

Wasserman to Keynote PCG Annual Meeting

Friday, January 31, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The 2020 elections are only months away, and those attending PCG's Annual Meeting will have the opportunity to hear one of the nation's top election forecasters discuss a variety of scenarios for races across the nation.

Keynote speaker David Wasserman is House Editor for The Cook Political Report, where he is responsible for analyzing U.S. House Races. Founded in 1984, The Cook Political Report provides analyses of Presidential, U.S. Senate, House and gubernatorial races. The New York Times has called the Report "a newsletter both parties regard as authoritative."

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. Friday, April 3, at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in conjunction with the Texas Cotton Ginners Association's annual trade show and convention. For more information on the TCGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show, visit <http://www.tcga.org/>.

In 2016, Wasserman drew praise for his accurate pre-election analysis, including his piece "How Trump Could Win the White House While Losing the Popular Vote," written two months before Election Day. Chuck Todd, host of NBC's Meet the Press, recently called Wasserman "pretty much the only person you need to follow on Election Night."

Wasserman is a contributor to NBC News and his election commentary has been cited in numerous top publications including Politico, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and RealClearPolitics.com. He has served as an analyst for the NBC News Election Night Decision Desk in 2018, 2016, 2014, 2012, 2010, and 2008, and has appeared on C-SPAN, CNN, Fox News and NPR.

In the spring of 2019, Wasserman was named a Pritzker Fellow at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics, where he led a seminar entitled "Mapping Our Future: Forecasting Elections & Redistricting 2021." A frequent speaker and guest lecturer, Wasserman has shared his insights into the latest political trends with audiences at Harvard's Institute of Politics, the Dole Institute of Politics, and Georgetown's Government Affairs Institute.

In 2018, Wasserman's groundbreaking interactive collaboration with FiveThirtyEight, the "Atlas of Redistricting" took top prize for News Data App of the Year at the Global Editors Network's Data Journalism Awards. An enthusiast for data and maps, Wasserman served as a contributing writer for both the 2016 and 2014 editions of the Almanac of American Politics. In 2014, Twitter awarded Wasserman "Best of Twitter" honors for his real-time election coverage.

A native of New Jersey, Wasserman holds a B.A. in Government with distinction from the University of Virginia and was awarded the 2006 Emmerich-Wright Outstanding Thesis prize for his study of congressional redistricting standards.

Wasserman is no stranger to PCG audiences, returning to the Annual Meeting podium again after addressing the crowd just four years ago – the last Presidential election year.

"We are pleased to have David Wasserman back in Lubbock, and look forward to hearing his political insight," PCG CEO Steve Verett said. "His work is fascinating, and he does an excellent job of translating his data and projections into presentations that are not only informative, but engaging."

Joining the speaker lineup is Bruce Atherley, executive director of Cotton Council International. Atherley will update attendees on CCI activities and initiatives.

Current PCG president Stacy Smith, who farms near New Home, Texas, will preside over the meeting and PCG CEO Steve Verett will report on the status of PCG operations and activities. An award recognizing the 2019 High Plains Cotton Agent of the Year also will be presented at the meeting. Other speakers are still being confirmed.

There is no charge to attend and no RSVP is necessary. Additional information about PCG can be found at <http://www.plainscotton.org>.

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USMCA Offers Stability in Key Markets

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

From the NCC

The National Cotton Council (NCC) applauded President Trump's signing (on Wednesday) of the Congressionally-approved U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

NCC Chairman Mike Tate said this trade agreement will provide a boost in trade certainty for U.S. cotton and cotton textile products in the North American market. He noted that Mexico is the second largest export market for U.S. cotton textile/apparel products and Canada is the fourth largest for these goods. Mexico also is a top market for U.S. raw cotton.

The Alabama cotton producer said the USMCA, which updates and modifies the North American Free Trade Agreement, includes a textile chapter that offers significant improvements for domestic textile manufacturers and workers. Among those provisions are: a stronger rule of origin for certain regional textile products; strong customs enforcement language; and ensuring that a significant amount that the Department of Homeland Security spends annually on clothing and textiles is on domestically-produced products.

("COTTON NEWS" continued on Page 2)

PCG has a NEW website!
www.plainscotton.org
 We'd love to hear your feedback!

Upcoming Area Ag Conferences

This list is kept updated on the PCG website:
<https://plainscotton.org/upcoming-area-ag-conferences/>.

February 4 – Llano Estacado Cotton Conference, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Bailey County Electric Cooperative, 610 E. American Blvd., **Muleshoe**. Cost: \$15, includes lunch. 3 CEUs. More info: Curtis Preston, Bailey County CEA-AG/NR, (806) 252-4583.

