

Speakers Confirmed for PCG Annual Meeting

Friday, March 6, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., will host their 63rd Annual Meeting on Friday, April 3, at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in conjunction with the Texas Cotton Ginners Association's annual trade show and convention, held April 2-3.

Registration for the meeting, which is sponsored by Farmers Cooperative Compress, begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program begins at 9 a.m. For more information on the TCGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show, visit <http://www.tcgagr.org>.

Featured speakers include Reid Wilson, national correspondent for The Hill newspaper, Washington, DC's most widely-read political publication; Bruce Atherley, executive director of Cotton Council International; and U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway (R-Midland).

Wilson is an expert in spotting political trends as they develop and forecasting election results long before the ballots are counted. Wilson covered politics for The Washington Post, and he's the former editor-in-chief of National Journal's The Hotline. His work has appeared in outlets like The New York Times, RealClearPolitics, Atlantic Monthly, New Republic, and other major news networks, and his expertise is frequently sought after by MSNBC, CNN, C-SPAN, and various radio shows across the nation.

Atherley will update attendees on CCI activities and initiatives. He has a successful track record in global marketing and management having introduced brands and products into global markets in Asia, Latin America and Europe. He previously served as vice president, Global Marketing for KAO, Inc., a Tokyo-based global manufacturer of personal care and household products. He also worked with the William Wrigley Jr. Company, serving as its vice president of North American Confections Marketing, and as president and general manager of Wrigley Canada.

PCG will recognize Rep. Conaway for his distinguished service to agriculture. Rep. Conaway, who recently announced his retirement upon the completion of this term, has served as House Agriculture Committee chairman and currently is Ranking Member.

Current PCG president Stacy Smith, who farms near New Home, Texas, will preside over the meeting and PCG CEO Steve Verett will report on the status of PCG operations and activities. An award recognizing the 2019 High Plains Cotton Agent of the Year also will be presented at the meeting.

"This meeting is an excellent opportunity to network with producers and industry leaders, and to hear the latest information on a variety of topics affecting Texas High Plains cotton," PCG CEO Steve Verett said. "I encourage everyone to put April 3 on their calendar and join us in Lubbock for our Annual Meeting, and also attend the Texas Cotton Ginners show the day before."

Breakfast, sponsored by Deltapine, will be served before the meeting. Lunch, sponsored by FiberMax, will follow the

meeting. These events are separate from the meeting but those at the PCG Annual Meeting are invited to attend.

There is no admission charge and no RSVP is necessary. Additional information about PCG and the Annual Meeting can be found at <http://www.plainscotton.org>.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 15

Sales Closing Date for Crop Insurance in Cotton in the PCG Service Area

March 16

DEADLINE for Enrollment in ARC or PLC for 2019 Crop

March 23

Signup for WHIP+ Begins at FSA Offices

Upcoming Area Ag Conferences & Trainings

This list is run as space is available. A complete list is kept updated on the PCG website: <https://plainscotton.org/upcoming-area-ag-conferences/>.

March 9 – Auxin Certification Training, Registration 2:30 p.m., Follett United Methodist Church, **Follett**. Cost: \$10. More info: JR Sprague, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 862-4601.

March 9 – Risk Management/FARM Assistance Program, 10 a.m., Hansford County Extension Office, **Spearman**. Cost: \$10, lunch provided. More info: Matt Whiteley, Hansford CEA-AG/NR, (806) 659-4130, or Kristy Slough, Hutchinson CEA-AG/NR, (806) 878-4026.

March 9 – Private Applicator Training, 1 p.m., Hansford County Extension Office, **Spearman**. Cost: \$50, RSVP by March 2. More info: Kristy Slough, Hutchinson CEA-AG/NR, (806) 878-4026.

March 10 – Estate Planning Seminar, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Gray County Annex, **Pampa**. Cost: \$25. Speakers: Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, J.D., and Dr. Justin Benavidez. More info: Nick Simpson, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 669-8033.

March 10 – Auxin Certification Training, 10 a.m., Ochiltree County Expo Center, **Perryton**. Cost: \$10, 1 CEU. More info: Scott Strawn, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 435-4501.

