

PCG Announces Additional Speakers for Annual Meeting in April

Friday, February 15, 2019 By Mary Jane Buerkle

Those interested in Texas High Plains cotton should mark their calendars for Friday, April 5, to attend the 62nd Annual Meeting of Plains Cotton Growers at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in conjunction with the Texas Cotton Ginners Association's annual trade show and convention. The meeting begins at 9 a.m.

Keynote speaker, sponsored by Farmers Cooperative Compress, is Tamar Haspel, a food and science journalist who writes the James Beard award-winning Washington Post column "Unearthed". Haspel's column covers food supply issues, including biotech, pesticides, food additives, organics, nutrition, food policy, and other related subjects. She also contributes to National Geographic, Cooking Light, Edible Cape Cod, and other publications. Haspel has spoken at the National Academy of Sciences, food and ag-related conferences, and SXSW in Austin. Haspel and her husband, Kevin Flaherty, also have an oyster farm off Cape Cod. She can be found on Twitter at @tamarhaspel.

Additional speakers include Dr. Gary Adams, President and CEO of the National Cotton Council; and Berrye Worsham, President and CEO of Cotton Incorporated. Both gentlemen will give updates on their respective organizations. Current PCG president Stacy Smith, who farms near New Home, Texas, will preside over the meeting and PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett will report on the status of PCG operations and activities. An award recognizing the 2018 High Plains Cotton Agent of the Year also will be presented at the meeting.

There is no charge to attend and no RSVP is necessary. Additional information about PCG can be found at <http://www.plainscotton.org>.

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Shawn Holladay Re-Elected American Cotton Producers Chair

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 From the National Cotton Council

Shawn Holladay of Lubbock, Texas, was re-elected as chairman of the American Cotton Producers of the National Cotton Council for 2019, during the NCC's recent Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Currently a NCC director, he

previously chaired the ACP's Farm Policy Task Force and served on various other ACP and NCC committees and task forces.

Elected as an ACP vice chairman was Lee Cromley, Brooklet, Ga. Re-elected as vice chairmen were Jason Condrey of Lake Providence, La., and Dan Thelander of Maricopa, Arizona.

Elected as an ACP producer director was Neal Isbell, Muscle Shoals, Ala., representing the Southeast region. Re-elected as ACP producer directors were: Patrick Johnson of Tunica, Miss., representing the Mid-South; Doyle Schniers of San Angelo, Texas, representing the Southwest; and Mark McKean, Riverdale, Calif.; representing the Far West. Shawn Holladay, Lubbock, Texas, was re-elected to serve as the ACP's at-large director.

Serving as ACP state producer chairmen in 2019 will be : **Alabama** – Nick McMichen, Centre; and Ricky Wiggins, Andalusia; **Arizona** – Gregory Wuertz, Casa Grande; and K.C. Gingg, Buckeye; **Arkansas** – Nathan Reed, Marianna; **California** – Gary Martin, Firebaugh; **Florida** – Nick Marshall, Baker; **Georgia** – Matt Coley, Vienna; and Chad Mathis, Jr., Arlington; **Kansas** – Kent Goyen, Pratt; **Louisiana** – Heath Herring and Russell Ratcliff, III, both of St. Joseph; **Mississippi** – Ted Kendall, IV, Bolton; **Missouri/Illinois** – Chris Porter, Essex, Mo; **New Mexico** – Dean Calvani, Carlsbad; **North Carolina** – Andrew Burleson, New London; and Rob Fleming, Jr., Zebulon; **Oklahoma** – Mark Nichols, Altus; and Phil Bohl, Faxon; **South Carolina** – William Bull, Cameron; and Daniel Baxley, Dillon; **Tennessee/Kentucky** – John Lindamood, Tiptonville, Tenn.; **Texas** – Richard Gaona, Roby; Craig Heinrich, Lubbock; and Toby Robertson, Corpus Christi; and **Virginia** – James Ferguson, Emporia.

The NCC's American Cotton Producers is an organization of cotton producer leaders elected by their peers from across the Cotton Belt. All major cotton-producing states have representation. The ACP is the producers' advocate within the NCC and has responsibility for developing recommendations on all matters affecting the cotton production sector.

NRCS Announces 2019 Deadline for Conservation Assistance Funding

Monday, February 4, 2019

From NRCS

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Texas has announced the first funding application deadline of March 15, 2019 for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. A second funding application deadline is scheduled for May 10, 2019.

