

Rainfall, Severe Weather Continue to Impede Planting

Friday, May 31, 2019

By Mary Jane Buerkle

With only hours left on the clock before the region's first final planting date comes to a close, it is apparent that thanks to Mother Nature, some growers will not have as many cotton acres as they had originally planned, especially in the northern part of the PCG service area.

Torrential rainfall and flooding washed out fields and roads in several counties earlier this week, and hail and high winds also impacted some acreage. Weather forecasts for the next seven days show chances for additional rainfall, which would further hinder planting efforts, especially in the central parts of the PCG service area where the final planting date is Wednesday, June 5.

If the rain lets up and fields dry out, some growers may elect to plant into the seven-day late planting period, but others may choose to go with another crop altogether, such as grain sorghum, sunflowers, or corn. Several growers already have replanted cotton once due to hail and wind damage.

Further south and east, growers have a little more time – June 10 and off the Caprock, June 20 – but any additional rainfall will create challenges for them as well.

Eastern Lubbock and Crosby County took the brunt of the flooding earlier this week, with more than seven inches of rain falling in one afternoon in some areas.

In Spearman, PCG board member Quentin Shieldknight said his family planted 3,000 acres of irrigated cotton, and they likely will lose it all.

"We've had 16 inches of rain in a month – an inch away from our annual rainfall," Shieldknight said, noting that hail has accompanied many of the rainfall events. "We're seeing a lot of disease...just too much water for too long, and we can't get the crop started. Even those who have had cotton up for a week or two...it's starting to suffer."

Another four to six inches of rain is in the forecast for the northern Panhandle in the next week, Shieldknight said.

"We're just running out of time to get anything in," he said. "We're so unsure of what's going to happen until it absolutely quits raining, so it's hard to make a decision on what to do."

"My dad's farmed here for 55 years and he's never had (a spring) like this," Shieldknight said.

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Save The Date!

Celebrate Cotton

Saturday, September 7

Texas Tech v. UTEP

7 p.m.

Cotton Industry Seeks Volunteer Leaders

Friday, May 31, 2019

By Shawn Wade

The success of the High Plains cotton industry, like any group effort, is directly tied to the willingness of qualified individuals to volunteer to serve in various leadership positions. To identify these volunteers, the High Plains cotton industry caucuses each year with other cotton groups within Texas to identify producers interested in serving as a volunteer leader.

PCG encourages all qualified individuals interested in representing the High Plains as a representative to the Cotton Board, National Cotton Council, or Cotton Incorporated to contact PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett for more information.

Each year, a variety of volunteer positions within the NCC and Cotton Incorporated are filled directly through the industry's caucus process. In addition to naming representatives to the NCC and Cotton Incorporated, PCG and the Texas cotton industry also work together to identify and nominate qualified individuals to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for possible appointment as a Member or Alternate on the Cotton Board.

Qualified individuals interested in serving on the Cotton Board, which oversees the highly successful U.S. Cotton Research & Promotion Program, also are encouraged to contact Verett at the PCG office in Lubbock to request additional information. PCG's telephone number is 806-792-4904.

To be a qualified producer nominee for the Cotton Board, an individual should be actively engaged in cotton production at the time of nomination, be committed to the mission of the Cotton Board and the Cotton Research and Promotion Program and have demonstrated leadership skills and experience.

"Whether it is a nomination to serve on the Cotton Board or appointment to a leadership position within the National Cotton Council or Cotton Incorporated, the membership of Plains Cotton Growers has proven to be fertile ground for leaders within our industry," Verett said. "Our industry owes much to the dedicated men and women who step forward to serve their fellow producers. We look forward to extending that tradition of leadership in the years ahead."

Editor's Note: The Cotton Board seeks to promote diversity and ensure equal opportunity and inclusion for all those who qualify for nomination and appointment to the Cotton Board regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, disability, socio-economic status, religion or sexual orientation.