PCG COTTON News
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Dr. Gaylon Morgan Joins Cotton Incorporated Staff as Research Director

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 From The Cotton Board

Cotton Incorporated has announced that Dr. Gaylon Morgan has joined its staff as Research Director, Agricultural & Environmental Research. In this role, Dr. Morgan will focus on weed and weed management research. A recognized expert in this area, Dr. Morgan joins the company at time when such expertise is most needed. Weed control and emerging diseases are the top two threats that face the U.S. cotton industry, and the research needed to address these threats continues to demand increased attention.

Dr. Morgan's research on cotton agronomy, weeds, and diseases has been published and referred to extensively in numerous scholarly reports and industry publications. He has also participated in various conferences, webinars, and lectures during his professional career. Dr. Morgan was honored as the Beltwide Cotton Specialist of the Year in 2016 by Bayer Crop Sciences and is also a three-time recipient of the Superior Service Award by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

"Gaylon is among the most knowledgeable and dedicated researchers on cotton agronomy, diseases and weed threats to the commodity," says Dr. Kater Hake, Vice President of the Cotton Incorporated Agricultural & Environmental Research Division. "We welcome him as both a colleague and as a strategist to combat a number of current weed, disease and production cost threats to cotton."

Before joining Cotton Incorporated, Dr. Morgan worked as a Professor and State Extension Cotton Specialist in the Department of Soil & Crop Sciences at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M University. He holds a Master of Science in Agronomy from Texas A&M University and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Horticulture/Plant Pathology from University of Wisconsin.

AgriLife Extension
Hailout/Replant/Late Plant Guide
Available at https://tinyurl.com/yybmpbbo

North Plains Water District, AgriLife Extension Promote Cotton Education

Friday, June 7, 2019 By Kay Ledbetter, AgriLife TODAY

"Cotton & Conservation" is the title of a new series of videos being developed by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and North Plains Groundwater Conservation District.

Dr. Jourdan Bell, AgriLife Extension agronomist in Amarillo, said she is excited about this new partnership that will report on cotton development and irrigation conservation at demonstration sites throughout the water district.

"We'll use the video series to describe the growth stage of the cotton, any insect or disease pressure and report on irrigation, soil moisture and any management variables," said Kirk Welch, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District assistant general manager, public outreach, Dumas. "This will help producers in the North Plains better manage their cotton in hopes of saving water while maintaining or increasing yield."

The weekly video series will be posted on the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Cotton and Conservation web page, https://northplainsgcd.org/cotton.

The total planted cotton acreage across the eight counties that comprise the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District has increased approximately 283,000 acres from 2013 to 2018. Of that, the irrigated cotton acreage has increased from 46,557 to 250,221 acres during this five-year period.

Bell said as cotton acreage has expanded into the northwestern corner of the Panhandle, it is important to account for weekly development of the cotton crop and evaluate the accumulation of growing degree days with respect to key growth stages for the region.

"What we have seen as cotton has progressed further north is that the development does not necessarily agree with growing-degree calendars from other cotton-producing regions," she said.

Growing degree day accumulation and the cotton plant development is a standard across the globe for cotton, Bell said, because heat drives the development of the cotton plant.

To help producers stay on top of their crop, Bell created an accounting process for AgriLife Extension agents to record plant development and field conditions over each week at the six locations. Weather stations were set up at each location to monitor the daily temperatures.

Helping provide information for the project will be AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agents Scott Strawn, Ochiltree; Mike Bragg, Dallam and Hartley; Marcel Fischbacher, Moore; Kristy Slough, Hutchinson; J.R. Sprague, Lipscomb; and a regional agronomy agent covering Dallam, Hartley, Sherman and Moore counties.

"This is a great opportunity to increase educational programming in cotton irrigation management as regional groundwater levels decline across the Texas Panhandle," Bell said. "Where producers may be unable to meet the water demand for many crops, cotton is a viable alternative for northern Texas Panhandle irrigated acres."

Due to variable precipitation patterns, irrigation is necessary to stabilize and optimize cotton production as with other irrigated crops, she said, but because cotton is drought-tolerant, it is poised to increase on dryland acres as seen in recent years.

