

NASS Adjusts Texas High Plains Cotton Production Estimate for 2018 Crop

Friday, September 14, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The National Agricultural Statistics Service projects that Texas High Plains area growers will produce 3.945 million bales of upland cotton in 2018, a decrease from 2017 but close to what could be considered an average-sized crop for the area.

The September 12 NASS estimate is a 30,000-bale decrease from their August estimate of 3.975 million for the High Plains. The Northern High Plains estimate increased from 1.79 million bales in August to 1.915 million bales in September. NASS decreased slightly their estimate for the Southern High Plains from 2.185 million bales in August to 2.03 million in September.

Yield per acre decreased for the Northern High Plains, from 916 to 884 pounds. The Southern High Plains decreased from 723 pounds in August to 650 in September.

The Northern High Plains is projected to harvest 1.040 million acres, up 102,000 acres from the August report. Planted acres in the north also were adjusted slightly upward to 1.5 million acres. The Southern High Plains is expected to harvest 1.5 million acres, up slightly from 1.45 million in the August report. Abandonment rate for the High Plains region now is projected to be at about 53 percent. The long-term average is between 18 and 20 percent, and record abandonment for the area was 66 percent in 2011.

Statewide, the production number remained the same at 6.5 million bales. The nationwide estimate now for upland cotton is at 18.9 million bales, down 6 percent from 2017.

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Upcoming Seed Cotton Program Meetings, Crop Tours and Field Days

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 20 - Olton area PhytoGen/Enlist Field Day, Olton Ag Pavilion and the Synatschk's Trial. 9:30 a.m. Lunch served. More info: Michelle Harre, (806) 781-3229.

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.

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Southwest Council of Agribusiness Set to Host Annual Meeting September 21

Friday, September 14, 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, an update from FSA State Executive Director Gary Six, a trade panel, and a farm economy panel featuring Dr. Joe Outlaw.

Two special guests to the program include David Wasserman and Jim Wiesemeyer.

David Wasserman is House Editor for The Cook Political Report, where he is responsible for analyzing U.S. House Races. David is recognized as one of the nation's top election forecasters.

Jim Wiesemeyer has worked in Washington, D.C., for nearly 50 years. He writes for Pro Farmer, where he continues to cover federal policies and markets affecting agriculture.

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.

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 were 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>.