

NASS Adjusts Texas High Plains Cotton Production Estimate for 2019 Crop

Friday, September 13, 2019

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The National Agricultural Statistics Service projects that Texas High Plains area growers will produce 4.65 million bales of upland cotton in 2019, an 18 percent increase from 2018 and above the area's overall average.

The September 12 NASS estimate is a 280,000-bale decrease from their August estimate of 4.93 million for the High Plains. The Northern High Plains estimate decreased from 1.385 million bales in August to 1.175 million bales in September. NASS decreased slightly their estimate for the Southern High Plains from 3.545 million bales in August to 3.475 million in September.

Yield per acre decreased for the Northern High Plains, from 831 to 742 pounds. The Southern High Plains increased very slightly from 601 pounds in August to 602 in September.

The Northern High Plains is projected to harvest 760,000 acres, down 58,000 acres from the August report. Planted acres in the north also were adjusted slightly downward to 1.255 million acres. The Southern High Plains is expected to harvest 2.77 million acres, down slightly from 2.83 million in the August report. Abandonment rate for the High Plains region is projected to be at about 17 percent. The long-term average is between 18 and 20 percent.

Statewide, the production number decreased slightly to 8 million bales. The nationwide estimate for upland cotton production is 21.1 million bales, down 3 percent from August but up 20 percent from 2018.

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Southwest Council of Agribusiness Sets Annual Meeting for September 22-23 in Austin

Friday, September 13, 2019

From SWCA

The Southwest Council of Agribusiness has scheduled their Annual Meeting for September 22 and 23 at the historic Intercontinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel in Austin.

The event begins with a reception from 5-7 p.m. September 22 and the forum will be from 8 a.m. until noon on September 23. Speakers include Ray Starling, former USDA Chief of Staff and Advisor to President Donald Trump; U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela, who serves as the House Agriculture Committee's General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee Chairman; U.S. Reps. Salud Carbajal, TJ Cox, and Jimmy

Gomez; Matt Schertz, House Ag Committee Minority Staff Director; and Drs. Joe Outlaw and Bart Fischer, co-directors of the Agricultural and Food Policy Center.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact SWCA Executive Director Jimmy Clark at 806-790-6011 or jimmyclark@southwest-council.com. To book a room, call the historic Intercontinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel at 512-457-8800.

NCC to Conduct Farm Law Educational Webinars

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 From the National Cotton Council

Now that sign-up for the 2018 farm law has begun, National Cotton Council staff will be conducting farm law education webinars. The dates and times (all Central) are:

Thursday, September 19, 8:00 am

Monday, September 23, 8:00 am

Wednesday, September 25, 8:00 am

Thursday, September 26, 10:00 am

All cotton industry members and other interested parties are urged to participate and access this timely information. Organizations or individuals also are encouraged to relay this information to their respective financial institutions and other agri-businesses. All webinars will cover the same information on Seed Cotton ARC/PLC election, 2019 and 2020 crop enrollment, marketing loan provisions, program eligibility provisions and the Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills.

Any questions can be forwarded to the NCC office or the appropriate NCC Member Services representative.

For this webinar, guests will need to use **Zoom** software. To connect, click <https://cotton.zoom.us/j/589146147>. (If this is your first experience with the Zoom software, you will be prompted to download the Zoom client). Please include your personal email address. Also, if you are hosting a group session, when prompted, please provide the number of participants. *If you have difficulty joining the webinar, email Michelle Huffman at mhuffman@cotton.org or Shawn Boyd at sboyd@cotton.org for assistance.*

Please note that all audio will be through your computer, tablet or smartphone as there is no conference line audio provided. Participants will be unable to verbally ask questions. All questions will be submitted electronically via Zoom client and answered orally by the presenter. An electronic version of the PowerPoint presentation will be available prior to the webinar at the NCC's website in the 2018 Farm Bill portal (Members Only).

In addition to the webinars, the NCC continues to update resources at <http://www.cotton.org/issues/2018/fminfo.cfm>. A list of frequently asked questions and answers will be posted following the webinars along with a series of short YouTube videos focusing on specific provisions of the 2018 farm law.

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Upcoming Field Days and Crop Tours

September 16 - Texas Tech Quaker Farm Field Day, Registration 9:00 a.m., Tours 10:00 a.m. Texas Tech Quaker Farm, northwest corner of Quaker Avenue and Fourth Street in **Lubbock**. Catered lunch to follow. More information: Reagan Anders, 806-239-5604 or reagan.k.anders@ttu.edu.

September 18 - NexGen Field Day, 10:30 a.m., Texas Tech Quaker Farm, northwest corner of Quaker Avenue and Fourth Street in Lubbock. Catered lunch to follow. More information: contact your local NexGen rep or call Americot at 806-793-1431.

