

## Cotton Harvest Begins; Potential Delays Loom

Friday, September 27, 2019

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Rainfall over the past week slightly delayed some producers looking to defoliate cotton, and with chances of rain in the forecast over the next week, those delays may continue.

Only a handful of gins have started operating for the 2019 crop. Some cotton has been harvested, but overall progress percentage is in the single digits across the Texas High Plains.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension released two videos a few years ago about cotton harvest aids. Those are available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMZPaHYzybw&t> and at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fb0f7ZzPoI4&t>.

It remains too early to tell how close yields will be to the most recent National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates. Although additional rainfall won't impact the development of more bolls on the stalk, it could help fill out bolls that have not yet opened.

"Depending on weather, we expect cotton harvest to be in full swing in the next few weeks," PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said. "However, additional rainfall will cause delays in harvest and in ginning."

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## Major U.S. Cotton Customers to See Their Raw Fiber Source Firsthand

Monday, September 16, 2019 From Cotton Council International

Textile manufacturing executives representing 14 countries will visit the U.S. Cotton Belt September 30-October 4 on the 41st COTTON USA Orientation Tour.

Sponsored by Cotton Council International, the export promotions arm of the Memphis-based National Cotton Council (NCC), the Orientation Tour's major objectives are to increase U.S. cotton customers' awareness of the types/qualities of U.S. cotton, help them gain a better understanding of U.S. marketing practices and enhance their relationships with U.S. exporters. More than 900 textile executives from 60 plus countries have participated in this biennial Tour, which was initiated in 1968.

"We want to show these important U.S. cotton customers the source of the high quality, responsibly-produced fiber they use in their textile operations," said CCI President Hank Reichle, a Mississippi cooperative executive. "We also want to showcase how intently focused our industry is on sustainability and the degree to which we are committed and invested in continuous improvement in our production practices. Hopefully, they will

come away with an even better appreciation of our fiber's premium value and how it can make their textile operations more competitive."

This year's Orientation Tour includes executives representing 32 companies in Bangladesh, China, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Peru, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. The manufacturers are expected to consume about 3.7 million bales in 2019, and the U.S. market share with them is estimated at about 33 percent. The countries represented on this year's tour consume about 101 million cotton bales per year in their textile mills, which represents about 82 percent of the world's cotton consumption.

The Tour participants will visit a Mid-South cotton farm; tour a cotton warehouse in the Dallas, Texas area; observe cotton research in North Carolina and Mississippi, and tour the USDA cotton classing office in Bartlett, Tennessee. They will meet with U.S. cotton exporters and get briefings from CCI, NCC, Cotton Incorporated, American Cotton Shippers Association, Texas Cotton Association, Lubbock Cotton Exchange, AMCOT, American Cotton Producers, Delta Council, Plains Cotton Growers, Western Cotton Shippers Association and Supima.

## Upcoming Field Days and Crop Tours

**October 2** - PhytoGen Crosby County Field Day – 9 a.m., Gene Chappell farm, six miles north of Crosbyton at FM 651/FM 1471 intersection. More information: Kassadi Rinehart, 806-680-4158, or Ken Lege, 806-773-7310.

**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.

**October 17** - PhytoGen Terry County Field Day – start time TBD, Matt Hogue farm, State Highway 137 and CR 430 (across from Terry County Show Barn). More information: Michelle Harre, 806-781-3229, or Ken Lege, 806-773-7310.

To submit information about an upcoming field day or crop tour, please email [maryjane@plainscotton.org](mailto:maryjane@plainscotton.org).

## Blue Jeans Go Green™ Program and PhytoGen Renew Collaboration for 2020

Thursday, September 26, 2019

From The Cotton Board

Building on a successful first year, PhytoGen®, the U.S. cottonseed brand of Corteva Agriscience, will again team with Cotton Incorporated's Blue Jeans Go Green™ denim recycling program for 2020. PhytoGen will again organize denim collection drives at industry events across the Cotton Belt to help promote cotton's sustainability and reduce textile waste.

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In early 2019, PhytoGen became the first cottonseed company to collaborate with the Blue Jeans Go Green™ program, an initiative that upcycles denim garments into premium housing insulation and keeps denim out of landfills. PhytoGen collected 7,412 items through donation drives at cotton industry events and company locations in 2019.

“By teaming with PhytoGen, we are showcasing how the Blue Jeans Go Green™ program helps to close the loop on cotton sustainability. It also engages consumers in the process and creates an opportunity to highlight the environmental gains the industry is making,” said Andrea Samber, co-director, Strategic Alliances at Cotton Incorporated.

Local FFA and 4-H chapters participated by collecting denim in their communities. PhytoGen presented \$1,500 to the chapters donating the most denim items at each PhytoGen Blue Jeans Go Green™ program drive. The winning chapters were Star City FFA (Arkansas), Olton FFA (Texas), Thomas County Middle FFA (Georgia) and La Paz 4-H (Arizona).

PhytoGen Brand Manager Derek Racca said the collaboration between PhytoGen and the Blue Jeans Go Green™ program, combined with local FFA and 4-H chapter involvement, helped raise awareness of cotton and laid the foundation for greater success next year.

“PhytoGen is excited to again join with the Cotton Incorporated Blue Jeans Go Green™ program in support of this important sustainability initiative,” Racca said. “Thanks to the participation of local FFA and 4-H chapters, denim will be recycled and put to good use as home insulation, with a portion being distributed to charitable organizations. It’s rewarding for PhytoGen to be involved with an initiative that supports cotton-growing communities and promotes cotton’s endurance.”

Hank King, PhytoGen General Manager, said the Blue Jeans Go Green™ program fits well with the overarching mission of PhytoGen and Corteva Agriscience.

“Our goal is to enrich the lives of those who produce as well as those who consume, ensuring progress for generations to come,” King said. “Working with Cotton Incorporated’s Blue Jeans Go Green™ program, as well as local FFA and 4-H chapters, allows us to live out our values in a tangible way. It’s good for producers, our communities and the cotton industry. It’s our privilege to continue a program that raises awareness of cotton and sustainability issues while offering a chance for FFA and 4-H chapters to compete for a good cause.”

In 2020, PhytoGen will hold denim collection drives at the Mid-South Farm & Gin Show, the Texas Cotton Ginners’ Show and the Desert Ag Conference. Prizes will be awarded to the winning FFA or 4-H chapter at each location. But anyone is welcome to participate and drop off denim during the three events.

For more information about next year’s PhytoGen denim drives for the Cotton Incorporated Blue Jeans Go Green™ program, send an inquiry via the PhytoGen Facebook or Twitter pages.

## 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.

Attendees may register and secure housing at the BWCC’s website, [www.cotton.org/beltwide/](http://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](http://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 the evening of January 7.

**Upcoming Crop Tours and Field Days**  
 See the list at [www.plainscotton.org](http://www.plainscotton.org)

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