

Integrated Understanding; Texas International Cotton School Scheduled

Friday, July 29, 2016 By Norman Martin, Texas Tech

The Lubbock Cotton Exchange, in conjunction with Texas Tech University's Fiber & Biopolymer Research Institute, is hosting the 36th session of the Texas International Cotton School. Running from Aug. 1-12, the High Plains program is two weeks of classes, lectures, tours and hands-on interaction in all phases of cotton production, harvesting, ginning, classing, testing, preparation and processing.

"The goal is to allow students and professionals to better understand the global cotton industry," said Texas Cotton School Coordinator Christi Chadwell. Since its inception in 1989, 579 students from 60 countries and 17 U.S. states have attended the course. Texas, the nation's leading producer of cotton, annually produces approximately 25 percent of the entire United States' cotton crop.

The curriculum's fluffy-fiber focus is U.S. cotton production, processing and marketing systems, along with an examination of the industry's latest machinery and equipment. "This is a hands-on course that covers all phases of production, harvesting, ginning, classing and testing," Chadwell said.

The curriculum for this year's session includes: Breeding strategies, production systems, cottonseed biotechnology; Field to fiber, fiber to yarn, yard to fabric; Fiber properties & measurements, contaminants, textile chemical process, yarn & fabric properties; Precision agriculture, sustainability issues, pima cotton, cotton ginning & classing, bale selection; Marketing topics – cotton economics, futures and options, contracts, government programs, role of the merchant, exports, us certification and delivery process through the ICE; International market promotion, international arbitration, trade finance, cotton insurance

Among the scheduled tours are Bayer CropScience-global cotton headquarters; USDA Classing Office to see how cotton is classed via HVI; farm tours to see various types of cotton farming (drip irrigation, pivot irrigation, and dryland fields); Farmers Compress with its 2.2 million bale storage capacity; and several dinners/social gatherings to meet and network with members of the Lubbock Cotton Exchange.

During the past decade, West Texas cotton has experienced a dramatic transformation through new transgenic cotton varieties and advanced technology. During that time, Texas Tech researchers have worked on a number of projects to enhance fiber quality through genetics and create new value-added cotton products.

The Texas Cotton Association members merchandise the cotton produced by the many thousands of cotton growers in Texas and Oklahoma, while the Lubbock Cotton Exchange was formed in 1947 to maintain cotton exchange with powers to provide and maintain an atmosphere for the conduct of businesses.

Tech's Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute is equipped and staffed to conduct research and development activities ranging from small-scale testing through large-scale manufacturing. A fundamental objective is to foster greater use of the natural fibers and increase textile manufacturing in Texas.

AUGUST 5 DEADLINE!

Signups are under way for the
Cotton Ginning Cost-Share Program!
Return your pre-filled form to your local FSA office
no later than Friday, August 5!
This deadline WILL NOT BE EXTENDED!

More information at <http://www.plainscotton.org>.

Tickets Available for Celebrate Cotton Game on Saturday, September 17

Friday, July 29, 2016 By Mary Jane Buerkle

Those in the cotton industry who want to see the Texas Tech Red Raiders take on Louisiana Tech in the Celebrate Cotton game on Saturday, September 17, at Jones AT&T Stadium in Lubbock have a special promotional code to purchase tickets to that game.

Be sure you have your game tickets by visiting <http://bit.ly/TTUCottonGameTickets> and entering COTTON16, or calling the Texas Tech Ticket Office at (806) 742-TECH (8324) and asking for the Cotton Game special pricing.

Individual tickets start at just \$25 each with the promo code, and the game time is at 6 p.m. Season tickets also are still available for purchase.

PCG has proudly partnered with Texas Tech Athletics to establish this fun event that puts the High Plains cotton industry on a national stage. Cotton will be everywhere before and throughout the game, from displays around the stadium to promotion, special graphics and fun cotton facts during the game.

Special gameday T-shirts, sponsored by PCG and Scarborough Specialties, will be distributed (first-come, first-serve!) and cotton bales will line each entrance to the stadium, each with signage talking about what the cotton in that bale can make or how it impacts our economy. Farmers Cooperative Compress assists with providing the bales.

The Celebrate Cotton Runway Show, featuring cotton products, will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, September 10, at South Plains Mall. Sponsorships are available for that event.

Partners for Celebrate Cotton include AgTexas Farm Credit Services, Bayer CropScience, Cavender's, City Bank, Crop Production Services, Deltapine, Eco-Drip, Netafim, Hurst Farm Supply, and Wylie Implement and Spray Centers. Partnerships are still available; contact PCG for more information.

Several additional cotton-related activities are scheduled during Cotton Game week.

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The Texas Cotton Association will host their Flow Meeting Thursday and Friday, September 15 and 16, at the Overton Hotel and Conference Center.

They also will partner with the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the Texas Independent Ginners Association to host the "Teeing Off for Cotton Week" scholarship golf tournament on Thursday, September 15, at The Rawls Course.

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute Annual Conference will be Tuesday, September 13.

