

Growers Prepare for 2021 Cotton Crop

Friday, April 30, 2021

By Whitney Curry

Cotton planting time is approaching, and growers are praying for a better crop this year. The forecast over the next seven days includes a mixed bag of weather with temperatures rebounding to near 90 degrees by the weekend before falling back to the upper-60s and lower-70s later in the week as rain chances increase.

Daytime temperature and rainfall forecasts will likely be a focus for growers as they make the decision for when to get into the field over the next several weeks.

On the bright side, soil temperatures in much of the area are at or above 60 degrees which is nearly ideal for planting cotton. As is normal this time of year areas north of the Lubbock remain a bit cooler.

At press time, the West Texas Mesonet station in Stratford showed a soil temperature of 58 degrees at the 8-inch depth, just below the 60-degree threshold that growers would like to see. Soil Temperature at Dimmitt was 61 degrees and Lubbock at 65 at the 8-inch depth. Those interested in viewing soil temperatures can find them on the PCG website under resources (<http://rain.ttu.edu/tech/1-output/soil.php>).

Growers are keeping an eye on the market, which has been holding steady in the mid to upper 80s this week. At press time, December cotton was trading at 85 cents.

Enrollment Open for the Texas International Cotton School

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Enrollment for the 40th session of the Texas International Cotton School, scheduled for **August 2-12, 2021**, in Lubbock, Texas is now open. Social distancing guidelines will be followed, and the class size has been restricted to 10 students this year, first come, first serve basis of full tuition payment.

The Texas International Cotton School is uniquely structured to provide an integrated understanding of the Texas cotton industry and how it interacts with the global cotton/textile complex. The intensive two-week

program covers all aspects of cotton, from field to the fabric. Since its inception, the school has been a collaboration between the Texas cotton merchants who make up the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the faculty and staff of the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute of Texas Tech University.

During the two weeks of the school, more than 30 experts from across the United States teach the students, who learn about the cotton marketing chain – including seed breeding, farm production, harvesting, ginning, warehousing, merchandising, and textile manufacturing. All facets of U.S. and global trade of cotton are covered, so students obtain an understanding of what is required to successfully participate in the U.S. cotton market and its diverse export demands. The students also learn about the important quality attributes of cotton fibers and how these translate into processing efficiency and textile product quality. Throughout the program, students have repeated opportunities to interact with cotton industry representatives as well.

For more information, including tuition and curriculum, visit <https://www.texasintlcottonschool.com/>.

PCG Participates in Mini Kids Kows & More

Thursday, April 29, 2021

By Whitney Curry

On Wednesday, April 28, 2021 PCGs Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Whitney Curry, and PCGs Director of Field Services, Mark Brown participated in the Mini Kids Kows and More event in Ralls, Texas.

A group of approximately 65 fourth and fifth grade students learned about the value and importance of the cotton industry on the High Plains.

While everyone is still working to get back to a normal setting, PCG is grateful to be able to be involved with this program. In a normal year this event is held in conjunction with Crosby, Dickens, and Garza counties with as many as 400 students participating. The school districts in the counties are 100% involved with bringing the students together to learn about the different agriculture commodities.