

PCG Annual Meeting Set for Friday, April 6

Friday, March 30, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., will host their 61st Annual Meeting on Friday, April 6, 2018 in the Banquet Hall of the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., 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 5-6, 2018, in Lubbock. For more information on the TCGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show, visit <http://www.tcga.org/>.

Current PCG president Johnie Reed, who farms near Kress, Texas, will preside over the meeting and PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett will report on the status of PCG operations and activities. An award recognizing the 2017 High Plains Cotton Agent of the Year also will be presented at the meeting.

Congressman Jodey Arrington is scheduled to speak to the group. Bruce Atherley, executive director of Cotton Council International, will report on CCI's export promotion activities. Tom Wedegaertner with Cotton Incorporated will report on that organization's latest initiatives. The program will feature an update on the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. PAC and an announcement about the 2018 Celebrate Cotton Game. PCG staff also will present information on the new Seed Cotton program, and John Aldinger with the Lubbock Cotton Exchange will discuss the Texas International Cotton School.

Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m., sponsored by Monsanto/Deltapine. Lunch, sponsored by Bayer CropScience/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>.

Texas Cotton Ginners Association
111th Annual Meeting and Trade Show
April 5-6 • Lubbock Civic Center
More info: www.tcga.org

AgriLife Extension Sets Cotton Marketing Workshop April 4 in Lubbock

Thursday, March 29, 2018

From AgriLife TODAY

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will conduct a Cotton Marketing Workshop on April 4 in conjunction with the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show April 5 and 6.

The free workshop will be 1-4:30 p.m. in Room 108 of the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in Lubbock.

Dr. Jackie Smith, AgriLife Extension economist at Lubbock, said the workshop is set the day before the gin show so producers can attend both events.

"We're hoping to have producers and ginners from all over the state attend," he said. "We are also making a special effort to encourage attendance by some of our newer cotton producers from the Amarillo area."

Smith proposed attendees arrive by 1 p.m. April 4, attend this workshop, and be in place for the gin show and Plains Cotton Growers annual meeting, which is set for April 6.

"We will cover several very timely topics," Smith said. "Shawn Wade, director of policy for Plains Cotton Growers will lead a discussion of the new Farm Bill, including some comments about changes in crop insurance."

"I'll lead a discussion on cotton crop budgets with an emphasis on break-even analysis. We've been facing some tempting marketing opportunities that are likely at or near breakeven in most situations, so we're going to take a look at some marketing tools and weigh the risks of using those tools. It will be an interesting discussion."

Smith will be followed by Dr. John Robinson, AgriLife Extension state cotton marketing specialist at College Station. Robinson will present a market outlook and discuss several pricing tools, offering the pros and cons of each.

Dr. Seth Byrd, AgriLife Extension cotton agronomist at Lubbock, will review the 2017 cotton crop's low micronaire quality problems and offer his opinion as to whether a similar scenario can be expected this year.

"Our final speaker will be Kelli Merritt who wears many hats — farmer, rancher, broker and market advisor to name a few," Smith said. "Kelli is a licensed commodity broker, Dawson County producer and president of CropMark Select. I've asked her to describe her favorite pricing tool, which should generate some discussion. We're also interested in hearing what others use, so we'll encourage participants to describe their favorite forward pricing tool and strategy. All these discussions should make for an enlightening afternoon."

For more information, contact Smith at 806-746-6101.

Enrollment Open for Texas International Cotton School

Friday, March 30, 2018 From Texas International Cotton School

Registration remains open for the 38th session of the Texas International Cotton School, scheduled for August 6-16, 2018, 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.

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“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 John Aldinger 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.texasintl cottonschool.com> or call Taylor Bartek, TICS coordinator, at (806) 834-2438.

Cotton Ginning Cost Share Signups are Underway!

Contact Your Local FSA Office

More Info: <http://fsa.usda.gov/cgcs>

Texas Receives Section 18 for Transform for Control of Plant Bugs in Cotton

March 2018

By Dr. Suhas Vyavhare

The EPA has approved the Section 18 Emergency Exemption for use of Transform WG in Texas to control plant bugs in cotton. This exemption is effective March 1, 2018 and expires October 31, 2018.

Pests and application rates: Plant bugs (1.5 – 2.25 oz Transform WG per acre)

Spray drift management: Applications are prohibited above wind speeds of 10 mph

Restrictions:

- Pre-harvest Interval: Do not apply within 14 days of harvest.
- A restricted entry interval (REI) of 24 hours applies to all applications.
- Minimum Treatment Interval: Do not make applications less than 5 days apart.

- Do not make more than four applications per acre per year.
- Do not make more than two consecutive applications per crop.
- Do not apply more than a total of 8.5 oz of Transform WG (0.266 lb ai of sulfoxaflor) per acre per year.

Upcoming Auxin-Specific Herbicide Trainings

See the list at plainscotton.org

HPWD Now Enrolling Producers for 2018 Irrigation Assessment Program

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 From High Plains Water District

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District is now enrolling producers for participation in its 2018 Irrigation Assessment Program.

Since the program's reinstatement in 2013, cooperating producers have volunteered to have their center pivot or subsurface drip irrigation system evaluated by HPWD staff. Water levels in wells are measured at the beginning and end of the growing season. In addition, flow rates of the wells/irrigation systems are checked with an ultrasonic flow meter. This service is provided by HPWD at no cost to willing participants.

The pumping hours, total gallons of water per minute, and the number of irrigated acres are calculated to determine the total acre-inches of groundwater applied during the growing season. Rainfall totals are determined through the use of radar estimates from April to September. This gives an estimate of the total inches of water available for plant use.

Water samples are also collected as an extra service to those participating in the program. HPWD is able to check Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), chloride, and pH levels of groundwater. It is important to understand water chemistry since it impacts the efficient use of supplemental nutrients applied to crops.

All this information is used to better understand the groundwater conditions in aquifers within the HPWD service area.

For example, the 2017 program participants' well data reveals an average depth-to-water of 216 feet and an average flow rate of 110 gallons per minute. The average amount of irrigation water applied in 2017 by program participants was 6.6 inches for cotton, 9.9 inches for wheat, 10.5 inches for peanuts, 11.8 inches for silage, and 12.2 inches for corn.

All information gathered from each site is shared with program participants. Several producers have said the data has helped them better understand their irrigation system's performance.

High Plains Water District encourages all interested producers to participate in the 2018 Irrigation Assessment Program. There are two major benefits. First, it helps farmers understand how much water is used per year for crop production. Second, it provides beneficial data for future water planning efforts where accurate irrigation pumping information must be considered.

For more information, call HPWD at (806) 762-0181.

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 editor@plainscotton.org