If you have an event to add to Cotton Game week, or for more information on any of these events, please call PCG at (806) 792-4904 or email maryjane@plainscotton.org.

Cotton Fiber Quality Conference Scheduled for August 4 in Lubbock

Friday, July 29, 2016

From AgriLife TODAY

To ensure growers have all the information they need to make decisions that impact quality, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will conduct the Cotton Fiber Quality Conference and Tours on Thursday, August 4, in Lubbock.

The educational program will start with registration at 8 a.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 E. Farm-to-Market Road 1294.

Morning tours will include:

Texas Cotton Quality in Developmental Research, Dr. Jane Dever, Texas A&M AgriLife Research cotton geneticist, and Dr. Carol Kelly, AgriLife Research associate, Lubbock.

Late-Season Timing of Irrigation for Maximum Efficiency and Quality, Dr. Dana Porter, AgriLife Extension irrigation specialist, Lubbock.

Quality Impact on Late Season-Fertility Decisions, Dr. Katie Lewis, AgriLife Research and Texas Tech University soil fertility researcher, Lubbock.

Cotton Growth and Development/Plant Growth Regulator Opportunities, and Harvest Aid Technology, Dr. Seth Byrd and Dr. Gaylon Morgan, AgriLife Extension cotton agronomists, Lubbock and College Station, respectively.

Late-Season Cotton Weed Management, Dr. Peter Dotray, AgriLife Extension weed and herbicide specialist, Lubbock.

Dr. Doug Steele, AgriLife Extension director at College Station, is the scheduled luncheon speaker. Steele will speak on the agency's mission and impact. He will be followed by the Plains Cotton Growers staff discussing agriculture legislative updates, producers' opportunities to get involved, and the 2016 crop outlook.

The next tours are set for 1:30 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Agricultural Research Service Cotton Production and Processing Research Unit, 1604 E. Farm-to-Market Road 1294.

Presentations at this stop will include:

Harvesting and Ginning Effects on Cotton Quality, John Wanjura, agricultural engineer, USDA Production and Processing Research, Lubbock.

Cotton Market Update and the Value of Quality Fiber, Dr. Jackie Smith, AgriLife Extension economist, Lubbock.

The day will end with a 3:30 p.m. tour of the Texas Tech University Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute located at

1001 E. Loop 289 by Dr. Brendan Kelly, Texas Tech University cotton fiber researcher, Lubbock.

Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units, one integrated pest management and two general, will be offered.

There will be no charge for lunch or the program due to sponsor support, but an RSVP is requested by August 1.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the local AgriLife Extension county office or Danny Nusser, AgriLife Extension regional program leader in Amarillo and Lubbock, at (806) 376-0051 or d-nusser@tamu.edu.

Southwest Cotton Producers to See San Joaquin Valley Agriculture

Tuesday, July 26, 2016

From the National Cotton Council

Eleven cotton producers from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas will observe cotton and other agricultural operations in California's San Joaquin Valley the week of August 1 as part of the National Cotton Council's 2016 Producer Information Exchange Program.

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 Cotton Belt regions different than their own. NCC's Member Services staff, in conjunction with local producer interest organizations, conducts the program, including participant selection.

The participating cotton producers are: Kansas – Jayme Dunn, Santata; Oklahoma – Ron Wollmann, Bessie; and Texas – Corbin Clements, Snyder; Anthony Furgeson, Shallowater; Marcus Galle, Raymondville; Greg Harper, Sudan; Cody Hughes, Sweetwater; Sam Kellermeier, Garden City; David Kubenka, San Angelo; Dane Sanders, Floydada; and Nick Seaton, Meadow.

In this third of four 2016 P.I.E. tours, the group will begin their activities on August 1 in Fresno with a briefing from the California Cotton Ginners/Growers Association and then a tour of Bayer CropScience's research facility. They also will tour Don Cameron's Terra Nova Ranch in Helm as well as other cotton operations in the Tranquillity area.

The next day, the group will observe Gilkey Enterprises' cotton operations in Corcoran and visit other area farms before traveling to Lemoore to see the Droogh Dairy and then to Laton for a tour of Jovie & Mark Rosa Farms and other farms in that area.

On August 3, the producers will tour the Quady Winery in Madera, then go to Los Banos to see tomato processing at the Ingomar Packing Company and meet with local cotton producers. The group will conclude their California tour on August 4 with a look at table grape harvesting at the Kirschermann Farms in Shafter and a visit to the Farmers Coop Almond Huller in nearby Wasco.

This season's other P.I.E. tours had Mid-South cotton producers visiting the Carolinas on July 18-21; Southeastern producers seeing cotton operations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee on July 24-28; and Western producers going to two of Texas' cotton production regions, August 14-19.

Editor's Note:

"Cotton News", a weekly service of Plains Cotton Growers to the cotton industry and news media in the 41-county High Plains area, is mailed from Lubbock each Friday. Its contents are confined to news items and comments pertaining to the High Plains cotton industry which is so vital to us all. Anyone interested in making comments about the contents of this column can call 806-792-4904 or Email editor@plainscotton.org