

## May 31 Final Plant Date Approaches

Friday, May 27, 2016

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Growers across the Texas High Plains, particularly those facing a Tuesday final planting date, took advantage of warmer, drier weather this week to plant a significant amount of cotton and advance overall planting progress.

However, severe storms caused damage in the Seminole area, and growers in Crosby County also reported crop damage. The extent of any crop damage is unknown at this point, but in Seminole, hailstones of up to three inches in diameter fell in town on Saturday evening (May 21).

Ben Royston, general manager of Pioneer Gin, located west of Seminole, said he had heard reports of cotton acreage lost south of Seminole, although it was unknown if it was due to wind or hail. He said most cotton planting has occurred within the past 10 days, so at the time of the storm, some plants may not yet have emerged.

Growers are moving as quickly as possible ahead of thunderstorm chances over Memorial Day weekend. The May 31 final planting date is for counties in the north and northwestern portion of the PCG service area. June 5 is the FPD for central counties, while southern counties have until June 10 to plant and be eligible for federal crop insurance.

## Enrollment Opens for

### Texas International Cotton School

Friday, May 27, 2016 From Texas International Cotton School

Registration is open for the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas International Cotton School, scheduled for August 1-12, 2016, in Lubbock.

The Texas International Cotton School (TICS) 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 the 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.

“Those interested should register early, because the class size is limited,” said Dean Ethridge, Ph.D., managing director of the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute. “The size and diversity of the class stimulates learning and results in friendships that may extend years into the future.”

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 aspects of U.S. and global trade of cotton are covered, so the students obtain an understanding of what is required to successfully participate in the U.S. cotton market and to deliver the cottons needed in diverse export

markets. They 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 the cotton merchants of the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the fiber and textile experts of Texas Tech University.

“Our planning committee works diligently to ensure that our curriculum not only includes the fundamentals of the cotton industry, but also examines the latest issues and advancements,” Lubbock Cotton Exchange President Darren Newton said.

For more information, including tuition and curriculum, visit <http://www.texasintl cottonschool.com> or call Christi Chadwell, TICS coordinator, at (806) 834-8124.

**The EPA has extended the comment period on the use of dicamba herbicide in dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybeans to May 31.**

To submit your comment about this new technology, visit <https://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0187-0001>

## 2016 P.I.E. Program Tour Dates Set

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

From the National Cotton Council

The National Cotton Council has scheduled tour dates and locations for the 2016 Producer Information Exchange (P.I.E.) Program.

The P.I.E. program provides U.S. cotton producers the opportunity to maximize production efficiency and improve yields and fiber quality by: 1) gaining new perspectives in such fundamental practices as land preparation, planting, fertilization, pest control, irrigation and harvesting; and 2) observing diverse farming practices and the unique ways in which their innovative peers have adopted new and existing technology.

This season, Mid-South producers will visit agricultural operations in North Carolina and South Carolina on July 17-22; Southeast producers will see operations in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee on July 24-29; Southwest producers will tour California's San Joaquin Valley on July 31-August 5; and Western producers will observe operations in two of Texas' cotton production regions on August 14-19.

Sponsored by Bayer CropScience LP through a grant to The Cotton Foundation, the P.I.E. is now in its 28th year and has exposed more than 1,100 U.S. cotton producers to innovative production practices in regions different than their own. The NCC's Member Services staff, in conjunction with local producer interest organizations, conducts the program, including participant selection.

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