

## **December 7 Deadline for Seed Cotton Program Signup Rapidly Approaching**

Friday, November 16, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Cotton growers have only a few more weeks before the window of opportunity for signing into the new Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage seed cotton program closes on December 7.

Farms with generic base acres that were planted or approved as a prevented planted commodity during the 2009-2016 crop years, are eligible to allocate generic base acres to seed cotton base. Producers also have a one-time opportunity to update their payment yield for seed cotton, which will become the PLC yield for the farm. Lastly, growers will need to elect either ARC or PLC for the new seed cotton base acres and then enroll the farm in ARC or PLC for the 2018 crop year.

The Texas A&M Ag and Food Policy Center has a helpful decision aid tool on their website at <http://afpc.tamu.edu>.

Gary Six, State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency in Texas, urged growers and landowners to contact their FSA offices soon, if they haven't already.

"I cannot stress enough the importance of immediately starting the seed cotton ARC/PLC enrollment process," Six said. "This is a one-time opportunity to enroll generic base acres into the safety-net program. After the December 7 deadline, the choice will not be yours to make as all acres will automatically go to PLC with no option for producers to make a change and there will be no valid contract on file and no possibility for program payments for 2018. The time to call our office for an appointment is now."

## **U.S. Cotton Industry Developing U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol**

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

From the National Cotton Council

At the Cotton Sourcing USA Summit in Scottsdale, Ariz., Cotton Council International President Ted Schneider updated the more than 400 attendees on how the U.S. cotton industry intends to meet its 2025 sustainability goals. Central to his remarks was the introduction of the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol; an integrated data collection, measurement and verification procedure that will document U.S. cotton production practices and their environmental impact. The data is intended to benchmark farmers' gains towards the industry goals and will provide the global textile supply chain additional assurances that U.S. cotton is produced in a responsible manner.

The U.S. cotton national sustainability goals, as announced last year, aim for the following by 2025: 13% Increase in productivity, i.e. reduced land use per pound of fiber; 18% Increase in irrigation efficiency; 39% Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; 15% Reduction in energy expenditures; 50% Reduction in soil loss; and 30% Increase in soil carbon.

"I would argue that U.S. cotton is already among the most sustainably produced in the world," Schneider said. As evidence,

Schneider cited the comprehensive regulatory environment in the United States, the close connection of U.S. growers to their land, the high adoption rates of precision agricultural techniques by U.S. cotton growers, and a near-forty-year track record of environmental improvement.

"We know that U.S. cotton growers continue to embrace new technologies and management techniques that reduce impact and increase yield, but today's textile industry needs more than just our word," Schneider explained. "The Trust Protocol is meant to address that need with a tangible and transparent snapshot of U.S. cotton growing practices and the gains resulting from them."

The details of the Protocol are being fine-tuned, and a pilot program will be launched in 2019 and fully implemented with the 2020 cotton crop year. Participating growers would be required to adopt a data tool that allows for the quantitative measurement of key sustainability metrics, such as the FieldPrint Platform from Field to Market. Growers also would complete a self-assessment checklist of best management practices; with a sampling of participating producers subjected to independent verification. The online interface and associated databases are currently being developed by a Memphis-based company The Seam.

## **High Plains Ag Conference Set for December 7**

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

From AgriLife TODAY

The annual High Plains Ag Conference will be hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service on Dec. 7 and offer five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units (3 General, 1 IPM and 1 Laws and Regulations).

The conference will be from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 E. Farm-to-Market Road 1294, Lubbock.

Individual preregistration, which includes lunch, is \$35 by Dec. 5 and \$45 at the door. For more information or to preregister, contact Robert Scott, CEA-Lubbock, at 806-775-1740 or [rj-scott@tamu.edu](mailto:rj-scott@tamu.edu).

Topics and presenters will include: Management of cotton bollworm/corn earworm and resistance to Bt, Dr. Pat Porter, AgriLife Extension entomologist, Lubbock; Weed resistance and management, Dr. Peter Dotray, AgriLife Extension weed specialist, Lubbock; Pesticide laws and regulations, Debbie Slocum, assistant regional director for TDA in Lubbock; Texas Corn Producers industry update, Angie Martin, industry relations, Lubbock.; Corn herbicide trial results, Dr. Jourdan Bell, AgriLife Extension agronomist, Amarillo.; Cover crops and nutrients: Challenges in a semi-arid region, Dr. Katie Lewis, Texas A&M AgriLife Research soil scientist, Lubbock.

**PCG Cotton News**  
will not be published next week.  
We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!