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Management strategies vary between irrigated and dryland production systems, so this educational programming can help increase profitability on dryland acres and allow producers to concentrate irrigation supplies to enhance the profitability of irrigated acreage, Bell said.

Since the northern Texas Panhandle is a short-season cotton production region, variety selection is a critical decision. Texas A&M AgriLife currently has five Replicated Agronomic Cotton Evaluations, or RACE variety trials, across the water district coordinated by Bell.

These provide an unbiased evaluation of key varieties positioned for the Texas Panhandle region under different environmental and management systems. These trials evaluate not only the yield potential of top varieties but also variety stability.

"The 2019 results will be especially important because we are able to evaluate cotton development under unfavorable planting conditions," Bell said.

She explained the abundant rains and standing water have caused planting and seeding issues. These unfavorable conditions have already caused the loss of the planned field sites in Hutchinson and Ochiltree counties.

"These varieties have a shorter bloom period and are generally more determinant than full-season varieties," she said. "As a result, earlier maturing varieties are often unable to recover from in-season stress, so monitoring their environment, available heat units and water needs is key to helping producers make educated decisions in their cotton production moving forward."

RMA Announces Change to Haying and Grazing Date for Prevented Planting Acres Planted to a Cover Crop

Thursday, June 20, 2019 From USDA RMA

Farmers who planted cover crops on prevented plant acres will be permitted to hay, graze or chop those fields earlier than November this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today. USDA's Risk Management Agency adjusted the 2019 final haying and grazing date from November 1 to September 1 to help farmers who were prevented from planting because of flooding and excess rainfall this spring.

"We recognize farmers were greatly impacted by some of the unprecedented flooding and excessive rain this spring, and we made this one-year adjustment to help farmers with the tough decisions they are facing this year," said Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey. "This change will make good stewardship of the land easier to accomplish while also providing an opportunity to ensure quality forage is available for livestock this fall."

RMA has also determined that silage, haylage and baleage should be treated in the same manner as haying and grazing for this year. Producers can hay, graze or cut cover crops for silage, haylage or baleage on prevented plant acres on or after September 1 and still maintain eligibility for their full 2019 prevented planting indemnity.

"These adjustments have been made for 2019 only," said RMA Administrator Martin Barbre. "RMA will evaluate the prudence of a permanent adjustment moving forward."

Other USDA agencies are also assisting producers with delayed or prevented planting. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is extending the deadline to report prevented plant acres in select counties, and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is holding special sign-ups for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program in certain states to help with planting cover crops on impacted lands. Contact your local FSA and NRCS offices to learn more.

Enrollment Open for Texas International Cotton School

Friday, June 21, 2019 From Texas International Cotton School

Registration remains open for the 39th session of the Texas International Cotton School, scheduled for August 5-15, 2019, in Lubbock.

The Texas International Cotton School is uniquely structured to provide an integrated understanding of the Texas cotton industry and how it interacts with the global cotton/textile complex. The intensive two-week program covers all aspects of cotton, from the field to the fabric. Since its inception, the school has been a collaboration between the Texas cotton merchants who make up the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the faculty and staff of the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute of Texas Tech University.

"Our planning committee works diligently to ensure that our curriculum not only includes the fundamentals of the cotton industry, but also examines the latest issues and advancements," Lubbock Cotton Exchange President Beau Stephenson said.

During the two weeks of the school, more than 30 experts from across the United States teach the students, who learn about the cotton marketing chain – including seed breeding, farm production, harvesting, ginning, warehousing, merchandising, and textile manufacturing. All aspects of U.S. and global trade of cotton are covered, so the students obtain an understanding of what is required to successfully participate in the U.S. cotton market and to deliver the cottons needed in diverse export markets. They learn about the important quality attributes of cotton fibers and how these translate into processing efficiency and textile product quality. Throughout the program, students have repeated opportunities to interact with the cotton merchants of the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the fiber and textile experts of Texas Tech University.

For more information, including tuition and curriculum, visit *http://www.texasintlcottonschool.com*.

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