

USDA-NASS: Cotton Acreage Down From 2018

Friday, July 5, 2019

By Mary Jane Buerkle

At survey time, Texas farmers were on track to plant 7.15 million acres of upland cotton this year, according to acreage estimates released late last week from the National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is a 7.7 percent decrease from 7.75 million acres in 2018.

Nationwide, growers are estimated to have planted 13.4 million acres of upland cotton, down 3 percent from 2018. This means that Texas growers planted more than half of the nation's acreage.

However, it's important to note that these numbers are based primarily on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of June, and since then, excessive rainfall and severe weather have forced many cotton growers to shift to other crops or not plant anything at all for now on some acreage. PCG reported a few weeks ago that the northern Texas Panhandle is an area that likely will have a significant decrease in cotton acreage due to flooded fields and storm damage, and other parts of the PCG service area are in similar situations.

Some cotton is blooming, but the region likely will not be in full bloom for another couple of weeks, especially considering acreage that was replanted to cotton, in some cases twice.

"As usual, the condition of this crop is mixed across the PCG service area," PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said, noting that it still is too early to estimate abandonment for the region. "There is some excellent cotton out there, and there's some that's struggling, and everything in between. We are, however, grateful for the abundant sunshine over the past couple of weeks that has given a lot of this cotton a good jump start, and we are hopeful we can get some timely rainfall that will carry it through to a successful harvest."

AgriLife Extension

Hailout/Replant/Late Plant Guide

Available at <https://tinyurl.com/ybmbpbo>

Texas Tech, USDA Sign Historic Agreement Bringing Cotton Classing Facility to Campus

Monday, July 1, 2019 By George Watson, Texas Tech Media

Texas Tech University President Lawrence Schovanec and United States Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Greg Ibach today (July 1) signed a historic cooperative agreement that will move Lubbock's current cotton classing facility to campus.

The agreement between Texas Tech and the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Cotton and Tobacco (C&T) Program will establish a new cotton classing facility north of Fourth

Street on Texas Tech Parkway, across from the Rawls Golf Course. It will be the first collaboration on a cotton classing facility between the C&T Program and an institution of higher learning.

"When Texas Tech was established, its mission emphasized service and engagement with the agricultural industry in West Texas. That commitment continues today, and this agreement represents an opportunity to expand our service to the agricultural industry," Schovanec said. "The USDA's cotton classing facility will bring together agricultural and research communities in a collaborative partnership to strengthen the cotton industry that is so critical to West Texas and the state."

The current facility, located at 4316 Ironton Ave., is one of several across the U.S. that measures and classifies cotton by its specific physical attributes, which enables the cotton to be marketed by producers and gives precise information to consumers regarding the cotton fibers. This allows it to be used in the most optimized way to produce top-quality cotton products.

The USDA hopes the new agreement will provide a collaborative model to cultivate the long-standing partnership between the USDA and Texas Tech and benefit the cotton industry on the South Plains, the national cotton industry and the university.

"This agreement is the first of its kind for USDA, and we are excited to establish this partnership with Texas Tech University," Ibach said. "The new on-campus, state-of-the-art cotton classing facility will present a unique opportunity to enhance student education, expand access to cotton-related research and provide potential employment for both undergraduate and post-graduate students. The agreement provides a model for collaboration between USDA and Texas Tech to cultivate a long-standing partnership that will benefit the Lubbock area cotton industry, the university, the surrounding community and the U.S. cotton industry."

According to the USDA, the Lubbock cotton classing facility is one of the largest in the U.S. and the world, routinely classifying approximately 20 percent of the U.S. cotton crop. It tests an average of 3-4 million cotton samples annually. With the new facility, it is estimated the Lubbock cotton classing facility will be able to classify up to 5 million cotton samples per year.

Texas Tech is a world leader in cotton research, mostly in seed and fiber development. Led by the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute (FBRI) within the Department of Plant and Soil Science, the work by researchers at the FBRI has led to the development of better cotton through the introduction of new genetic information as well as construction of a custom-built micro-gin that mimics full-sized gins, giving researchers a better understanding of what cotton goes through in the ginning process.

The partnership will provide students and researchers enhanced education and research opportunities in developing fiber measurement technology, automation and robotics, fiber phenomics, prototyping and calibration and for testing of new instruments and technology.

("COTTON NEWS" continued on Page 2)

Texas Tech researchers are considered some of the world's leading experts on cotton, from department chairman Eric Hequet, who has performed extensive research in the areas of cotton breeding and biotechnology that improve cotton fiber properties, to Darren Hudson, a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, who performs cotton and market-related analysis that is used to help establish cotton prices and protections for farmers.

The addition of the cotton classing facility to the Texas Tech campus will not only enhance the quality of research performed by experts and the level of education received by students, but also provide a more prominent and centralized location for cotton classification operations and allow for more collaborative research opportunities between C&T and Texas Tech. It also will provide students more internship and employment opportunities.

The agreement signing was attended by U.S. Reps. Jodey Arrington, who represents the 19th district, including Lubbock, and serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, and Mike Conaway, who represents the 11th district, including Midland, Odessa and San Angelo and who serves as the ranking member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

(PCG EDITOR'S NOTE: See more about this historic event in an article and video by Shelley Huguley at Southwest Farm Press, found at <https://www.farmprogress.com/cotton/texas-tech-usda-sign-historic-agreement>, in which PCG President Stacy Smith discusses the significance of having a new classing office in Lubbock.)

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.texasintlottonschool.com>.

Want the facts about the U.S. agriculture and farm policy?
<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

WHAT'S NEW IN COTTON™ Unveiled at Taiwan Cotton Day

June 2019

From Cotton Council International

Cotton Council International (CCI) promoted innovation in U.S. cotton to mills, fabric manufacturers and brand/retailer licensees at Cotton Day in Taiwan, positioning U.S. cotton as the best choice for Taiwanese textile industries. Themed WHAT'S NEW IN COTTON™, Cotton Day brought together 182 attendees, including current and potential COTTON USA licensees throughout the supply chain.

A post-event survey of attendees showed that spinners in Taiwan will increase their purchases of U.S. cotton in 2019. CCI also recruited five new brands to the COTTON USA™ licensing program after the event: Gildan, Anvil, Comfort Colors, American Apparel and Alstyle.

CCI showed COTTON USA's commitment to innovation through a WHAT'S NEW IN COTTON™ display of garments and home textile products featuring traceability, recovery wear, digital printing and antimicrobial technologies. The innovative display inspired attendees see the potential of U.S. cotton.

COTTON USA licensees Far Eastern New Century, Nien Hsing Textile, Tai Yuen Textile and Tah Tong Textile provided innovative fabrics for a famous designer, Mr. Justin Chou, to design fashionable and comfortable U.S. cotton-rich outfits. COTTON USA bed linen brand "Yvonne Collection" and Weavism men's wear showcased products made of collagen and cotton.

Spokesperson Cindy Yen performed a COTTON USA theme song at the event, followed by U.S. cotton industry presentations by CCI Executive Director Bruce Atherley, Carlos Garcia of Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, Marshall Hardwick of Hardwick Planting Co. and textile expert Roger Gilmartin.

According to the Taiwan Spinners' Association, the United States was the largest supplier of raw cotton to Taiwan in 2018, providing 77.4% of the total imports by volume, followed by India (7.4%) and Brazil (6.1%).

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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.

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