

NASS Adjusts Texas High Plains Crop Estimate

Friday, January 17, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The January report from National Agricultural Statistics Service indicates that Texas High Plains cotton growers will produce about 3.235 million bales for the 2019 crop. This is a slight decrease from 3.325 million bales estimated in the December report.

Northern High Plains growers are expected to produce 940,000 bales, and Southern High Plains growers are expected to produce 2.295 million bales.

On the Northern High Plains, projected yield per acre is 618, which is a couple of pounds up from the December report. On the Southern High Plains, projected yield per acre is 487, up from 412 in December.

Harvested acres decreased in both areas – by 30,000 in the NHP from December to 730,000, and more significantly in the SHP, from 2.74 million in December to 2.26 million in January. This caused the abandonment rate to reach about 30 percent, which is a little above average.

Statewide, the production number dropped from 6.6 million bales in December to 6.4 million in January. The nationwide estimate for upland cotton is forecast at 19.3 million bales, down slightly from the December report.

President Donald Trump and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He on Wednesday signed a Phase I U.S. trade agreement with China. The \$200 billion deal includes Chinese purchases of at least \$40 billion of U.S. food, agricultural, and seafood products annually for a total of \$80 billion over the next two years. The agreement enters into force within the next 30 days.

“While we welcome Phase I and are hopeful about the potential for future increased sales to China, U.S. cotton producers continue to face a challenging economic climate,” National Cotton Council chairman Mike Tate of Alabama said. “As such, we encourage President Trump and USDA to follow through with the third tranche of MFP payments as quickly as possible.”

In other trade news, on Thursday the U.S. Senate passed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which updates and modifies the North American Free Trade Agreement. President Trump indicated the bill will be signed next week.

None of this news caused dramatic swings in the cotton market, but futures have inched upward over the past several weeks and were trading in the 70 to 71-cent range at press time.

Connect With PCG!

Find us on Facebook and Twitter

<http://www.facebook.com/plainscottongrowers>

<http://www.twitter.com/PCGNews>

Subscribe to PCG Email Services!

<http://ow.ly/gp7KZ>

2020 PCG Seed Cost Calculator Now Available

Friday, January 17, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The 2020 version of the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. Seed Cost Calculator is ready and available for download from the PCG website at <https://plainscotton.org/seed-cost-calculator/>.

The PCG seed cost calculator is an interactive Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that allows producers to calculate an estimated cost per acre, for both seed and technology, based on published suggested retail prices. The calculator has become a popular tool among producers interested in comparing seed and technology prices as they work to finalize their cotton variety selections.

The 2020 version of the spreadsheet includes recently updated listings for conventional, Roundup Ready FLEX, XtendFlex, GlyTol, Bollgard II, TwinLink, Enlist and Widestrike varieties, including numerous stacked gene versions of these technologies that will be available for sale in West Texas in 2020.

Questions about the seed cost calculator can be directed to Shawn Wade at (806) 792-4904 or shawn@plainscotton.org.

Farm Stress: Help and Hope

<https://pcca.com/farm-stress-help-and-hope/>

Upcoming Area Ag Conferences

This list is kept updated on the PCG website: <https://plainscotton.org/upcoming-area-ag-conferences/>.

January 21 – NW Panhandle Cotton Conference, Registration 8:30 a.m., Moore County Community Building, **Dumas**. More info: Marcel Fischbacher, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 935-2594.

January 22 – Crop Production Meeting, **Panhandle**. More info: Jody Bradford, Carson County CEA-AG/NR, (806) 537-3882.

January 23 – Texas Alliance for Water Conservation 6th Annual Water College, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. No fee to attend, lunch provided, CEUs available. More info: <http://www.tawc.us>

January 23 – [Hale/Swisher Ag Conference](#), Ollie Linder Center, **Plainview**. Cost: \$20 at the door. 4 CEUs plus Auxin Certification. More info: Andy Hart, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 291-5267.

January 24 – [Caprock Crop Production Conference](#), Registration 7 a.m., program begins 8 a.m., Floyd County Friends Unity Center, **Muncy** (between Floydada and Lockney on U.S. Highway 70). 7 CEUs and 7 CCAs available. Cost: \$40 before January 17, \$50 at the door. More info: Dr. Caitlin Jackson, Crosby County CEA-AG/NR, (806) 675-2347, or Mark Carroll, Floyd County CEA-AG/NR, (806) 983-4912.

January 28 – High Plains Cotton Conference, Registration 9:30 a.m., Ag Producers Co-op Gin east of **Spearman**. More info: Kristy Slough, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 878-4026.

(“COTTON NEWS” continued on Page 2)

January 29 – [Pre-Plant Producers Meeting](#), registration 8:30 a.m., Randall County Extension Office, 200 N. Brown Road, **Canyon**. Cost: \$10 at the door, RSVP by January 24. Auxin Certification available. More info: Dr. J.D. Ragland, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 468-5543.

