

April 21, 2017

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2017 Upland Cotton Loan Chart Now Available

Friday, April 21, 2017

By Shawn Wade

The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency released the 2017-crop Upland Cotton Loan Premium and Discount tables on April 18 and they contain a significant number of changes compared to the 2016 tables.

Release of the revised premium and discount tables follow the earlier announcement that the Base Loan rate for Upland Cotton was lowered to 49.49 cents per pound for the 2017 crop.

The general trend for the adjustments to the 2017 tables seems to have been to make everything just a little bit smaller. Most of the adjustments ranged from 0-35 points with changes in the predominant Color/Leaf/Staple combinations falling mostly in the 5-20 point range.

Changes to premiums and discounts in the White and Light Spotted grades in all Leaf and Staple combinations tended to stay within the ranges noted above. The changes also tended to provide additional uniformity in the way that differences between Leaf grades in each Color/Staple combination increase as Leaf grade decreases.

Changes in the 2017 premiums and discounts for Bark and Extraneous matter, Micronaire, Strength, and Length Uniformity were also mixed. The Strength table showed slight improvements via lower discounts for Strength readings below 25 grams per tex, while the Length Uniformity table was essentially unchanged.

The most noticeable differences in this section of the loan table are higher discounts for Micronaire readings below 3.5 that range from 15 to 30 points. Cotton with Micronaire readings between 3.7 and 4.2, receive the only premium available in the Micronaire table, will see that premium reduced 5 points in 2017 as well.

The table below provides comparisons between 2016 and 2017 loan values for White Grades 11-41 and Light Spot grades 12-42, Staple 34 through 38 and higher.

Complete 2017 Loan Premium and Discount tables and loan charts with calculated values based on the 2017 schedule of premiums and discounts will be posted on the Plains Cotton Growers website at: <http://www.plainscotton.org>.

COMPARISON OF LOAN PREMIUMS AND DISCOUNTS FOR SELECTED GRADE, STAPLE LENGTH, AND LEAF CONTENT COMBINATIONS OF 2017-CROP AMERICAN UPLAND COTTON

Base Loan Rate: U.S.= 49.49 ¢/pound

Color	Staple Leaf	34			35			36			37			38+		
		2016 Loan	2017 Loan	Change												
11 & 21	SM & better 3	145	125	-20	375	350	-25	490	470	-20	525	520	-5	535	535	0
	4	120	100	-20	315	285	-30	415	400	-15	450	445	-5	465	460	-5
	5	70	60	-10	220	195	-25	310	310	0	325	340	15	330	340	10
	6	-65	-70	-5	135	105	-30	190	180	-10	200	190	-10	200	190	-10
	7	-280	-280	0	-205	-210	-5	-185	-175	10	-185	-170	15	-185	-170	15
		-385	-380	5	-320	-320	0	-300	-285	15	-300	-280	20	-300	-280	20
	MID Leaf 1-2	105	85	-20	320	285	-35	440	420	-20	460	450	-10	470	460	-10
31	3	95	80	-15	290	255	-35	395	375	-20	410	405	-5	425	415	-10
	4	50	40	-10	175	140	-35	250	235	-15	270	260	-10	280	270	-10
	5	-115	-125	-10	80	45	-35	130	110	-20	140	120	-20	140	120	-20
	6	-295	-295	0	-240	-245	-5	-215	-215	0	-210	-210	0	-210	-210	0
	7	-390	-385	5	-350	-345	5	-325	-315	10	-320	-315	5	-320	-315	5
	SLM Leaf 1-3	45	40	-5	170	140	-30	260	240	-20	270	260	-10	280	270	-10
	41	Base	Base	Base	115	95	-20	210	185	-25	220	205	-15	230	215	-15
42	5	-195	-205	-10	.90	.95	-5	-20	-25	-5	-20	-20	0	-20	-20	0
	6	-375	-375	0	-305	-315	-10	-275	-275	0	-275	-275	0	-275	-275	0
	7	-495	-490	5	-425	-425	0	-410	-405	5	-410	-400	10	-410	-400	10
	SM & better 3	80	65	-15	230	215	-15	335	325	-10	340	335	-5	350	340	-10
	4	65	50	-15	190	170	-20	295	280	-15	305	295	-10	315	300	-15
	5	-40	-60	-20	125	110	-15	240	235	-5	245	245	0	255	250	-5
	6	-235	-255	-20	-105	-105	0	-75	-70	5	-70	-65	5	-70	-65	5
32	7	-635	-535	0	-350	-350	0	-335	-335	0	-330	-325	5	-330	-325	5
	MID Leaf 1-2	-35	-50	-15	35	25	-10	95	90	-5	95	95	0	100	95	-5
	3	-60	-75	-15	5	-10	-15	80	75	-5	80	75	-5	85	75	-10
	4	-155	-170	-15	-65	-75	-10	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5	0
	5	-310	-330	-20	-240	-245	-5	-210	-210	0	-210	-210	0	-210	-210	0
	6	-475	-485	-10	-425	-430	-5	-410	-410	0	-410	-410	0	-410	-410	0
	7	-585	-595	-10	-530	-535	-5	-520	-520	0	-520	-520	0	-520	-520	0
42	SLM Leaf 1-3	-170	-215	-45	-80	-130	-50	-15	-55	-40	-15	-55	-40	-15	-55	-40
	4	-205	-250	-45	-135	-180	-45	-70	-110	-40	-70	-110	-40	-70	-110	-40
	5	-370	-405	-35	-285	-310	-25	-270	-295	-25	-270	-295	-25	-270	-295	-25
	6	-505	-540	-35	-455	-490	-35	-445	-470	-25	-445	-470	-25	-445	-470	-25
	7	-635	-665	-30	-570	-595	-25	-565	-585	-20	-565	-585	-20	-565	-585	-20

