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## **PCG Annual Meeting Scheduled for April 5**

Friday, March 22, 2019

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., is 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 U.S. Sen. John Cornyn; 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, 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>.

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## **AgriLife Extension to Host Cotton Marketing Workshop April 3 in Lubbock**

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

From AgriLife TODAY

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will sponsor a free cotton marketing workshop in Lubbock before the Texas Cotton Ginners Association, or TCGA, annual meeting and trade show.

The workshop will be from 1-4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, in rooms 107-108 of the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane.

Tony Williams, TCGA executive president, and the association are providing the workshop meeting rooms. The meeting rooms are most easily accessed from the southwest parking lot.

Coffee, water and snacks will be provided. For more information on the TCGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show, visit <http://www.tcga.org/>.

The primary workshop topics will be the best time to price your 2019 crop, cotton and grain markets outlook, pricing strategies, opportunities to improve bottom lines and opportunities in the new farm bill.

Speakers will include:

**Dr. John Robinson**, AgriLife Extension specialist in cotton marketing. Robinson has been the state cotton marketing specialist for over 17 years. His Cotton Market Outlook is available at <https://cottonmarketing.tamu.edu/>. Robinson also provides daily crop market news and commentary on Twitter at @aggie\_prof.

**Dr. Mark Welch**, AgriLife Extension economist who specializes in grain marketing. His research and Extension appointments are focused on the interests of stakeholders in the Texas grain industry. Welch writes the weekly feed grain and wheat outlook reports, which can be found at <https://agecoext.tamu.edu/resources/market-outlook/>.

**Jackie Smith**, District 2 AgriLife Extension economist, has served the farmers of the Lubbock area for over 30 years. The profitability budget spreadsheet he will discuss at the workshop may be downloaded in advance at <https://southplainsprofit.tamu.edu> Smith will discuss how to use crop budgets and how to change them to fit your operation, as well as how to determine the effect of various changes on your break-even prices and/or break-even yields.

**Kelli Merritt**, president of CropMark Select, is a licensed commodity broker, a cotton grower and serves as a link between farmers and spinning mills. A fourth-generation cotton farmer, Merritt teaches risk management to farmers and mills. He has traveled to many of the cotton spinning countries in the world, educating them about U.S. farmers. Merritt will discuss the various marketing tools that can be used to forward price cotton to take advantage of favorable prices.

**Will Keeling**, an AgriLife Extension specialist in risk management, will discuss the key components of the newest farm bill. Keeling is a member of the Financial and Risk Management (FARM) assistance team, part of AgriLife Extension's Risk Management Education Program.

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## **Building for the Future: TCGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show Set for April 4-5**

March 2019 By Tony Williams for Cotton Farming Magazine

We have seen significant growth in Texas cotton production the past several years that has contributed to the building of several new gins and the expansion of existing gin plants.

I believe this growth and increased ginning capacity means Texas will be a major player in providing quality cotton for domestic and foreign textile mills for decades to come.

On the production side, even with the challenges cotton farmers faced last year, an estimated 6.9 million bales are expected to top off 2018, resulting in another good year overall.

As TCGA President Larry Black says, "The growth of the cotton industry in Texas has been exciting to watch and be a part of."

(*"COTTON NEWS" continued on Page 2*)

The theme for this year's Texas Cotton Ginners' Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show is "Texas Cotton: Building for the Future." We thought it was appropriate to recognize that Texas truly is building for our future as a major force in the world cotton market.

The TCGA Trade Show provides a great opportunity to keep these progressive wheels in motion. It is one of the country's largest gatherings of cotton gin equipment manufacturers and other businesses that provide equipment, parts or services to the ginning industry. Visitors from all over the Cotton Belt and around the world attend the event each year.

They come to learn about the latest developments in cotton ginning and to purchase equipment or services they need at their facilities.

Full-time gin employees can gain additional knowledge — especially regarding safety — and see the latest industry developments by attending the Southwest Ginners School, April 1-3. Many gin managers allow their employees to go to the school and then attend the show at the end of the week.

Before the Annual Meeting and Trade Show kicks off, TCGA will host its annual golf tournament at Meadowbrook Golf Course on Wednesday, April 3. The show doors officially open at 9 a.m., Thursday, April 4, at the Lubbock Civic Center where more than 130 exhibitors will be on hand to inform you about their products or services. The day concludes with the "Taste of Lubbock Party" that is open to all show attendees.

On Friday, show hours are from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. During this time, Plains Cotton Growers Inc. also will hold its annual meeting from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Civic Center Banquet Hall. The day ends with TCGA's Awards Dinner and Vegas Night Celebration at the Overton Hotel.

Tickets for the Awards Dinner may be purchased at the show registration booth. Everyone is invited to the Vegas Night Celebration, and no ticket is required. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.tcga.org/>.

## 2019 PCG Seed Cost Calculator Now Available

Friday, March 22, 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](mailto:shawn@plainscotton.org).

## PCG Annual Meeting – Friday, April 5

9 a.m. • Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn • Dr. Gary Adams, NCC

Berrye Worsham, Cotton Inc.

Keynote Speaker: Tamar Haspel

Sponsored by Farmers Cooperative Compress

More info: <http://plainscotton.org>

## Upcoming Area Ag Days, Auxin Trainings

**March 26** - Auxin Training, Dawson County AgriLife Extension Office, **Lamesa**

**April 2** - Northeast Panhandle Cotton Conference, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., with an Auxin Training after lunch, Ochiltree County Expo Building, 402 Expo Drive, **Perryton**. \$10 fee, lunch provided, three CEUs in the morning and two more in the afternoon. More info: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Ochiltree County, (806) 435-4501.

**April 2** - Auxin Training, 1:00 p.m., Ochiltree County Expo Center, **Perryton**

**April 5** - Auxin Training, 10 a.m., Hale County AgriLife Extension Office, 225 Broadway St #6, **Plainview**

**April 10** - Auxin Training, 9:30 a.m., Mallet Event Center, **Levelland**

**April 12** - Auxin Training, 9-11 a.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 E. FM 1294, **Lubbock**

**April 12** - Auxin Training, 10 a.m., Lamb County AgriLife Extension Office, 100 6th Drive, Room B-5, **Littlefield**

**April 19** - Auxin Training, 10 a.m., Castro County AgriLife Extension Office, 205 N. Broadway, **Dimmitt**

**April 26** - Auxin Training, 10 a.m., Hale County AgriLife Extension Office, 225 Broadway St #6, **Plainview**

**May 3** - Auxin Training, 10 a.m., Lamb County AgriLife Extension Office, 100 6th Drive, Room B-5, **Littlefield**

**May 10** - Auxin Training, 9-11 a.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 E. FM 1294, **Lubbock**

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

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### 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](mailto:editor@plainscotton.org)