **Seminole**. More info: Gaines County FSA, 432-758-3236.

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 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, **Halfway** Texas AgriLife Experiment Station (823 West US 70, about 12 miles west of **Plainview**). Registration at 8:30 am, ends with lunch. More info: Ken Lege, (806) 773-7310.

September 27 - BASF Cotton Production Field Day, BASF Cotton Breeding Station, 1405 E. Loop 289, Lubbock. Plot Tours, Lunch and Door Prizes. Registration 9 a.m. More info: (806) 730-4400.

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

Southwest Council of Agribusiness Set to Host Annual Meeting September 21

Friday, September 7, 2018

From SWCA

The Southwest Council of Agribusiness will host their Annual Meeting on Friday, September 21, from 8:30 a.m.-Noon at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture in Lubbock.

The program includes a Farm Bill update featuring House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway, a USDA update, a trade panel, and a farm economy panel featuring Dr. Joe Outlaw.

Lunch will be served following the meeting. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Jimmy Clark at 806-790-6011 or email jimmyclark@southwest-council.com.

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

<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

NCC Develops Video Aimed at Plastic Contamination Prevention

Friday, August 31, 2018

From the National Cotton Council

The NCC, with valuable assistance from multiple industry sources, has developed a comprehensive video with educational information for the prevention of plastic contamination in seed cotton and lint.

Packages containing the educational video and suggested meeting materials will be mailed to the NCC's interest organizations and all U.S. gins during the week of September 3. The video also can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/GKnNTc3Qmxw>.

The video provides producers and ginners with best management practices to handle and process round modules - with a specific goal of preventing contamination from module wrap. Among major topics addressed in the video are: 1) taking the time to remove contaminants in the field; 2) a review of key maintenance and component adjustments on round module harvesters to ensure proper operation; 3) best practices for transporting and staging round modules in the field and at the gin yard; and 4) best practices on unwrapping/feeding round modules into the gin to avoid plastic contamination.

NCC Chairman Ron Craft, a Texas ginner, said, "the NCC is asking producers and gin managers to utilize this video to educate their employees on the importance of preventing plastic contamination and learn exactly what to look for to reduce the chances for plastic contamination in U.S. cotton. Education is the key to prevention."

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