

NASS Increases 2018 Cotton Production Estimates for Texas High Plains

Friday, November 9, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates in their November Crop Production Report that Texas High Plains cotton growers will produce 4,170,000 bales in 2018. This estimate is up 5,000 bales from their October report, all from the Southern High Plains. Production estimates in the Northern High Plains remained the same, at 1,995,000 bales.

Yield per acre for the Northern High Plains stayed the same as in the October report, at 921. The Southern High Plains increased slightly from 694 pounds in October to 696 in November. Harvested acres remained the same as the October report – 1,040,000 in the NHP and 1,500,000 in the SHP. The abandonment rate remains at about 47 percent, mostly on dryland acreage.

Statewide, the production number stayed the same as October at 6.7 million bales. Slight adjustments were made in the Rolling Plains and a few other regions in Texas. The nationwide estimate for upland cotton decreased to 17.6 million bales, down from an estimated 19 million in the October report and down 13 percent from 2017. This adjustment came largely from areas in the Southeast impacted by Hurricane Michael.

Harvest is behind pace from previous years, thanks to intermittent rainfall events and partly to mostly cloudy conditions over much of the PCG service area. Some impact from rainfall is showing up in quality reports, especially in color where grades indicate some light spot. Average staple is at more than 36 for the season so far in Lubbock, and micronaire is at about 4.3. To give some perspective on harvest progress, at this point last year, the Lubbock office had classed more than 417,000 samples. In this past week's report, the Lubbock office had classed 247,886 samples.

Complete quality reports for the Lubbock, Lamesa and Abilene classing offices are available at www.plainscotton.org.

December futures were trading around 78 cents at press time.

House Committee Leadership Set to Change After Midterm Elections; Farm Bill is Priority

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The 2018 midterm elections have come and gone, and after the dust settled in races across the nation, Democrats took the majority in the House and the Republicans held the Senate.

This means that after new representatives are sworn into office in January, committee leadership likely will change on committees, including the House Agriculture Committee. If all goes as projected, Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota likely will become chairman of that committee once again.

Peterson, in various media reports, has repeatedly acknowledged the importance of completing a farm bill as soon as possible. He told DTN reporters on a conference call this week that finishing a Farm Bill is the "No. 1 goal" and said leaders are

"relatively close" to reaching compromise and completing the bill before this Congress adjourns.

"We have confidence in our House and Senate Ag Committee leaders that they can come to a consensus and send a bill to Congress for consideration soon," PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said. "We look forward to continuing our good relationship with both committees and appreciate the Members' commitment to agriculture."

Signup Deadline for Seed Cotton Program

December 7

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Elevating Efficiency Is 2019 Beltwide Cotton Conferences' Goal

Friday, November 9, 2018

From the National Cotton Council

The 2019 Beltwide Cotton Conferences, set for January 8-10 at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, La., will provide insight on current research and emerging technology – to help attendees improve production, processing and marketing efficiency.

The BWCC, coordinated by the National Cotton Council, annually brings together university and USDA researchers, Extension personnel/agents, consultants, and industry sales/support personnel.

Information on the 2019 BWCC, including registration and housing reservation instructions, is at www.cotton.org/beltwide/. The site also includes a link to BWCC proceedings from 2005-2018.

The 2019 BWCC will begin at noon on January 8 with the half-day Cotton Consultants Conference – open to all attendees. Among scheduled topics selected by the consultant community are: an expert panel of entomologists to discuss bollworm and Bt resistance; objectives of cover crop initiatives; status and new products pertaining to nematodes; the current state of integrated pest management in cotton and future considerations; the status of boll weevil eradication in the Lower Rio Grande Valley; and a product registration update.

The BWCC cotton technical conferences, which will provide updates on research and a look into the technology pipeline, will meet concurrently beginning on the morning of January 9 and conclude by noon on January 10.

Registration costs for the 2019 BWCC before December 17 are: \$200 for NCC/Cotton Foundation members, university and USDA researchers, Extension personnel, associations and consultants; \$500 for non-U.S. research, extension, associations, and consultants; \$400 for non-NCC/Foundation members; and \$80 for students.

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