Key Issues Covered at Joint ACP, Cotton Foundation Meeting

Friday, August 2, 2019  From the National Cotton Council

The American Cotton Producers (ACP), chaired by Shawn Holladay, joined the Cotton Foundation's membership at a joint summer meeting in Austin, TX, to review several of the NCC's primary policy issues.

Keynote speaker Martin Barbre, administrator of USDA's Risk Management Agency, updated the group on the latest changes relating to cotton crop insurance from the Agency as well as those contained in the 2018 farm law. Robbie Minnich, NCC senior government affairs manager, reported on several new crop insurance initiatives being discussed with RMA, including a proposed hurricane coverage rider that could be available for the 2020 crop.

Dr. Jody Campiche, the NCC's vice president, Economics and Policy Analysis, provided a detailed cotton economic report along with preliminary estimates of 2018 seed cotton program payment rates. She also reviewed county payment rates for the Market Facilitation Program and 2018 STAX yields and estimated indemnities for counties with coverage and triggered losses.

Reece Langley, the NCC's vice president, Washington Operations, provided updates on the Congressional agenda for the remainder of this year; the 2018 farm law implementation; provisions of the Agricultural Disaster Assistance program; a trade policy update; a review of several cotton regulatory issues and an update on the appropriation status.

After NCC President/CEO Dr. Gary Adams reviewed options for an education program for the 2018 farm law in mid-September, the attendees agreed that the most effective option was a series of webinar-based presentations. Schedules will be released at a later date.

The ACP discussed and concurred with a recommendation from the NCC Lint Contamination Subcommittee regarding the designation of a 71/72 plastic class determination which will be presented to the NCC Quality Task Force in August. The group also received a report regarding planting seed size from Robert Lacy, a Texas cottonseed crusher who chairs the NCC Cotton Quality Committee.

A U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol workshop was held in conjunction with this meeting in order to enroll ACP members who previously had not joined the program.

Dr. Don Parker, the NCC's manager of Integrated Pest Management, updated the group about a producer-led stewardship action, "Aligning Today and Tomorrow" (A-TaT). The concept provides a mechanism to educate the public of the many environmental stewardship activities producers have been and continue to be implementing on their farm operations. Parker noted the educational effort is needed in today's society and regulatory environment to provide a true representation of farming practices rather than the negative images portrayed by many anti-pesticide advocate groups.

Parker also provided a brief report of a new virus (Cotton Leaf Roll Dwarf Virus or CLRDV) identified in many Cotton Belt states. He reported that research efforts, partly funded by Cotton Incorporated, are underway to determine what, if any, yield impact can be identified. He said many other projects involve screening of varieties and determining the potential for any future recommendation supported by data. Parker reported that no changes in management recommendations have been developed, but Extension and research scientists are actively engaged to evaluate the virus' importance.

In other action at the joint meeting, the Cotton Foundation Board of Trustees approved funding for nine general research projects totaling $212,000 for 2019-20. Included are studies related to pest management, sustainability, regulatory issue information gathering, plant protection products re-registration, risk data updating and education.

Foundation trustees also elected officers for 2019-20. Paul Ollerton, a Casa Grande, AZ, producer, was elected Foundation chairman and John Willis, a Brownsville, TN, producer, elected president. Other elected officers are: Gary Adams, executive vice president; Bill Norman, executive director/secretary; Doug Rushing, allied industry trustee with Bayer, treasurer; and Drew Davis, assistant treasurer.

Other CF trustees elected for 2019-20 include producers: Neal Isbell, Muscle Shoals, AL; Jon Whately, Odem, TX and Dean Calvani, Carlsbad, NM; and allied industry members: Andrew Lauver, Syngenta; Matt Rekeweg, Corteva AgriSciences; Ranjit Nair, John Deere; Burleson Smith, BASF; Chris Reat, FMC; Kelly Fenner, Seal Transportation; and Joe Thomas, Lummus Corporation.

Plains Ganners Association Sets Annual Meeting, Golf Tournament for August 29

Friday, August 9, 2019  By Mary Jane Buerkle

Plains Ganners Association will host their Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 29, at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture in Lubbock.

