

Sen. John Cornyn Joins List of Confirmed Speakers for PCG Annual Meeting April 5

Friday, March 8, 2019 By Mary Jane Buerkle
U.S. Sen. John Cornyn has been confirmed to speak at the 62nd Annual Meeting of Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., 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.

In addition to Sen. Cornyn, confirmed speakers include Dr. Gary Adams, President and CEO of the National Cotton Council; Berryne 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, and PCG and Texas Tech will make a special announcement about the 2019 Celebrate Cotton game. In separate events, 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>

New Farm Bill, Trade Topics Focus of Texas Ag Forum March 18 in Austin

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 From AgriLife TODAY
An overview of the new farm bill along with price and trade outlook on a variety of agricultural commodities will be featured at the Texas Ag Forum scheduled March 18 at the Hilton Austin Airport, 9515 Hotel Drive in Austin.

For more than 31 years, the Texas Ag Forum has increased stakeholder knowledge of policy and market issues important to Texas agricultural producers and commodity leaders by providing informative analysis, said Dr. Joe Outlaw, Texas Ag Forum secretary and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist, College Station.

"We will be covering the major changes in the new farm bill as well as a comprehensive trade outlook for both crops and livestock products," Outlaw said. "This will include a look at the sensitivity of commodity prices to changes in exports and both short and long-term views on trade and outlook for U.S. meats, grains and fibers."

Scheduled speakers include: U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kansas, update from Washington; Gary Six, Texas executive director, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency, College Station, update on Texas Farm Service Agency; Bart Fischer, deputy staff director and chief economist, U.S. House Agriculture Committee, Washington, 2018 farm bill development and details; Erin Borrer, economist, U.S. Meat Export Federation, Denver, global red meat trade and where the U.S. could expand; Lyndsey Erb, director of industry relations, U.S. Grains Council, Washington, outlook for U.S. feed grain exports; Jason Hafemeister, USDA trade counsel, USDA-Office of the Secretary, Washington, long-term view on trade prospects; and Pat Westhoff, Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute director, University of Missouri, sensitivity of commodity prices to exports.

Advanced registration is \$150 prior to March 15 and covers attendance and meals. Same day registration is \$175. Register with Christy Lewis at the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, 512-450-0555. Also register with the Agricultural and Food Policy Center, 979-845-5913. Pay by mail or in person at the event after registration. Mail payment to Agricultural and Food Policy Center, Department of Agricultural Economics, 351 AGLS Building, 2124 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-2124.

Upcoming Area Ag Conferences and Auxin Trainings

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

March 18 – Auxin Training, 9 a.m., Crosby County AgriLife Extension Office, Crosbyton

March 18 – Parmer County Ag Day, 9 a.m., XIT Building, Bovina. More info: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Parmer County, (806) 251-5120.

March 19 – Row Crop and IPM Conference, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., followed by Auxin Training, Ollie Liner Center, Plainview. More info: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Hale County, (806) 291-5267.

March 19 – Auxin Training, 9 a.m., Attebury Grain, Tulia
March 19 – Auxin Training, 3:30 p.m., Ollie Liner Center, Plainview

March 20 – Auxin Training, 3:00 p.m., Wolf Creek Heritage Museum, Lipscomb

March 21 – Auxin Training, Dawson County AgriLife Extension Office, Lamesa

March 21 – Auxin Training, 10 a.m., Deaf Smith County AgriLife Extension Office, Hereford

March 22 – Auxin Training, 10 a.m., Castro County AgriLife Extension Office, 205 N. Broadway, Dimmitt

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

PCG Seeking Denim to Recycle

Friday, March 8, 2019 By Mary Jane Buerkle
Plains Cotton Growers has become a partner with The Cotton Board, Cotton Incorporated and PhytoGen cottonseed for their denim collection drive. The drive is part of Cotton Incorporated's Blue Jeans Go Green™ program, which keeps textile waste out of landfills and helps with building efforts in communities around the country.

Those who wish to donate used denim can come by PCG between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and drop their denim in the designated box.

Since its inception in 2006, the Blue Jeans Go Green™ program has collected more than 2 million pieces of denim and more than 3.9 million square feet of insulation has been upcycled from worn denim. More than 40 Habitat for Humanity affiliates have received denim insulation and more than 1,000 tons of textile waste have been diverted from landfills.

"The collaboration with PhytoGen illustrates the full circle of U.S. cotton sustainability," Stacey Gorman, Director of Communications for The Cotton Board, said in a news release. "New seed technologies and the commitment of U.S. cotton growers continue to make sustainable production gains, while the Blue Jeans Go Green™ denim recycling program addresses end-of-product-life sustainability."

The National FFA Foundation and local FFA chapters also are involved in the drive. Additional drop-off locations are coordinated through those FFA chapters, and also at the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association's annual trade show April 4-5. If you would like to donate through your local FFA chapter, contact them for more information. Learn more about the Blue Jeans Go Green™ program at www.bluejeansgogreen.org.

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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.

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

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.

Evaluating Crop Insurance Options for Cotton: The STAX vs. SCO Decision

Friday, March 8, 2019 By Shawn Wade

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., has developed a new resource for cotton producers currently evaluating crop insurance options for 2019. With the addition of Seed Cotton as a Title One covered commodity starting in 2018 and continuing under the 2018 Farm Bill, cotton producers throughout the United States have a new dynamic to consider when determining how to structure their risk management portfolios beginning with the 2019 crop year.

A major part of this process, which involves evaluating the potential integration of multiple coverage enhancing options available through the federal crop insurance program, is the decision between the Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) or the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO). PCG's new resource focuses on this decision.

For cotton producers with Seed Cotton base acres on their farms, the Title One/crop insurance integration decision involves determining how to build their insurance coverage around the Title One protection provided by either the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) or Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) programs administered through the USDA Farm Service Agency. It is important to note that the 2018 Farm Bill imposes several restrictions, some new and some carried over from the 2014 Farm Bill, on the purchase of STAX and SCO policy endorsements on farms planted to cotton.

Beginning with the 2019 crop year STAX coverage will only be available for purchase on farms that are NOT ENROLLED in either the PLC or ARC programs for SEED COTTON through USDA FSA.

That means STAX can only be purchased on farm(s) (identified by FSA farm number) that either have ZERO Seed Cotton base or on a farm(s) where the producer decides NOT TO ENROLL seed cotton base and participate in either PLC or ARC for that production year. Because STAX is a cotton only product the combination ARC/PLC STAX restriction only applies to farms with seed cotton base eligible to participate in those programs.

Unlike STAX, SCO is ONLY available on farms ENROLLED in the PLC program with an underlying insurance policy. Any producer enrolled in the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program for an insured crop, including cotton, can purchase an SCO endorsement.

For new cotton producers or growers who have little or no farm program base for Seed Cotton, the STAX vs. SCO decision will strongly hinge on whether or not an additional layer of insurance protection is needed and which of the available insurance options best fit their risk management needs.

The document can be found here: <http://bit.ly/STAXSCO19>

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