

## **Beltwide Cotton Conferences Set for Next Week**

December 2017 Information from the National Cotton Council

The 2018 Beltwide Cotton Conferences can help its attendees improve production, processing and marketing efficiency by providing them with insight into the latest available tools and research findings.

Those planning to attend the concurrent conferences, set for January 3-5 at the Marriott Rivercenter in San Antonio, Texas, can register on-site and should call the hotel at (210) 223-1000 to reserve a hotel room if needed. Information is available on the BWCC website at <http://www.cotton.org/beltwide/>. That site also includes the preliminary online program, general information about the BWCC, and a link to BWCC proceedings from 2005-2017.

The BWCC, coordinated by the National Cotton Council, annually brings together university and USDA researchers, Extension personnel/agents, consultants, and industry sales/support personnel.

The 2018 BWCC will begin at noon on January 3 with the half-day Cotton Consultants Conference – open to all attendees. Among scheduled topics selected by the consultant community are: looking ahead to Bollgard III use, a review of year one of Dicamba use, thrips control, bacterial blight, nematodes, cotton root rot and fungicide seed treatments. Also included will be a regulatory update and presentations on growing cotton economically and on contamination prevention.

The 2018 Beltwide also will feature a special workshop, “Risk & Reward: Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for Agricultural Producers.” The session is supported by a grant from the Southern Extension Risk Management Education Center and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The BWCC cotton technical conferences, which will provide updates on research and a look into the technology pipeline, will meet concurrently beginning on the morning of January 4 and conclude by noon on January 5.

The Ginning Conference, for example, will include several presentations critical to cotton quality and efficient processing. Included will be updates regarding ongoing ginning research, new equipment, and lint contamination research/prevention. Results of the 2016 Gin Cost Survey will be presented. Beginning the afternoon of January 3, the National Cotton Ginners Association will hold several committee and subcommittee meetings. A schedule is at <http://www.cotton.org/ncga/index.cfm>.

A new type of presentation will be offered at one of the BWCC technical conferences. The Cotton Improvement Conference will feature five-minute lightning talks from poster presentation authors. The intent is for those authors to provide the main points of their research for the purpose of stimulating more discussion later at the poster session.

On-site conference self-registration kiosks will be available 24 hours a day beginning on the evening of January 2. Beginning on the morning of January 3, NCC staff will be available for attendees needing assistance with registration and name badge printing.

## **Annual Water Level Measurements Begin Jan. 2**

December 2017 From the High Plains Water District

Beginning Jan. 2, HPWD personnel will begin making water level measurements to determine the effect of 2017 pumping on groundwater levels in aquifers within the district.

These annual measurements are made in a network of more than 1,370 privately-owned wells. These observation wells are spaced at a density of approximately one well per nine square miles throughout the 16-county HPWD service area.

“We want the public to be aware that our staff will be visiting observation well sites from early January until completion of this work effort. They will be driving white pickup trucks that are clearly identified as Water District vehicles,” said HPWD General Manager Jason Coleman.

These water level data are made available to the public through an interactive map on the HPWD website (<http://map.hpwd.org>). Persons may access annual observation well data, annual supplemental well data, and daily water level data in select wells using this feature.

“Since its debut in 2013, the interactive map has grown in popularity each year. Most persons now utilize this feature to obtain depth-to-water and saturated thickness information. Because of this, HPWD is discontinuing the printed water level measurement report starting this year,” Coleman said. The formal migration to the online data eliminates the cost of printing and mailing the report, and saves HPWD residents considerable money.

Those without computer access are encouraged to contact Jed Leibbrandt at the HPWD office to request print versions of the annual water level measurement data. District staff will accommodate those requests for print versions using a county-specific report.

Additional information about the annual water level measurement program is available by contacting the HPWD office at (806) 762-0181 or by visiting the district website at <http://www.hpwd.org/>.

## **Upcoming Area Ag Conferences**

**January 12** – West Plains Ag Conference, **Levelland**, South Plains College in the Sundown Room, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Info: Kerry Siders, Extension Agent-IPM, 806-894-3150.

**January 16** – Southern Mesa Ag Conference, Forrest Park Community Center, 814 S. Houston, **Lamesa**. Registration at 7:45 a.m. Info: Gary Roschetzky, Extension Agent-Ag/NR, 806-872-3444.

**January 19** – Caprock Crop Production Conference, Floyd County Friends Unity Center at **Muncy**. Registration at 7 a.m., \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door. 10 CEUs, 10 CCAs. Info: Caitlin Jackson, County Extension Agent-Ag/NR, 806-675-2347 or Cristen Brooks, County Extension Agent-Ag/NR, 806-983-4912.

*PCG EDITOR'S NOTE:* A complete list will be available soon at <http://www.plainscotton.org/agconferences.html>.