February 4 – Crosby County Auxin Training, 8:30 a.m., Pioneer Memorial Museum, **Crosbyton**. 1 CEU. More info: Dr. Caitlin Jackson, Crosby County CEA-AG/NR, (806) 675-2347.

February 5 – Castro County Ag Conference, 8 a.m., Castro County Expo Center, **Dimmitt**. No cost, includes lunch. CEUs available. More info: Andrew Dunlap, CEA-Agronomy, (806) 647-4115.

February 6-7 – “Developing This Year’s Marketing Plan for Cotton and Feed Grains” Workshop, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. both days, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., **Amarillo**. Cost: \$125, which covers instruction, breaks, meals and materials. Limited to 50 participants. Register and pay by January 31 at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Grain>.

February 11 – Pesticide Applicators Training, 1 p.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Office, **Levelland**. Please RSVP by noon Monday, February 10. More info: Kerry Siders, EA-IPM, (806) 894-3159. This is required training in order to obtain a TDA pesticide applicators license.

February 11-12 – No-Till Texas Soil Health Symposium, Overton Hotel & Conference Center, 2322 Mac Davis Lane, **Lubbock**. 8 a.m. both days. More info: <https://www.no-tilltexas.com>

February 12 – Crop Production Meeting, Rita Blanca Coliseum, **Dalhart**. Lunch provided. Auxin training included. More info: Mike Bragg, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 244-4434.

February 14, March 13, April 10, and May 8 – Auxin Certification Training, 9 a.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 1102 E. FM 1294, **Lubbock**. One CEU in Laws & Regs. More info: (806) 746-6101, pete.dotray@agnet.tamu.edu

February 20 – NE Panhandle Summer Crops Conference, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Frank Phillips College Allen Campus, **Perryton**. Cost: \$10, lunch provided. 3 CEUs. More info: Scott Strawn, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 435-4501.

February 24 – Hansford/Hutchinson Estate Planning & Farm Bill Meeting, 10 a.m.-Noon, Hansford AgriLife Office, **Spearman**. Cost: \$10, lunch provided. Auxin Training at 1 p.m. More info: Hansford County Extension (806) 659-4130.

February 25 – Deaf Smith Cotton Conference, Registration 8:30 a.m., Deaf Smith AgriLife Extension Office, **Hereford**. Cost: \$20, lunch included. 3 CEUs. More info: Rick Auckerman, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 364-3573.

February 26 – Central Plains Ag Conference, Registration 8 a.m., Olton Ag Pavilion, **Olton**. Lunch provided, Auxin Certification available. More info: Kerry Siders, (806) 638-5635; Kyle Howard at (806) 620-6595; or Andrew Dunlap at (806) 647-4115.

February 27 – Producer Meeting, 9 a.m., Community Center, **Turkey**. CEU’s and Auxin Certification Training included. More info: Mason Carter, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 823-2521.

February 28 – Hub of the Plains Ag Conference, registration 8 a.m., program 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 1102 E. FM 1294, **Lubbock**. Cost: \$20, includes lunch. 4 CEU’s offered, including Auxin Certification. More info: Andrew Dunlap, (806) 647-4115.

March 4 (RESCHEDULED from February 12) – “Owning Your Piece of Texas: Agricultural Laws Texas Landowners Need to Know” Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., **Amarillo**. Cost: \$75. Preregistration is requested at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/landowners> or by calling 979-845-2604. More info: Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, (806) 677-5681 or tdowell@tamu.edu.

March 12 – Auxin Certification Training, 9 a.m. and again at 1 p.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Office, **Levelland**. Please RSVP by noon March 11. More info: Kerry Siders, EA-IPM, 806-894-3159.

March 13 – Auxin Certification Training, 9 a.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., **Amarillo**. More info: Dr. Jourdan Bell, Extension Agronomist, 806-677-5663.

To add your conference to this list, please email maryjane@plainscotton.org.

Farm Stress: Help and Hope
<https://pcca.com/farm-stress-help-and-hope/>

PCG Releases 2020 Seed Cost Calculator

Friday, January 31, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The 2020 version of the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. Seed Cost Calculator is ready and available for download from the PCG website at <https://plainscotton.org/seed-cost-calculator/>.

The PCG seed cost calculator is an interactive Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that allows producers to calculate an estimated cost per acre, for both seed and technology, based on published suggested retail prices. The calculator has become a popular tool among producers interested in comparing seed and technology prices as they work to finalize their cotton variety selections.

The 2020 version of the spreadsheet includes recently updated listings for conventional, Roundup Ready FLEX, XtendFlex, GlyTol, Bollgard II, TwinLink, Enlist and Widestrike varieties, including numerous stacked gene versions of these technologies that will be available for sale in West Texas in 2020.

Questions about the seed cost calculator can be directed to Shawn Wade at (806) 792-4904 or shawn@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