

## **Grower Alert: Watch Size of Round Modules**

*Harvest Resumes After Rain, Snow; Brown Testifies in DC*

Friday, November 1, 2019

By Mary Jane Buerkle

As fields dry out from the past week's rain and snow and harvest resumes in earnest, growers will be working as efficiently as possible to work toward finishing the 2019 crop.

With more growers using round module harvesters, it is crucial that machines are set to form modules that can be loaded and transported by conventional module trucks. Ginners report that modules larger than 94 inches can create unintended issues in the field and at the gin. Oversize modules may not easily fit in trucks and can also come apart on the feeder bed from being wrapped so large and tight, increasing the opportunity for plastic contamination to occur. Custom harvesters should be made aware of this situation as well.

"It's critical that we all take the proper precautions to ensure that our cotton remains contamination-free," PCG CEO Steve Verett said. "Growers must work with the goal of helping their ginner process a good, clean bale, and that starts in the field."

Speaking of field work, much of that was halted by recent snow and rain. Record low temperatures most likely terminated any regrowth across the region, fully ensuring that what cotton remains to be harvested will come out relatively quickly once conditions become optimal. Weather forecasts call for clear weather until late next week.

Many growers report that fields aren't producing what they thought they would. Quality has improved, with color grades and staple length trending better. However, the late summer months were harsh for cotton, squelching yield potential. Some growers are having to evaluate late-season insurance adjustments instead of harvesting a crop into which they already had sunk a significant amount of resources and time – something no farmer ever wants to have to face. At PCG's Friday Morning Meeting, one grower shared that another grower had told him that this was "the most disappointing crop" he'd ever had, especially given the promising start.

On the policy front, Dawson County cotton grower Jeremy Brown testified in Washington, DC, this week before the House Agriculture Committee's Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research Subcommittee. Brown's testimony was from his perspective as a grower who uses both organic and conventional farming practices, and how the two can coexist.

"...There is value in organic production to a producer and our ultimate end user – the consumer, just as there are benefits to growing conventional production for consumption," Brown said in his written testimony to the Subcommittee. "In either farming practice, we as producers are great stewards of our land. We focus on soil health and nutrient management through innovation and technology and by adopting good farming practices. We do these things not only to create value in our product, but also to produce the safest most abundant supply of food and fiber to feed and clothe our own families, friends, neighbors and the world."

## **USDA Issues Safety-Net and Conservation Payments to Texas Farmers**

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

From FSA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Texas is processing more than \$205.7 million in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments for the 2018 crop year. Additionally, Texas FSA will distribute more than \$89.1 million in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rental payments to landowners to support voluntary conservation efforts on private lands.

"Our safety net programs help provide certainty and stability to Texas farm families affected by fluctuating market prices," Gary Six, State Executive Director in Texas said. "When reviewing payments, it's important to remember that ARC and PLC payments by county can vary because average county yields will differ."

FSA began processing payments for 2018 ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC on covered commodities that triggered payments on enrolled farms in the 2018 crop year. FSA anticipates issuing more payments in November once USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service publishes additional commodity prices for the 2018 crop, which will include seed cotton.

In Texas, 218 counties have experienced a drop in price or revenues below the benchmark price established by the ARC or PLC programs and will receive payments.

Producers who had 2018 covered commodities enrolled in ARC-CO can visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc) for payment rates applicable to their county and each covered commodity. For farms and covered commodities enrolled in 2018 PLC, the following crops met payment triggers: wheat, barley, peanuts, corn, grain sorghum, dry peas, lentils and canola. Oats and soybeans did not meet 2018 PLC payment triggers.

2018 PLC payment rates for the following covered commodities have not been determined: large chickpeas, small chickpeas, sunflower seed, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, crambe, sesame seed, seed cotton, long grain rice, medium grain rice and temperate Japonica rice.

Also, this week, USDA began issuing 2019 CRP payments to support voluntary conservation efforts on private lands. In Texas, more than 24,300 CRP participants will receive compensation for their efforts to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion and improve wildlife habitat on more than 2.4 million acres enrolled in CRP throughout the state.

"Annual rental payments through the Conservation Reserve Program help farmers and landowners who want to take sensitive land out of production in order to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion or create wildlife habitat," Six said.

For more information about USDA programs or to locate your FSA county office, visit [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov).