

## High Plains Cotton Growers Approaching Finish Line for 2018 Harvest

Friday, November 30, 2018

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Interruptions and delays plagued the beginning of harvest for the 2018 Texas High Plains cotton crop, but thanks to recent sunshine and optimal weather, growers have been moving quickly through fields across the region.

The general consensus at today's PCG Friday Morning Advisory Group meeting is that the Texas High Plains harvest is approaching 70 percent complete overall. Some growers already are finished, and others will very soon, although high winds are in this weekend's forecast, which could cause a slight delay.

"A lot can happen in two weeks," PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said. "Once growers have the opportunity to get moving, they work to get this crop out as quickly as possible."

Quality reports from Lubbock, Lamesa and Abilene indicate that color is beginning to improve. Staple, uniformity, micronaire and leaf grades all generally are good. Contamination has been low, and Verett credited educational efforts from the National Cotton Council with decreasing the amount of plastic found in modules, and growers and ginners for their diligence.

Growers should be reminded of the approaching December 7 deadline for signing into the new Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage seed cotton program.

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>.

"It is absolutely critical that growers and landowners make an appointment at their Farm Service Agency office to sign into this program as soon as possible and certainly before December 7," Verett said.

## 2018 Farm Bill Nearing Completion

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House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders announced yesterday that they have "reached an agreement in principle" on the 2018 Farm Bill.

"We are working to finalize legal and report language as well as CBO scores, but we still have more work to do," Chairmen Mike Conaway (R-Texas) and Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) and Ranking Members Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) and Debbie Stabenow (D-

Mich.) said in a news release. "We are committed to delivering a new farm bill to America as quickly as possible."

This means that barring any unforeseen delays, the bill could come up for a vote next week and if passed, sent to President Trump for a signature.

"We are encouraged by the forward progress being made on the bill, and greatly appreciate the House and Senate Ag Committee leaders and staff for their tireless efforts on negotiating these agreements," PCG President Stacy Smith said. "The Farm Bill helps preserve the future of not only our family farms, but our entire industry."

Although not many details of the legislative package are public, PCG will continue to closely monitor developments related to the bill and report information as it becomes available.

## COTTON USA Seminar in Hong Kong Explores Cotton Apparel Market Updates

November 2018

From Cotton Council International

Nearly 100 partners throughout the Hong Kong textile supply chain attended a COTTON USA-sponsored seminar on the cotton and apparel market and how the industry is moving ahead with re-industrialization. The Hong Kong Association of Textile Bleachers, Dyers, Printers and Finishers; the Textile Council of Hong Kong; and Clothing Industry Training Authority; co-organized the seminar in Hong Kong on Nov. 1.

Cotton Council International Director of China and Northeast Asia Karin Malmstrom kicked off the seminar by sharing cotton market developments under the current dynamic trade conditions and CCI's "WHAT'S NEW IN COTTON?" initiative. Jimmy Rowe, Manager of Strategic Analysis from Cotton Incorporated, elaborated on consumers' and retail insights in the U.S. and China following their recent research, as well as their perception of sustainability when they are purchasing apparel.

Professor Philip Yeung, Executive Director of Clothing Industry Training Authority, introduced the re-industrialization project commissioned by the HKSAR government and how small-to-medium enterprises in Hong Kong's fashion industry will benefit from this project. Karen Ho, Head of Corporate and Community Sustainability at WWF, also introduced its "making sustainability fashionable" project and how sustainable practices can pave the way for strategic success across the apparel and fashion industry.

Participants included COTTON USA licensees as well as companies including Advance Denim, Byford, BT Barma, Chicks, Bondex, CBX Software, Cotton Inc., Crystal Group, CTI International, Datacolor, Dicks Sports, Lever Style, Esprit, Esquel Group, Hong Kong Productivity Council, HKRITA, Hong Kong Design Center, Inside Fashion, Lai Tak, Yin Tak Group, Quiksilver, Russell Corp., Target, Tesco, Woolmark and the U.S. Agricultural Trade Office.