Registration for the meeting begins at 7:30 a.m., and the program begins shortly after 8 a.m. Speakers include U.S. Rep. Jodey Arrington; Greg Holt with the USDA Gin Lab; Dr. Gary Adams with the National Cotton Council; and Douglas Conley, Action Visa Assistance, LLC, who will discuss the H2-A Program. Lunch will be served at noon.

("COTTON NEWS" continued on Page 2)
Association dues are $25 annually, and members are encouraged to bring a dues check or mail it to Plains Ginners Association, P.O. Box 25, Ropesville, TX 79358.

Please RSVP for lunch to Darryl Robinson at Plains Cotton Growers by Thursday, August 22, by calling (806) 792-4904 or emailing darryl@darryldawson.com. For more information on the meeting, call Willis Taubert at (806) 292-0242.

Registration for the golf tournament begins at 1:30 p.m., with a shotgun start at 2 p.m. at Meadowbrook Golf Course, 601 Municipal Drive in Lubbock. To sign up for the golf tournament, call Darryl Dawson at (806) 763-4371 or email darryl@dawson.com.

Sponsors include Allenberg Cotton Company; BC Supply; Cape and Son; Caprock Metal Works; Cargill Cotton; Farmers Cooperative Compress; Fiber Brite; Goetz Fibers; Hi-Plains Bag & Bagging Co.; Indeco Products, Inc.; K-Link; KS Supplies Inc.; Kimbell Gin Machinery; L.P. Brown Company; Lone Star Bearing; Lone Star Commodities; Lubbock Electric; Lummus Corporation; Module Truck Systems; Olam Cotton Co.; Plains Cotton Cooperative Association; Penny Nieman Co.; Plains Cotton Growers; PYCO Industries; RSM Company; Samuel Jackson, Inc.; Samuel Strapping Systems; Southern Cotton Oil Co.; Stover Equipment Co.; T J Beall Co.; Telmark, Inc.; Texas Agribusiness Insurance; Texas Cotton Ginners Trust; Titan Trucking; Triangle Insurance Co.; Trinity Compress; W&R Industrial Servicing, Inc.; and Windmark Insurance Agency.

A total of at 5.5 Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) CEUs are pending at this time.

Pre-registration is available online at http://wtaci.tamu.edu/Registration.html. On-line registration fees are $75 for conference attendees and must be completed or postmarked by August 31. Booth fees start at $300. On-site registration will begin at 7 a.m. the day of the conference and will cost $95 for attendees and $325 for booth sponsors. Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee.

Opportunities also exist to contribute to the WTACI Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than $60,000 in scholarships to students majoring in agricultural fields at many Texas universities.

Contact Shawn Wade at (806) 792-4904 or shawn@plainscotton.org for questions about the program and CEU’s. If you have trouble or questions regarding registration contact David Pointer, 806-746-4021 or d pointer@ag.tamu.edu.

Israel Seed to Host Field Demonstration in Ropesville August 15

Israel Seed will host a field demonstration of GL6, a unique Pima variety supplied by the company, at 10 a.m. Thursday, August 15, at the farm of Joel Drake, located at 6635 Foster Road near Ropesville.

Agronomic consultant Amos Dror will be available to explain production practices that are important for success in growing GL6 Pima.

For more information, contact Mrs. Yona Dror at (806) 317-2005 or emailing amosdror@yahoo.com.

AgriLife Extension Offers August, September QuickBooks Training in Amarillo, Lubbock

July 2019 By Kay Ledbetter

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer Panhandle District QuickBooks Pro Desktop Short Courses on Aug. 21-22 in Amarillo and Sept. 11-12 in Lubbock.

The two-day trainings will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day at the respective Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Centers, located at 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd. in Amarillo and 1102 E. Farm-to-Market Road 1294 north of Lubbock.

During the two-day course, participants will learn to enter transactions into the program and analyze costs and profits. No prior computer experience is necessary, she said.

Registration is $150 and includes computer use and teaching materials. Couples are encouraged to attend and will be charged only one registration fee if they share a computer.

Class size is limited to 15 people to provide a hands-on experience for all participants. Those planning to attend should RSVP by Aug. 19 for Amarillo and by Sept. 9 for Lubbock. Payment is due upon arrival on the first day of the course.

The class will be taught by DeDe Jones and Will Keeling, AgriLife Extension risk management specialists. For more information or to RSVP for either location, contact Jones at 806-677-5667 or d jones@ag.tamu.edu.