

H.B. 2089 Signed by Governor Abbott and Boll Weevil Eradication Funding Receives Approval

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 By Whitney Curry
Texas H.B. 2089 has been signed by Governor Greg Abbott and will be enacted beginning September 1, 2021. The bill provides up to \$500,000 in funding over the next Texas biennium for early detection of foreign plant pests and diseases, including but not limited to Race 4 Fusarium wilt (FOV4) which is currently present in the El Paso region.

With this legislation now established, an early plant pest and disease detection and mitigation system through cooperative agreements with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and institutions of higher education will address a full range of activities, including field inspections for early detection before invasive species become established or become too large and costly to eradicate or control.

Early detection of plant pests and disease will allow for early 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 the best management practices before it becomes more widespread in the state.

Another important issue that PCG was actively advocating for this Legislative Session was full funding for the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (TBWEF). TBWEF funding was originally removed from the budget for the next biennium, however due to efforts from PCG and many other interested groups, \$9.7 million was restored to continue the active eradication effort in the lower Rio Grande Valley area in Texas.

In addition to active eradication efforts in the areas where the boll weevil is still present, TBWEF continues to monitor the rest of Texas through trapping grids, in order to detect and prevent any possible reinfestation.

For more information on the eradication efforts in Texas visit <https://www.txbollweevil.org>.

Additional Auxin Certification Training Added for June 4, 2021

Friday, May 28, 2021 By Dr. Peter Dotray
Due to the recent rainfall and possible changes in weed management options, one more Auxin Certification Training has been added for **Friday, June 4, 2021.**

This additional training option will be virtual and 1-hour by Zoom only beginning at 9 a.m. Anyone interested in this training, please visit <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/organizationListings/209> to register. There is a \$10 registration fee and those registering will receive a Zoom invitation about 45 minutes before the training begins. Registration closes June 4, 2021 at 8 a.m.

If you have any questions, contact Dr. Peter Dotray at 806-834-3685 or by email at pete.dotray@ag.tamu.edu.

Trust Protocol Survey Participation, Enrollment Sought

Friday, May 28, 2021 By National Cotton Council
Have ideas and opinions on sustainability webinars? Where do you trust for your farming news? We want to hear from you! The U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol® wants to better understand U.S. cotton producers motivations when it comes to sustainability and how we can help through knowledge sharing. We developed a fast, easy to use survey that can be filled out on your computer, smartphone, or tablet at <https://bit.ly/3bxgY4z>. We would love to have your participation so we can better serve you and the U.S. cotton industry.

Meanwhile, producers are strongly encouraged to continue enrolling their 2021 cotton crop in the Trust Protocol. To begin the enrollment process, click the Join Now button on top of the Trust Protocol website's home page at www.trustuscottion.org. Program or enrollment questions can be directed to growers@trustuscotton.org.