

Farm Credit Recognizes PCG's Verett as Top Agricultural and Rural Leader

Friday, March 18, 2016

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Steve Verett, Executive Vice President of Plains Cotton Growers, was named on Wednesday as one of 100 nationwide honorees of the Farm Credit 100 Fresh Perspectives program, which recognizes leaders across the nation who are making a significant impact on rural communities and agriculture.

Selection panelists, which included Farm Credit leaders and others in the agriculture industry, evaluated more than 1,000 nominations from all 50 states for the award. Individuals and groups were recognized for demonstrating influence, leadership and innovation in 10 categories. Verett was selected as one of the Top 10 leaders in Rural Policy Influence.

"This is a well-deserved recognition for Steve Verett," Clint Robinson, Senior Vice President and Lubbock Branch Manager for Capital Farm Credit said. "There is no better friend we have here in agriculture than Steve. Whether it's protecting our interests, or working toward the betterment of the industry as a whole, Steve's is the first voice you will hear."

In addition to his role at PCG, Verett owns and operates a 3,500 acre family farm with his son and brother in Crosby County, Texas.

"I truly am honored and humbled to receive this award," Verett said. "It is a privilege to work with tremendously talented, capable people in agriculture who are committed to making a difference. I commend Farm Credit for their support of rural communities and agriculture."

To learn more about the Farm Credit 100 Fresh Perspectives honorees, visit <http://www.farmcredit100.com/top100>.

PCG Annual Meeting Set for April 8

Friday, March 18, 2016

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Keynote speaker David Wasserman, House Editor for The Cook Political Report, will present "An Insider's Guide to the 2016 Election" at Plains Cotton Growers' 59th Annual Meeting on Friday, April 8, 2016 in the Banquet Hall of the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. The keynote presentation is sponsored by Farmers Cooperative Compress.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration, and the program will start promptly at 9 a.m. The meeting is held in conjunction with the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show, April 7-8, 2016, in Lubbock. For more information on the TCGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show, visit <http://www.tcga.org/>.

Wasserman is responsible for handicapping and analyzing U.S. House Races for The Cook Political Report. He has served as an analyst for the NBC News Election Night Decision Desk in 2014, 2012, 2010, and 2008, and has appeared on NBC Nightly News, ABC World News, C-SPAN Washington Journal, CNN, and NPR. He is a frequent contributor to FiveThirtyEight.com and his commentary on House races has been cited in numerous

print and online publications including Politico, The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and RealClearPolitics.com.

Reece Langley, Vice President of Washington Operations at the National Cotton Council, also is scheduled to update attendees on the NCC's activities. Langley is responsible for coordinating the Washington activities of the Council, including working with Congress and the Administration, with the overall mission of helping each of the U.S. cotton industry's seven segments compete effectively and profitably in a global market.

The program will feature an update on the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. PAC and an announcement about the 2016 Celebrate Cotton Game. In addition, both candidates for U.S. House District 19, Jodey Arrington and Glen Robertson, have been invited to speak briefly at the meeting.

Current PCG president Shawn Holladay will preside over the meeting and PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett will report on the status of PCG operations and activities. Lubbock Cotton Exchange President Darren Newton will discuss the Texas International Cotton School. PCG will present the 2015 High Plains Cotton Agent of the Year award.

Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m., sponsored by Deltapine. Lunch, sponsored by Bayer Crop Science/FiberMax/Stoneville, will follow the meeting.

There is no charge to attend and no RSVP is necessary. Additional information about PCG and the Annual Meeting can be found at <http://www.plainscotton.org>.

Want the facts about the U.S. agriculture and farm policy?

<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

"Rock Cotton Texas Style" Theme for TCGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show

The Texas Cotton Ginners Association will host their 109th Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Lubbock on April 7-8. The theme for the event is "Rock Cotton Texas Style". Attendees are invited to use the hashtag #RockCottonTexasStyle on social media.

The meeting features several events, including the Southwest Ginners School and a golf tournament on April 6. The trade show starts at 9 a.m., on Thursday, April 7, at the Lubbock Civic Center where more than 130 exhibitors will be on hand. The day's show concludes with a "Taste of Lubbock Party" that is open to all show attendees.

On Friday, show hours are from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Plains Cotton Growers will host their annual meeting from 9 a.m. until noon. The day concludes with TCGA's Awards Dinner and Vegas Night Celebration at the Overton Hotel. Tickets for the dinner may be purchased at the show registration booth. Everyone is invited to the Vegas Night Celebration following the dinner, and no ticket is required.

For more information, visit <http://www.tcga.org>.