Weather and Climate Workshop Scheduled for April 26 in Clovis

An interactive workshop discussing current and future challenges facing agricultural production in the Southern High Plains of New Mexico and West Texas is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Indoor Pavilion at the Curry County Fairgrounds in Clovis, New Mexico.

Representatives from the National Drought Mitigation Center, NOAA, NMSU, and the USDA will be presenting on weather- and climate-related challenges along with resources and research that support producer decision-making and risk mitigation. Workshop topics will include short- and medium-range weather forecasts, historical climate trends, local monitoring activities, drought tools, drought early warning resources, and USDA programs.

There is no charge to attend the workshop and lunch, coffee and snacks are provided. Attendees are asked to register online at <https://swclimatehub.info/content/registration> or by phone with Caiti Steele, (575) 646-4144 or caiti@nmsu.edu. Limited travel support may be available for agricultural producers and Extension, and those interested should inquire early.

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West Texas Mesonet Launches Free App for iPhone, iPad

Friday, March 24, 2017

By Glenys Young, Texas Tech

It's an old joke that if you don't like the weather in Texas, just wait a few minutes and it'll change. Of course, if you want accurate weather information, the technology at your fingertips has to change that quickly as well.

Texas Tech University's West Texas Mesonet launched its new app on Thursday (March 23), available to download for free in the App Store. The app's data is updated every five minutes from the weather stations in the mesonet's extensive coverage area.

"The app provides precise weather and agricultural information right to your phone from more than 100 mesonet sites across West Texas, eastern New Mexico and southwest Colorado," said Wes Burgett, operations manager for the West Texas Mesonet. "It provides current data along with 24-hour plots. The app also provides daily and weekly weather forecasts from the National Weather Service."

The app gives users easy access to information on temperature, wind speed, wind direction, wind gusts, pressure, dew point, humidity and precipitation in plain language, along with weather maps based on the iPhone or iPad's GPS location.

The app can be found at this direct link (<https://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewSoftware?id=1210071930&mt=8>) or by searching "West Texas Mesonet" in the App Store.

Did you miss our recent Annual Meeting, or want to listen to one of our excellent speakers again?

Visit <http://www.allagnews.com/archives/14931> for complete archived coverage!

Thanks to Tony St. James at All Ag, All Day!

Enrollment Continues for Texas International Cotton School

Friday, April 21, 2017 From Texas International Cotton School

Registration remains open for the 37th session of the Texas International Cotton School, scheduled for August 7-17, 2017, 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.

"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.

Jayci Cave, TICS graduate and communications manager at Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, said attending the Texas International Cotton School was an "incredible experience."

"It gives you an overview of everything from the farmer all the way to the finished textile product," she said. "I would recommend anyone with an interest in cotton to attend."

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.

"My favorite part of the cotton school was getting to meet people from all sectors of the cotton industry," Cave said. "From the speakers to my fellow attendees, I learned something from everyone I met!"

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

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 U.S. all. Anyone interested in making comments about the contents of this column can call 806-792-4904 or Email PCG at: editor@plainscotton.org