

PCG Elects New Officer Team, Executive Committee Members

Friday, July 10, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Brent Nelson of Sudan, Texas, was elected president of Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., for 2020-2021 during PCG's quarterly Board of Directors meeting earlier this week via Zoom.

Joining Nelson on the PCG officer team are Martin Stoerner of Lockney, elected vice president; and Travis Mires of O'Donnell, elected secretary-treasurer of the 42-county cotton producer organization. The immediate past president, Stacy Smith of New Home, serves as chairman of the board.

Each year the PCG Board also elects a total of nine directors, three from each of the organization's three districts, to serve on the Executive Committee alongside the organization's three elected officers and two most recent past presidents.

Members elected to the 2020-2021 PCG Executive Committee are: District 1 representatives Brent Coker of Springlake, Barry Evans of Kress, and Jon Jones of Floydada; District 2 representatives David Carter of Levelland, Scott Harmon of Idalou, and Rex Kennedy of Lubbock; District 3 representatives Jeremy Brown of Lamesa, Carl Pepper of Borden County, and Johnny Ray Todd of Lamesa; President Brent Nelson of Sudan, Vice President Martin Stoerner of Lockney, Secretary-Treasurer Travis Mires of Lamesa, Board Chairman Stacy Smith of New Home, and Past President Johnie Reed of Kress.

Texas High Plains Cotton Crop Update

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The middle of July in West Texas normally includes some pretty hot weather, but humans and cotton plants alike will have to weather some temperatures this weekend forecasted to soar well past the 100-degree mark, with lows only in the upper 70s.

Growers and industry reps across the area report that thriving dryland acreage is relatively scarce. Irrigated is looking pretty good in some locations and some earlier-planted cotton is beginning to bloom, but the extended time of hot weather could cause squares and blooms to shed.

Some growers are experiencing weed pressure, especially in places that have received timely significant rainfall. Growers with existing stocks of dicamba-based herbicides XtendiMax, FeXapan, and Engenia have until July 31 to use them in accordance with the product's previously approved label. Federal registration of those three products have been vacated per a decision by the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals back in early June, but the Environmental Protection Agency granted the use of existing stocks.

December cotton finished Friday at 64.31, and this past week overall has been pretty good for the market. The World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report today showed lower production, stocks and exports for the month as compared to June.

Important Program Deadlines

U.S. Department of Agriculture Key Programs

Crop Acreage Certification Deadline

July 15

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Application

August 28

Yield Update for PLC Program

September 30

Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program+ (WHIP+) Application

December 31

(program funds will remain available until expended or December 31)

Small Business Administration Key Programs

Paycheck Protection Program

Signup Extended Through August 8

Economic Injury Disaster Loan

Signup Ends December 31

Farm Service Agency Accepting County Committee Nominations

USDA's Farm Service Agency began accepting nominations for county committee members on June 15. Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for these members who make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2020 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2020.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program, and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others, and organizations, including those representing beginning, women and minority producers, also may nominate candidates.

The committees are made of three to 11 members and typically meet once a month. Members serve three-year terms. Producers serving on FSA county committees play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the agency.

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to find out how to get involved in their county's election. To be considered, a producer must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections. Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 2, 2020.

Farm Stress: Help and Hope

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