



# COTTON NEWS

*A Service of Plains Cotton Growers Inc.*



## **USDA DESIGNATES 209 TEXAS COUNTIES AS PRIMARY DISASTER AREAS FOR DROUGHT**

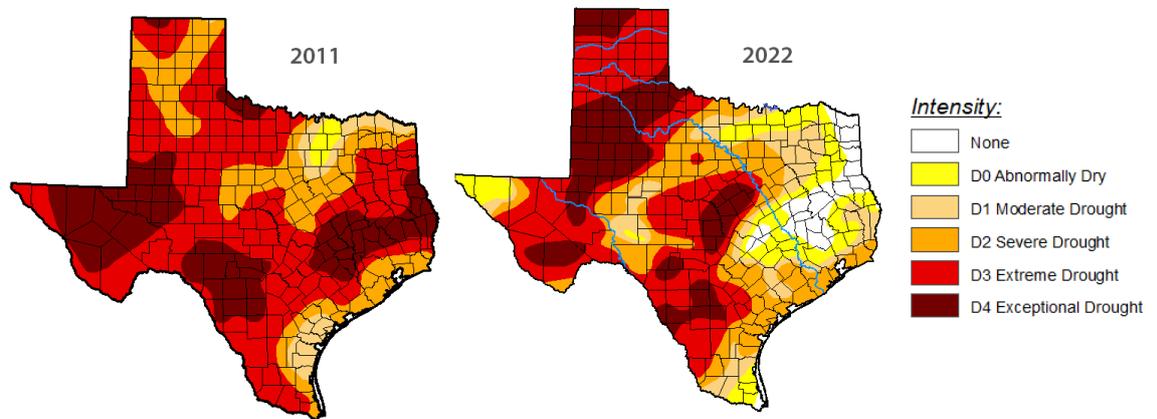
The natural disaster designation allows the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans.

Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment, reorganization of a farming operation, or the refinancing of certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of the losses, security available and repayment availability.

In the Texas High Plains region, all 42 counties represented by Plains Cotton Growers Inc. are designated as primary disaster areas for drought.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of D2 (drought-severe), D3 (drought-extreme) or D4 (drought-exceptional) for eight or more consecutive weeks.

Between 1949 and 1957, Texans experienced the second-, third- and eighth-driest single years ever in the state. The 1950s drought was



described by a state water official as “the costliest and most devastating drought in 600 years.

Enter 2011. The drought in this year surpassed all years in the 1950s drought as the driest year in Texas ever on record with 14.8 inches of rainfall.

However, 2022 may be crowned champion of a game no one wants to play. Some counties in Texas haven’t seen rainfall since August 2021. The U.S. Drought Monitor comparisons of current day conditions and May 2011 prove producers are in the midst of worsening drought conditions this crop year.

Ironically, at the same time, cotton market prices are hitting record highs. “I think every farmer wants to make a crop this year,” said Quentin Shieldknight, producer in Hansford County. “It’s just a matter of faith and help from Mother Nature at this point. Things can always turn around. They have before.”

PCG joins producers in praying for rain.

## ACP Discusses Dicamba Label

Rod Snyder, Environmental Protection Agency agricultural advisor, updated the ACP at their spring meeting last week on the EPA's new Endangered Species Act Workplan to address the legal challenges to pesticide registrations that have been prevalent in federal courts. Regarding dicamba, Snyder stated there are no plans by EPA to change the dicamba label for the 2022 crop year. However, EPA is working closely with the registrants to make possible amendments to the label for 2023. Read the full article here: [bit.ly/3wbRbZa](https://bit.ly/3wbRbZa).

PCG WILL MEET WITH DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR DARRYL EARNEST AND THE TEXAS AREA DIRECTORS ON **MAY 11TH** TO REVIEW CLASSING PROGRESS AND TIMELINESS OF SERVICE AS WELL AS DISCUSS AREAS OF POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT.

A full report will be available in next week's *Cotton News*.

## Kansas Passes Boll Weevil Legislation

House Bill 2559 establishes the Kansas Cotton Boll Weevil Program. While boll weevils are not in Kansas, lawmakers wish to create a prevention program for these insects since the boll weevil remains a threat to emerge from a stronghold on Texas' southern border with Mexico, according to Tim Carpenter with the *Kansas Reflector*.

The bill would allow the boll weevil program's board of directors to establish a cotton pest monitoring plan, including the authority to enter private property to inspect fields. If boll weevils or other pests are discovered, the board could develop an eradication plan. The bill would allow the board to levy an assessment on cotton bales, paid by the grower at the time of deposit at the cotton gin, to fund the program.

Gov. Laura Kelly approved the bill on April 25, 2022. The bill summary can be found here: [bit.ly/37nFtCd](https://bit.ly/37nFtCd).

## Cotton and Wool Apparel Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is announcing the availability of \$50 million for the new Cotton and Wool Apparel Program (CAWA), which will support the domestic markets for wool and Pima cotton by assisting eligible apparel manufacturers of men's and boys' worsted wool suits, sport coats, pants or Pima cotton dress shirts, Pima cotton spinners and wool fabric manufacturers and wool spinners.

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically reduced the demand for these types of clothing, textiles and threads and, in turn, the market for the raw commodities. CAWA will assist in the development and restoration of the market for domestically produced cotton and wool products and ultimately for the underlying commodities.

To be eligible for CAWA, an applicant must have experienced a decrease of at least 15% in calendar year 2020 gross sales or consumption of eligible products described in this document compared to the applicant's gross sales or consumption in any selected years 2017, 2018 or 2019. Payments to eligible entities will be based on their pre-pandemic market share relative to other similar applicants subject to payment limitations.

The eligibility requirements, payment calculation and application procedure for CAWA can be found here: [bit.ly/37pqtE2](https://bit.ly/37pqtE2).

## Connect with PCG



@plainscottongrowers



@plainscottongrowers



@PCGNews



Plains Cotton Growers

