

PCG Annual Meeting Set for April 3

Friday, February 21, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., will host their 63rd Annual Meeting on Friday, April 3, at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in conjunction with the Texas Cotton Ginners Association's annual trade show and convention, held April 2-3. Registration for the meeting, which is sponsored by Farmers Cooperative Compress, begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program begins at 9 a.m. For more information on the TCGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show, visit <http://www.tcgagr.org>.

Featured speakers include Reid Wilson, national correspondent for The Hill newspaper, Washington, DC's most widely-read political publication; Bruce Atherley, executive director of Cotton Council International; and U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway (R-Midland).

Wilson is an expert in spotting political trends as they develop and forecasting election results long before the ballots are counted. Wilson covered politics for The Washington Post, and he's the former editor-in-chief of National Journal's The Hotline. His work has appeared in outlets like The New York Times, RealClearPolitics, Atlantic Monthly, New Republic, and other major news networks, and his expertise is frequently sought-after by MSNBC, CNN, C-SPAN, and various radio shows across the nation.

"While we regret that David Wasserman had an unavoidable conflict arise, we very much look forward to hearing Reid Wilson's timely insight into this year's upcoming election," PCG CEO Steve Verett said.

Atherley will update attendees on CCI activities and initiatives. He has a successful track record in global marketing and management having introduced brands and products into global markets in Asia, Latin America and Europe. He previously served as vice president, Global Marketing for KAO, Inc., a Tokyo-based global manufacturer of personal care and household products. He also worked with the William Wrigley Jr. Company, serving as its vice president of North American Confections Marketing, and as president and general manager of Wrigley Canada.

PCG will recognize Rep. Conaway for his distinguished service to agriculture. Rep. Conaway, who recently announced his retirement upon the completion of this term, has served as House Agriculture Committee chairman and currently is Ranking Member.

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.

"This meeting is an excellent opportunity to network with producers and industry leaders, and to hear the latest information on a variety of topics affecting Texas High Plains cotton," Verett said. "I encourage everyone to put April 3 on their calendar and

join us in Lubbock for our Annual Meeting, and also attend the Texas Cotton Ginners show the day before."

Lunch, sponsored by FiberMax, will follow the meeting. That event is separate from the meeting but those at the PCG Annual Meeting are invited to attend.

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

DEADLINES APPROACHING

February 28

Signup for Conservation Reserve Program

March 15

Sales Closing Date for Crop Insurance in Cotton in the PCG Service Area

March 16

Enrollment in ARC or PLC for 2019 Crop

Craft, Loonam Receive National Ginner Awards

Monday, February 17, 2020

From the National Cotton Council

Ron Craft, general manager of New-Tex Gin in Plains, Texas is the 2019 Horace Hayden National Cotton Ginner of the Year. Smith has served in many U.S. cotton industry leadership capacities and provided many years of dedicated service.

The annual National Cotton Ginners Association's (NCGA) award is presented to a ginner in recognition of: 1) able, efficient and faithful service to the ginning industry and 2) continuing those principles exemplified and practiced by Horace Hayden, a former NCGA executive secretary.

Craft, a 5th-generation ginner who received the award at NCGA's recent 2020 annual meeting in New Orleans, was a member of National Cotton Council's (NCC) 1991 leadership class. He served as the NCC's chairman in 2018, the NCGA's president in 2016, and there are very few committees within the NCGA and NCC on which he has not served.

He also is a former president of the Plains Cotton Ginners Association, Texas Cotton Ginners Association and Texas Independent Ginners Association. He has served as a Plains Cotton Growers director and currently serves as a Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation director.

Craft also participates in community activities and is treasurer of First Baptist Church in Plains. He earned the rank of sergeant as a reserve deputy with the Yoakum County Sheriff's Department and has served in the department for the past 35 years. He is a past president of the Plains Chamber of Commerce.

The NCGA also recognized Tim Loonam as recipient of the NCGA's 2019-20 Charles C. Owen Distinguished Service Award. The award honors those who have provided a career of distinguished service to the U.S. ginning industry.

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A Texas native and Navy veteran, Loonam earned a bachelor's degree in Management from Texas A&M University in 1972. Since 1990, has Loonam has specialized in providing workers compensation insurance and loss control services for ag-related businesses.

Since 1996, he has worked tirelessly on administration, claims and loss control for Texas cotton gins and other agricultural operations as administrator of the Texas Cotton Ginners Association's Trust. Over that time, the Trust has grown their annual revenue premium from \$4 million to just over \$13 million and has expanded their coverage to include other agricultural operations. The Trust began with about 50 cotton gins and now has well over 150 Texas gins.

Loonam has long been an active member of the Safety Specialist Forum and makes it a point for his loss control team to participate and contribute to the Forum. He and his team also are active in the NCGA ginner schools each year.

During its annual meeting, the NCGA elected its 2020 officers: president – Curtis Stewart, Spade, Texas; first vice president – George LaCour, Jr., Morganza, La.; second vice president – Gene Seale, Pima, Ariz.; third vice president – Richard Lindsey, Centre, Ala.; and chairman – Wes Morgan, New London, North Carolina. Harrison Ashley of Cordova, Tenn., serves as NCGA's executive vice president.

PCG Posts 2020 Seed Cost Calculator

Friday, February 21, 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.

Upcoming Area Ag Conferences

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

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 24 – Sandyland Ag Conference, Gaines County Civic Building, 402 NW Fifth Street, **Seminole**. Lunch included, CEUs offered. More info: Terry Millican, CEA-AG/NR, (432) 758-4006.

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 2 – Gray County All Crops Update, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Gray County Annex, 12125 E. Frederic Ave., **Pampa**. Cost: \$20, includes lunch. RSVP and more info: Nick Simpson, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 669-8033, (806) 280-8010.

March 3 – Permian Basin Cotton Conference, 7:30 a.m. registration, auxin training 8-9 a.m., cotton program 9-12:30 p.m. G.C. Broughton Jr. Ag Complex, 2401 Echols St., **Big Spring**. Cost: \$20, includes lunch. Total of 4 CEUs available. More info: Tommy Yeater, CEA-AG/NR, (432) 264-2236.

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, 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

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.

Updated Seed Cotton PLC Payment Matrix Available on PCG Website

Friday, February 21, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The 2019 Seed Cotton PLC Matrix has been updated to reflect the most recent seed cotton program payment estimate for the 2019/2020 crop year. The matrix is a helpful decision tool for producers as they begin to make their Title I policy decisions for the 2019 and 2020 crop years. Growers can plug in their own seed cotton yield to estimate their seed cotton PLC payment rate per base acre. The matrix takes into account the marketing year average (MYA) price for lint and seed. It is current as of February 14, 2020 and will be updated monthly throughout the marketing year, which runs from August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020.

The spreadsheet is only available via desktop and is not optimized for mobile. The link can be found on the Tools and Reminders page on the PCG website at <https://plainscotton.org/tools-and-reminders/>.

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