

2019 County Production Figures In: PCG Area Produced 3.05 Million Upland Bales

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Mother Nature generally was not kind to Texas High Plains cotton growers during the 2019 crop year, beginning with an especially wet May that caused some growers to abandon cotton planting altogether, and ending with a below-average harvest, thanks largely to an especially hot and dry August.

Cotton growers in the PCG service area produced just more than 3 million bales in 2019, which is below the historical average. This is a decrease from the 3.94 million 480-pound bales produced during the 2018 growing season, and also less than the 3,235,000 million projected by NASS in their January 2020 report for Districts 1-N and 1-S.

Planted acreage in 2019 was down more than 500,000 acres from the previous year, totaling just more than 4.2 million acres. Some of this was due to growers in the northern Panhandle not being able to plant at all due to wet conditions. The abandonment figure for 2019 of about 44 percent shows that the final production number could have been significantly higher, as the year started with promise but excessive heat and the absence of late summer rains affected development during a critical time.

According to the final county level production estimates released this week by NASS, the Plains Cotton Growers 42-county service area accounted for about 48 percent of the 6.3 million bales of upland cotton produced in Texas this past season. To compare, the Texas High Plains usually produces about two-thirds of the state's crop. Statewide production was down 32 percent from 2018, and the average yield per acre statewide was also down almost 24 percent from last year at 578 pounds per acre.

On a national basis, Texas growers accounted for about 33 percent of the 19.2 million upland bales produced in the United States in 2019, easily maintaining their position as the No. 1 cotton producing state in the nation. Georgia was second with 2.74 million bales, and Mississippi was third with just more than 1.62 million bales. To further illustrate just how challenging this year was on the Texas High Plains, for the first time in a long time, a PCG-area county did not top the production charts nationally. In 2019, just 4 of the top 10 cotton-producing counties in the nation were within 80 miles of Lubbock.

Hockley County was the top-producing county on the High Plains and fifth in the nation in 2019, with 248,500 480-pound bales of cotton and averaging 495 pounds per harvested acre. Lubbock County was second with 237,000 bales, and Lynn County third at 236,100. Overall yield per harvested acre on the High Plains averaged 506 pounds in 2018, down from 768 in 2018.

Joining Hockley, Lubbock and Lynn counties in the top ten cotton-producing counties in the High Plains Region (reported in 480-lb bales) were: Gaines, 213,100; Hale, 202,800; Crosby, 187,300; Lamb, 173,700; Terry, 172,000; Dawson, 160,300; and Floyd, 158,800.

As for yield, Castro County ranked at the top for 2019, averaging 1,044 pounds per harvested acre. Hartley County was second in yield per harvested acre at 1,030 pounds.

A complete listing of the 2019 upland cotton production totals for Texas and other states is available on the NASS website (<http://www.nass.usda.gov>).

2019-crop Upland Cotton Production Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. 42-County Service Area

County	Planted (Acres)	Harvested (Acres)	Yield per Harv. Acre	Production (Bales)
Andrews	•	•	•	•
Armstrong	•	•	•	•
Bailey	85,500	58,900	539	66,100
Borden	40,700	20,700	230	9,900
Briscoe	35,000	21,500	668	29,900
Carson	94,900	34,200	782	55,700
Castro	62,500	29,700	1,044	64,600
Cochran	152,500	113,800	473	112,200
Crosby	222,000	171,700	524	187,300
Dallam	•	•	•	•
Dawson	324,000	185,400	415	160,300
Deaf Smith	42,600	19,300	642	25,800
Dickens	34,000	29,900	318	19,800
Floyd	202,000	117,400	649	158,800
Gaines	310,500	213,500	479	213,100
Garza	46,500	41,500	584	50,500
Gray	40,300	18,100	758	28,600
Hale	254,000	166,500	585	202,800
Hansford	49,000	18,300	879	33,500
Hartley	41,500	4,100	1,030	8,800
Hemphill	•	•	•	•
Hockley	289,000	241,000	495	248,500
Howard	135,500	49,800	333	34,500
Hutchinson	•	•	•	•
Lamb	193,500	122,700	680	173,700
Lipscomb	•	•	•	•
Lubbock	279,500	240,000	474	237,000
Lynn	345,000	293,000	387	236,100
Martin	179,000	150,000	357	111,500
Midland	•	•	•	•
Moore	41,800	17,300	910	32,800
Motley	23,500	15,600	246	8,000
Ochiltree	36,500	5,100	621	6,600
Oldham	•	•	•	•
Parmer	70,400	43,700	672	61,200
Potter	•	•	•	•
Randall	12,800	3,300	785	5,400
Roberts	•	•	•	•
Sherman	51,500	28,800	903	54,200
Swisher	104,500	54,600	572	65,100
Terry	271,000	182,200	453	172,000
Yoakum	150,500	87,200	409	74,300
1-N Combined Co.	116,700	38,100	939	74,500
1-S Combined Co.	38,500	31,600	431	28,400
High Plains Total	4,221,500	2,798,800	506 (weighted)	3,051,500

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service

• = Zero Production or production aggregated into Combined Counties