Applications are taken year around for NRCS programs, but deadlines are announced to rank and fund eligible conservation projects. Producers interested in signing up for EQIP should submit applications to their local USDA service center or if already a USDA client, on-line via Conservation Client Gateway.

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EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers. Technical assistance is provided without a fee from NRCS specialists to help landowners and land managers plan and implement conservation practices to help them meet their land management goals, address natural resource concerns and improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

For additional information visit the NRCS Texas website. Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis. Producers interested in EQIP can contact their local USDA service center or visit <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

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

<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

Heat Unit Calculator, Other Updates Included in West Texas Mesonet App

Friday, February 8, 2019

From Texas Tech University

Texas weather can be as fickle as a bandwagon sports fan, changing its mind from one minute to the next. That unpredictability can leave people wondering why they even bother checking the weather in the morning.

To help combat this weather conundrum, Texas Tech University's National Wind Institute has developed the West Texas Mesonet app. The app for iOS devices was recently updated to its 2.0 version and uses information from the NWI's current 120 West Texas Mesonet stations across West Texas, eastern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado to provide precise weather and agricultural information 24/7.

"This new edition of the app provides some new information to the user, including the calculation of heat units for cotton," said John Schroeder, senior director of the NWI. "It represents a partnership with the Plains Cotton Growers and the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation, and another step forward in our continuing effort to better serve or region."

The app gives users easy access to information in plain language on temperature, wind speed, wind direction, wind gusts, pressure, dew point, soil temperatures, leaf wetness, cotton heat units, humidity and precipitation, along with weather maps based on the GPS location of a phone or tablet. It also provides daily and weekly weather forecasts from the National Weather Service.

"This new app and its predecessor are great examples of how NWI has put research to work serving the needs of diverse communities throughout the State of Texas," said Joseph Heppert, vice president for the Office of Research & Innovation. "This program provides ready access to high-quality weather data that is incredibly useful for farmers and businesses of all types."

Other additions to the 2.0 version include relative humidity, an indication of data older than 30 minutes and more.

Download the newest version of the app for Apple iOS devices in the App Store here:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/west-texas-mesonet/id1210071930?mt=8>

Download the West Texas Mesonet app for Android devices on Google Play here:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aeroperf.mesonet&hl=en>

Upcoming Area Ag Conferences and Auxin Trainings

February 20 – Auxin Training, Ag Producers Fertilizer Division, **Dalhart**

February 21 – Auxin Training, Dawson County AgriLife Extension Office, **Lamesa**

February 26 – Sandyland Crops Conference, Gaines County Civic Building, 402 NW Fifth Street, **Seminole**. CEUs offered. More info: Terry Millican, CEA-AG/NR, (432) 758-4006.

February 26 – Swisher Pre-Plant Meeting, Swisher County Show Barn, **Tulia**. More info: John Villalba, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 995-3726.

February 26 – Auxin Training, 1 p.m., Ochiltree County Expo Center, **Perryton**

February 26 – Auxin Training, Dawson County AgriLife Extension Office, **Lamesa**

February 26 – Auxin Training, 9 a.m., AgriLife Extension Office, **Morton**

February 27 – Central Plains Cotton Conference, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Community Center, 402 Second Street, **Olton**. More info: Kerry Siders, CEA-IPM, (806) 894-3150.

February 27 – Auxin Training, 2:50 p.m., Central Plains Cotton Conference, **Olton**

February 28 – Auxin Training, 9 a.m., Hockley AgriLife Extension Office, **Levelland**

February 28 – Auxin Training, Wilbur-Ellis, **Dalhart**

To see a complete list of upcoming conferences and auxin trainings, visit <http://www.plainscotton.org/agconferences.html>.

2019 PCG Seed Cost Calculator Now Available

Friday, February 15, 2019

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The 2019 version of the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. Seed Cost Calculator is ready and available for download from the PCG website at <http://www.plainscotton.org>.

The PCG seed cost calculator is an interactive Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that allows producers to calculate an estimated cost per acre, for both seed and technology, based on published suggested retail prices. The calculator has become a popular tool among producers interested in comparing seed and technology prices as they work to finalize their cotton variety selections.

The 2019 version of the spreadsheet includes recently updated listings for 120 conventional, Roundup Ready FLEX, XtendFlex, GlyTol, Bollgard II, TwinLink, Enlist and Widestrike varieties, including numerous stacked gene versions of these technologies that will be available for sale in West Texas in 2019.

Questions about the seed cost calculator can be directed to Shawn Wade at (806) 792-4904 or shawn@plainscotton.org.

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