

GROWERS ENCOURAGED TO VERIFY WHIP+ APPLICATIONS INCLUDE ALL ELIGIBLE LOSSES

Friday, November 20, 2020

By Shawn Wade

As the USDA Farm Service Agency works to complete the Wildfires and Hurricane Indemnity Program+ (WHIP+) sign-up process, growers are encouraged to ensure that all of their eligible losses are included in currently pending applications or were properly included in previously submitted claims.

The WHIP+ sign-up period officially ended October 30; however, USDA FSA county offices were given the authority to create a register of producers who had not yet had their applications started to ensure that no eligible producers were inadvertently left out of the program. As a result, FSA offices continue to process WHIP+ applications for eligible producers.

Because of the unique nature of the WHIP+ program and the extended sign-up process, USDA FSA also has been asked to clarify information about various program eligibility and process questions. Some of the revised guidance provided throughout this process may have altered previously understood assumptions and it is important for growers to ensure that applications, regardless of their being previously completed or still in process, are complete include all eligible losses based on the most recent information available.

One of the common misunderstandings among producers initially was that an insurable loss had to have occurred in order to qualify for WHIP+ benefits. This was never the case, however, and the WHIP+ program actually provides benefits for any eligible loss below the WHIP+ guarantee percentage associated with the level of crop insurance that was purchased on the farm.

Another misunderstanding is that the stated cause of loss on an insurance loss record or reported by the producer when an insurable loss did not occur on a particular unit, had to exactly match either the “drought” or “excessive moisture” causes referenced as primary causes of loss in the WHIP+ rules. The WHIP+ program actually covers a broad range of losses from conditions related to the primary causes noted above.

Eligible causes of loss from related conditions are identified in the WHIP+ rules and also include causes of loss defined in the rules associated with the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

“The bottom-line advice for producers in regard to WHIP+ is that there are a broad array of eligible causes of loss that can trigger benefits under WHIP+ and an underlying crop insurance claim is not a prerequisite for eligibility,” notes PCG Chief Executive Officer Steve Verett.

Due to the extended nature of the WHIP+ process and the various clarifications that have been issued, producers who have already completed the WHIP+ application process but are unsure if all of their eligible crops and losses were included in

the calculations, are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to verify that their initial application was complete and determine if additional steps may be needed to complete or revise their application under the most recent guidance.

TEXAS HIGH PLAINS COTTON HARVEST IN FULL FORCE

Friday, November 20, 2020

By Whitney Curry

The finish line for the 2020 Texas High Plains cotton harvest is coming quickly for many growers and for others, they have already finished for the season. This year, as all are aware, has been rough but harvest has gone smoothly, and we likely are just over a month away from hanging up the hat and moving forward to 2021.

PCG estimates that across the region producers are about 85 percent finished at this time and most have an opportunity to finish before the Thanksgiving holiday.

“This crop and year were not what any of us expected or desired. While yields for most folks have been disappointing, the one bright spot to this crop is the very good quality and a better market. Hopefully those two things can help offset some of the sting from disappointing yields,” PCG Chief Executive Officer Steve Verett said.

Currently December cotton futures are trading in the 69.3 to 70.49 range and looking at the March 2021 futures they are trading at 71.7 to 72.6 range at press time.

COTTON INCORPORATED TO HOST “COTTON AND COFFEE” ON DECEMBER 1

Cotton Incorporated encourages growers to participate in their upcoming (and final for 2020) “Cotton and Coffee” program scheduled for **Tuesday, December 1, 2020**, at 7:30 a.m. Central via a Zoom web call.

Join **Dr. Jesse Daystar**, Chief Sustainability Officer with Cotton Incorporated and **Gary Adams**, President and CEO of National Cotton Council. They will focus on exploring and explaining the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol and its importance to U.S. cotton producers.

Registration is complimentary, but you must register to attend, so please contact your local Cotton Board Regional Communications Manager. The two covering Texas are Shelley Heinrich, 806-670-3250, sheinrich@cottonboard.org; or Christi Short, 469-951-6161, cshort@cottonboard.org.

PCG Cotton News
will not be published next week.
We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!