

PCG Testifies in support of H.B. 2089 to House Agriculture & Livestock Committee

Friday, March 26, 2021

By Whitney Curry

On Thursday, March 25, 2021 PCGs Vice President of Operations and Legislative Affairs Kody Bessent testified before the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee in favor of H.B. 2089 relating to the detection and mitigation of plant pests and diseases.

If enacted, this legislation would establish an early plant pests and disease detection and mitigation system through cooperative agreements with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and institutions of higher education. The bill authorizes a full range of activities, including field inspection for early detection before the invasive species becomes established or becomes too large and costly to eradicate or control.

Early detection of plant pests and disease will allow for better containment to slow the spread of an invasive organism or species, which will allow for timely biological control methods, research and development of resistant seed varieties, and the ability to identify better management practices in order to contain the issue before it becomes more widespread in the state. One example this legislation would help with is combating fusarium wilt race 4 (FOV4) in cotton.

Plains Cotton Growers is very appreciative of Representative Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) for introducing this important legislation in front of the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee. Senator Charles Perry is carrying S.B. 731, the companion legislation.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Policy Updates

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

By USDA

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) directed FSA to provide additional “top-up” payments to price trigger and flat-rate crops producers based on the producer’s eligible 2020 acres multiplied by the payment rate of \$20 per acre. FSA will calculate these payments based on the acres on the approved AD-3117.

No action is required by County Office staff to process to process the “top-up” payment. These payments will be processed and available for County Office certification and signing approximately April 1, 2021. An information bulletin will be posted when the payments have been processed. Producers who file new or revised applications for price trigger and flat-rate crops during the reopened application period will also receive the “top-up” payment.

No action is required from producers to process these payments.

PLAINS COTTON GROWERS, INC.

64th Annual Meeting

Friday, April 9, 2021

Overton Hotel & Conference Center

Deltapine Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.

Registration – 8:30 a.m.

Program – 9:00 a.m.

FiberMax Luncheon – Noon

Featured Keynote Speaker:

Jim Wiesemeyer,

Pro Farmer Journalist & Analyst – Washington, D.C.,

Sponsored by Farmers Cooperative Compress

Updates from:

Congressman Jodey Arrington, *District 19*

Dr. Gary Adams, *National Cotton Council*

Beau Stephenson, *Lubbock Cotton Exchange*

REMINDER - Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Deadline April 9th

Friday, March 26, 2021

By Whitney Curry

The deadline to sign up for the Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program was extended to **Friday, April 9, 2020** (<https://www.farmers.gov/quality-loss>).

This program assists producers who suffered crop quality losses due to qualifying 2018 and 2019 natural disasters. Those producers whose eligible crops suffered quality losses due to qualifying drought, excessive moisture, flooding, hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, or wildfires.

Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is available, except for grazed crops and value loss crops, such as honey, maple sap, aquaculture, floriculture, mushrooms, ginseng root, ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, and turfgrass sod. Additionally, crops that were sold or fed to livestock or that are in storage may be eligible.

Assistance is available in counties that received a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or Secretarial Disaster Designation, or for drought, a county rated by the U.S. Drought monitor as having D3 (extreme drought) or higher. Producers in counties that did not receive a qualifying declaration or designation may still apply but must also provide supporting documentation.

FSA will issue payments once the application period ends. If the total amount of calculated QLA payments exceeds available program funding, payments will be prorated.