

Adams, Worsham, Haspel Confirmed for PCG Annual Meeting April 5

Friday, March 1, 2019

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The 62nd Annual Meeting of Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., has been scheduled for Friday, April 5, in conjunction with the Texas Cotton Ginners Association's annual trade show and convention at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. Registration for the meeting begins at 8:30 and the program begins at 9 a.m.

Confirmed speakers include Dr. Gary Adams, President and CEO of the National Cotton Council; Berrye Worsham, President and CEO of Cotton Incorporated; and keynote speaker Tamar Haspel, a food and science journalist who writes the James Beard award-winning Washington Post column "Unearthed". Haspel and her husband, Kevin Flaherty, also have an oyster farm off Cape Cod. She can be found on Twitter at @tamarhaspel. The keynote speaker is sponsored by Farmers Cooperative Compress.

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. Breakfast, hosted by Deltapine, will be served before the meeting and lunch, hosted by FiberMax, will be served after 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>.

Evaluating Crop Insurance Options for Cotton: The STAX vs. SCO Decision <http://bit.ly/STAXSCO19>

PCG Staff, Officers Advocate in DC

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A delegation of PCG staff members and volunteer leaders traveled to Washington, DC earlier this week and visited with more than 30 Congressional offices and agencies, including USDA and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

The group included PCG's Steve Verett and Kody Bessent; PCG President Stacy Smith of New Home; Vice President Brent Nelson of Sudan; Secretary-Treasurer Martin Stoerner of Lockney; Chairman Johnie Reed of Kress; and PCG PAC President Craig Heinrich of Slaton.

The delegation thanked Members of Congress for their support and enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill, which maintains the recently enacted seed-cotton program, and encouraged Members and USDA to implement the farm bill as quickly as possible. They also actively voiced PCG's support of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, which would preserve the current benefits of

NAFTA and encourage continued regional integration of the cotton and textile supply chain.

Bessent said that the group was encouraged from their visit with USTR and Ambassador Lighthizer's recent remarks before the House Ways and Means Committee as negotiations between China and the United States continue. He said that cotton purchasing commitments remain a high priority for the Administration, and they expect to have substantial increases in commitments once an agreement is reached.

Most importantly, PCG emphasized with Members of Congress the current financial stress that production agriculture continues to face due to systemic low prices, and urged Congress to provide much-needed short-term financial relief until the farm bill is fully implemented.

"Visits like these are critical to helping ensure that we have direct contact with Members of Congress to talk about these key priorities for cotton producers, particularly when the discussions include producers themselves," PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said. "We appreciate everyone who took the time to meet with our group."

Photos from the week can be found on PCG's Facebook and Twitter feeds.

PCG Seed Cost Calculator is Now Available!

<http://www.plainscotton.org>

Upcoming Area Ag Conferences and Auxin Trainings

March 4 – Deaf Smith Cotton Conference, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Deaf Smith County Extension Office, 903 14th St., **Hereford**. \$10 at the door, 3 CEUs offered. More info: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Deaf Smith County, (806) 364-3573.

March 4 - Private Applicator Training, 9 a.m., Hale County AgriLife Extension Office, 225 Broadway St., **Plainview**

March 8 - Auxin Training, 9-11 a.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 E. FM 1294, **Lubbock**

March 8 - Auxin Training, 10 a.m., Hale County AgriLife Extension Office, 225 Broadway St., **Plainview**

March 15 - Auxin Training, 10 a.m., Lamb County AgriLife Extension Office, 100 6th Drive, Room B-5, **Littlefield**

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

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