January 29 – Crop Profitability Conference, 10 a.m.-Noon, Gray County Annex, **Pampa**. Limited to first 10 people, cost \$25/farm unit. More info: Nick Simpson, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 669-8033.

January 30 – Yoakum County Ag Conference, Registration 9 a.m., Plains State Bank Event Center, **Plains**. Lunch provided, Auxin Certification available. More info: Sierra Stephens, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 456-2263.

January 30 – [Right of Way Training](#), Registration 8:30 a.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., **Amarillo**. Cost: \$20 at the door. 5 CEUs. More info: Rick Auckerman, Deaf Smith County CEA-AG/NR, (806) 364-3573.

February 6-7 – [“Developing This Year’s Marketing Plan for Cotton and Feed Grains”](#) Workshop, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. both days, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., **Amarillo**. Cost: \$125, which covers instruction, breaks, meals and materials. Limited to 50 participants. Register and pay by January 31 at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Grain> or call 979-845-2604.

February 11 – Pesticide Applicators Training, 1 p.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Office, **Levelland**. Please RSVP by noon Monday, February 10. More info: Kerry Siders, EA-IPM, 806-894-3159. This is required training in order to obtain a TDA pesticide applicators license.

February 11-12 – No-Till Texas Soil Health Symposium, Overton Hotel & Conference Center, 2322 Mac Davis Lane, Lubbock. 8 a.m. both days. More info: <https://www.no-tilltexas.com>

February 12 - [“Owning Your Piece of Texas: Agricultural Laws Texas Landowners Need to Know”](#) Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., **Amarillo**. Cost: \$75. Preregistration is requested at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/landowners> or by calling 979-845-2604. More info: Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agricultural law specialist in Amarillo, (806) 677-5681 or tdowell@tamu.edu.

February 14, March 13, April 10, and May 8– Auxin Certification Training, 9 a.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 1102 E. FM 1294, **Lubbock**. One CEU in Laws & Regs. More info: (806) 746-6101, pete.dotray@agnet.tamu.edu

February 26 – Central Plains Ag Conference, Registration 8 a.m., Olton Ag Pavilion, **Olton**. Lunch provided, Auxin Certification available. More info: Kerry Siders, (806) 638-5635; Kyle Howard at (806) 620-6595; or Andrew Dunlap at (806) 647-4115.

March 12 – Auxin Certification Training, 9 a.m. and again at 1 p.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Office, **Levelland**. Please RSVP by noon March 11. More info: Kerry Siders, EA-IPM, 806-894-3159.

To add your conference to this list, please email maryjane@plainscotton.org.

Farm Stress - Help and Hope

January 2020

by Mary Jane Buerkle

The holidays have come and gone, and while they may have been stressful for some, for others they could be downright debilitating, intensifying depression and anxiety. Couple that with today's farm economy crisis, and the feelings of stress and isolation can increase dramatically, leading to depression, substance abuse and suicide.

Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, Plains Cotton Growers, and experts at Texas Tech have teamed up to provide information about how to get help and have hope. PCCA has created a page on their website called "Farm Stress – Help and Hope" with resources and facts about mental health crisis. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, 91% believe that financial stress or fear of losing the family farm impacts mental health.

"Every day, farmers and their families deal with factors that are beyond their control, which impact their finances, relationships, and many other aspects of their operation," PCG CEO Steve Verett said. "We urge anyone struggling with stress, depression, or suicidal thoughts to seek help, and encourage everyone to check on their family members, friends and neighbors to offer support and help during these trying times."

Resources include (but are not limited to):

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255. The call is free and confidential, and they will connect the caller to a counselor in their area.
- Crisis Text Line – text HOME to 741741 to be connected to a trained counselor 24/7.
- Farm Aid Farmer Hotline, 1-800-327-6243. Staff will answer calls Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.

More information can be found at <https://pcca.com/farm-stress-help-and-hope/>.

Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program Seeking Applicants

The Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr. Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program, or TALL, is seeking applicants for its new cohort, which will begin in July. TALL is a two-year leadership development program managed by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Applications for the new cohort, Class XVII, are due March 15 and are available online at <https://tall.tamu.edu/tall-xvii/>.

The program invests 455 hours of intensive training per person in seminars, speakers and domestic and international study trips over two years. The typical class size is about 26, and participation cost is \$3,000.

"The mission of the program is to create a cadre of Texas leaders to ensure effective understanding and encourage positive action on key issues, theories, policy and economics that will advance the agriculture industry," said Jim Mazurkiewicz, professor and AgriLife Extension leadership program director.

Participants include traditional crop producers, ranchers, bankers and attorneys, as well as those who work in lumber, food processing, agricultural corporations and horticultural industries.

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 PCG at: editor@plainscotton.org