March 10 – North Plains Groundwater Conservation District 2020 Grower Meeting, Noon-3 p.m., North Plains Water Conservation Center, 6045 County Road E., south of **Etter**. Lunch provided, CEUs available. More info: (806) 935-6401 or kwelch@northplainsgcd.org.

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.

March 12 – Pesticide Training, 9 a.m., Hale County Extension Office, **Plainview**. Cost: \$60. More info: Andrew Dunlap, EA-IPM, (806) 647-4115.

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March 12 – Auxin Certification Training, 1:30 p.m., Hale County Extension Office, **Plainview**. Cost: \$20. More info: Andrew Dunlap, EA-IPM, (806) 647-4115.

March 13 – Auxin Certification Training, 1:30 p.m., Castro County Extension Office, **Dimmitt**. Cost: \$20. More info: Andrew Dunlap, EA-IPM, (806) 647-4115.

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

March 13 – Auxin Certification Training, 9 a.m., Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., **Amarillo**. More info: Dr. Jourdan Bell, Extension Agronomist, (806) 677-5663.

March 17 – Private Applicator Training, 8:30 a.m., Potter County Extension Office, **Amarillo**. Cost: \$60. More info: Megan Eikner, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 373-0713.

March 24 – Soil Biology/Soil Health Workshop, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., USDA-ARS Center, 3810 Fourth St., **Lubbock**. No fee, RSVP appreciated. Lunch provided, reception to follow. More info: Veronica Acosta-Martinez, Ph.D., (806) 723-5233.

March 24 – Legal Considerations for Crop Producers, 10 a.m., Ochiltree County Expo Center, **Perryton**. Cost: \$10. Speaker: Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, J.D. More info: Scott Strawn, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 435-4501.

March 26 – Private Applicator Training, 9 a.m., Deaf Smith County Extension Center, **Hereford**. Cost: \$10. More info: Rick Auckerman, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 364-3573.

March 31 – Hockley County Cotton Variety Conference, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Ropes Community Center, **Ropesville**. One CEU available. More info: Wes Utley, CEA-AG/NR, (806) 894-3159.

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

The spreadsheet is only available via desktop and is not optimized for mobile. The link can be found on the Tools and Reminders page on the PCG website at <https://plainscotton.org/tools-and-reminders/>.

PCG Posts 2020 Seed Cost Calculator

Friday, March 6, 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-calculators/>.

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.

Ogallala Aquifer Summit to Tackle Tough Management Questions

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 By Kay Ledbetter, AgriLife TODAY

“Tackling Tough Questions” is the name of and framework within which participants will work at the 2020 Ogallala Aquifer Summit, set for March 31-April 1 at Embassy Suites in Amarillo.

Brent Auvermann, Ph.D., director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Amarillo and program chair for the conference, said this summit is for anyone concerned about water, whether a public official, agricultural producer, consumer or youth.

More information on the summit or registration links can be found at <https://ogallalawater.org/2020-ogallala-aquifer-summit/>. Texas A&M AgriLife is co-hosting the summit with the Ogallala Water project, Kansas Water Office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Ogallala Aquifer Program.

The Ogallala underlies eight states – Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The aquifer supplies water for about 25% of U.S. agricultural production and more than 40% of U.S. feedlot beef cattle. It also supplies drinking water for 82% of the people living within its boundaries, according to a Ogallala Water Coordinated Agriculture Project, CAP, report.

“The 2020 summit is about learning to think together and letting states learn from one another and from their own experiments in self-organization,” Auvermann said. “We’ve seen a few local successes, so what can we learn from them? And how might we do them better? These are tough questions, but we’ve got to get comfortable asking them. We need to try new ideas, be willing to fail, and then be willing to try again.”

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Updated Seed Cotton PLC Payment Matrix Available on PCG Website

Friday, March 6, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The 2019 Seed Cotton PLC Matrix has been updated to reflect the most recent seed cotton program payment estimate for the 2019/2020 crop year.

The matrix is a helpful decision tool for producers as they begin to make their Title I policy decisions for the 2019 and 2020 crop years. Growers can plug in their own seed cotton yield to estimate their seed cotton PLC payment rate per base acre. The matrix takes into account the marketing year average (MYA) price for lint and seed. It is current as of February 14, 2020 and will be updated monthly throughout the marketing year, which runs from August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020.

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