



COTTON NEWS

A Service of Plains Cotton Growers Inc.



FACES OF COTTON **20 QUESTIONS WITH TONY WILLIAMS**



Today is Tony Williams' last day working for the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association (TCGA). I called him on Monday — his last day in the office — and since I knew he was busy getting ready for his annual ginners' fishing trip, we played 20 questions.

1. What are you most looking forward to in retirement? I met my wife, Lagina, in 2015 and we eventually married and live in Corpus Christi. So I've spent the past seven years driving back and forth from Austin to Corpus Christi. It will be nice to wake up on Monday morning knowing I don't have to start the journey back to Austin. Plus, I'm looking forward to helping my wife run her business, Stover Equipment Co, Inc. and watching my step-daughter, Jayna, graduate college and my step-son, Jaxon, graduate high school.

2. What would you consider your greatest accomplishment at TCGA? The Texas Cotton

Ginners' Trust that we developed out of TCGA in 1994. It's a separate entity now, but I was proud to be a part of developing a way for the cotton ginning industry to find affordable and available workers' compensation insurance.

3. Is there anything that you weren't able to accomplish?

It's minor but it's something I've always wanted to do. I've always admired the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Program member signs and wanted to provide that for our ginners to put on their outdoor sign or in their office. I'm sure the guys will take up that mantel for me.

4. What was your greatest challenge as executive vice president? One month after I began working at TCGA, I was named executive vice president. That wasn't the original plan, so I was thrown into the deep end pretty quickly. The support staff I had was new, too.

*Read the full story here:
bit.ly/3vo18mU*



Soil Stewardship

Plains Cotton Growers Inc. joins organizations across the state to highlight the importance of land stewardship during Texas Soil Stewardship Week April 24th through May 1st.

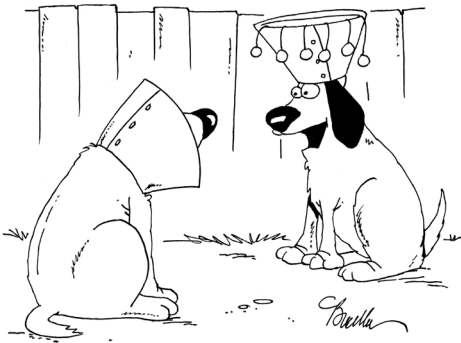
"Soil is the foundation to everything," said Mason Becker, producer in Terry County in an interview with Farm Policy Facts. "The soil is your savings account — every farmer will tell you that. If you don't take care of your savings account, then you won't have anything in the 'bank' when you need it."

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) across Texas have been working to encourage wise and productive use of natural resources since 1939.

"I'm constantly trying to learn how God created the world, how it functions and what I can do to work alongside it," said Jeremy Brown, producer in Dawson County, in an interview with Southwest FarmPress.

Blue Jeans Go Green Initiative

Since 2006, Cotton Incorporated's Blue Jeans Go Green program has collected denim (made from cotton) so it can be recycled back to its original fiber state and transformed into something new. To date, the program has diverted 2,100-plus tons of denim from landfills and recycled more than 4 million pieces of denim. You can stop by the PCG office to donate your denim or visit: bluejeansgogreen.org



"Don't throw it away when you're done.
Repurpose, like I did."

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Plains Cotton Growers

Reliance on H-2A Workers Spikes as Crop Producers Face Labor Shortages

Access to farm labor continues to be a significant challenge for specialty crop growers, who face challenges filling positions with domestic workers. This is due in part to the physical and temporary nature of employment, and the ability of employers to offer salaries that are competitive against employment opportunities in other sectors. Farm wages were only 59% of the wage rate of comparable positions in other industries in 2020.

Read the full story: bit.ly/3LtVbe0.

PPF Gin & Warehouse, LLC Wins Module Truck Case

As we reported earlier this month, the Supreme Court of Texas handed PPF Gin & Warehouse, LLC a big win by denying Delta County Appraisal District's petition for review. The arguments and rulings related to this case can be found here: bit.ly/3LAhy1h.

This entire case began when Delta County Appraisal District assessed PPF for the value of their module trucks. PPF argued that the module trucks are specially designed trucks used for gathering and removing cotton from the field during harvest time and should therefore be considered machinery used in the production of farm products.

In other words, PPF argued that these trucks are not taxable since they meet the definition of agricultural equipment. This argument is very similar to the one we used when arguing that the module truck driver position qualifies for the H-2A program. PPF has been making this argument with the Delta County Appraisal District since 2018, but after not making any progress, they sued the Appraisal District and won in trial court. Delta County appealed, but the Texarkana Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's opinion. Finally, the Texas Supreme Court denied Delta County's petition for Review, which essentially means they refused to hear this case.

Aaron Nelson, Texas Cotton Ginners' Association

Weather Conditions and Markets



bit.ly/30Ektbb

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New Cotton Technologies and Other Cool Stuff



bit.ly/3xUyqvB

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