September 24 - Crop Tour and Cotton Boll Golf Scramble, 8 a.m., G.C. Broughton Jr. Ag Complex on the Howard College campus at 2411 Echols St., Big Spring. Golf scramble at Big Spring Country Club to follow lunch. More information: Tommy Yeater, CEA-Ag/NR, 432-264-2236, 432-466-3131 or [t.yeater@tamu.edu](mailto:tyeater@tamu.edu).

September 26 - BASF Cotton Product Field Day - 9 a.m., BASF Cotton Breeding Station, 1405 SE Loop 289, Lubbock. More information: contact your local BASF rep.

October 3 - PhytoGen Field Day – Registration 8:30 a.m., 9 a.m., start at Texas Tech Quaker Farm before moving to Vardeman Farms on FM 1585. Catered lunch to follow. More information: Kassadi Rinehart, 806-680-4158, Ken Lege, 806-773-7310, or Gary Sanders, 806-777-4534.

October 10 - Deltapine Field Day - 10 a.m.-Noon, Nichols Farm, 701 FM 181, Seminole. More information: Eric Best, (806) 790-4646.

Want the facts about the U.S. agriculture and farm policy?

<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

2020 Beltwide Cotton Conferences Providing Insight on Latest Research, Innovative Technology

August 2019 From the National Cotton Council
 The 2020 Beltwide Cotton Conferences, set for January 8-10 at the JW Marriott in Austin, Texas, will update attendees on the latest research and technology.

The BWCC, coordinated by the National Cotton Council, annually brings together university and USDA researchers, extension personnel/agents, consultants, and industry sales/support personnel. The forum helps U.S. cotton industry members tailor new products and production/processing systems to their operations for maximum efficiency.

Beginning on September 17, attendees may register and secure housing at the BWCC's website, www.cotton.org/beltwide/. That site, which includes a link to BWCC proceedings from 2005-2019, will be updated with the 2020 BWCC program and other information.

The 2020 BWCC will begin at noon on January 8 with the half-day Cotton Consultants Conference – open to all attendees. Among topics selected by the consultant community for consideration on the 2020 program are: an expert panel of entomologists to discuss timely topics ranging from Bt resistance to results of testing Bollgard 4. Among other key issues receiving a focus will be water restrictions, including the status of aquifers

across the Cotton Belt; an update on precision agriculture technology; a discussion of EPA's role in the plant protection chemicals' review and registration processes; and a briefing on a multi-state potash study.

The 10 BWCC cotton technical conferences, which will provide updates on research and current/emerging technology, will meet concurrently beginning on the morning of January 9 and conclude by noon on January 10.

The Engineering-Systems Conference, for example, will feature presentations on sustainability and contamination prevention while the Economics Conference will cover such topics as crop insurance, disaster assistance and trade. The Ginning Conference will continue to provide a focus on efficient processing/maintaining quality fiber along with updates regarding ongoing ginning research, ginning efficiencies, new equipment, and lint contamination prevention/research.

Beginning on the afternoon of January 8, multiple committees of the National Cotton Ginners Association will hold meetings. A schedule of those meetings will be posted at www.cotton.org/ncga/index.cfm.

Among other topics to be covered in the technical sessions are results from breeding and variety trials, research looking at the relationship between plants and water; and cotton's competitive advantage over synthetic fabrics.

Registration costs for the 2020 BWCC before December 16 are: \$200 for NCC/Cotton Foundation members, university and USDA researchers, extension personnel, associations and consultants; \$500 for non-U.S. research, extension, associations, and consultants; \$400 for non-NCC/Foundation members; and \$80 for students. On-site conference self-registration kiosks will be available 24 hours a day beginning on the evening of January 7. Beginning on the morning of January 8, NCC staff will be available for attendees needing assistance with registration and name badge printing.

NCC: WOTUS Rule Withdrawal Is Right Decision

Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019 From the National Cotton Council
 The National Cotton Council applauds today's announcement by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler that the 2015 Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule has been withdrawn. The next step will be a new final rule expected towards the end of this year.

NCC Chairman Mike Tate noted that the U.S. cotton industry has long sought consistency and simplicity in water regulations and said, "EPA's decision ends the uncertainty caused by the WOTUS rule and the resulting, sometimes conflicting, court verdicts that led to a patchwork of regulations nationwide."

Tate, an Alabama cotton producer, stated, "Cotton producers and all of agriculture deserve a commonsense and understandable rule that not only ensures environmental and human health but protects farmland and our rights to conduct our operations in a responsible and economically sustainable manner with flexibility that wasn't present under the 2015 rule. While nothing is perfect, we foresee the new rule as one that does not label as 'waters of the U.S.' those vast areas of dry land that have been farmed for generations."

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)