

Multiple Factors Impacting Preparation For 2020 Cotton Crop

Friday, March 13, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The past few weeks have been a rollercoaster of uncertainty and hope for Texas High Plains cotton growers, as markets continue to trade lower for a variety of reasons including the worldwide Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, but early-season precipitation throughout the region is setting producers up for a favorable start to the 2020 crop.

In cotton, export sales numbers have been high, but the market hasn't responded and is languishing in the low 60-cent range. Markets are a prominent factor in production-related decisions, and as they prepare for the 2020 crop, growers are closely reviewing expenses but also assessing opportunities for reduced input costs, such as lower fuel prices.

The 2020 version of the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. Seed Cost Calculator is 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.

Thanks to timely rainfall over the past few weeks, fields generally are in pretty good shape. Rain and thunderstorms are in the forecast for the next several days.

The COVID-19 outbreak certainly has impacted markets around the world, and forced the cancellation of several events, including many in the ag sector. The Texas Independent Ginners Association and Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council both cancelled their upcoming conferences, and the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association postponed theirs until their policy meeting this fall. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Rodeo Austin also cancelled their events.

For now, the Texas Cotton Ginners Association's Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Lubbock are still scheduled as planned (with the exception of the Southwest Ginners School, which was cancelled), as well as PCG's Annual Meeting. However, both organizations continue to monitor the situation and will make decisions as necessary for public health and safety.

PCG Annual Meeting

Friday, April 3 • 9 a.m.

Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

Featured Speakers

Reid Wilson, National Correspondent, The Hill
Bruce Atherley, Cotton Council International
U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway

Sponsored by Farmers Cooperative Compress

More information: plainscotton.org

Deadline for ARC/PLC Enrollment for 2019 Crop is Monday, March 16

Thursday, March 12, 2020

From Farm Service Agency

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their 2019 crop year elections for and enrollment in the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs must schedule an appointment to do so with their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) by Monday, March 16.

Producers who do not contact FSA for an appointment by close of business local time on Monday, March 16 will not be enrolled in ARC or PLC for the 2019 crop year and will be ineligible to receive a payment should one trigger for an eligible crop.

The programs cover the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed, and wheat.

Online ARC and PLC election decision tools are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

Upcoming Area Ag Conferences & Trainings

<https://plainscotton.org/upcoming-area-ag-conferences/>

Thompson to Keynote Western Peanut Growers Ag Issues Conference on March 18

Thursday, March 5, 2020

From WPGA

Western Peanut Growers Association will host an Ag Issues Conference on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at the Seminole Community Center located at 801 North Main Street in Seminole. Farmers of all commodities, agribusinesses, community leaders and those who are interested in agriculture are invited to attend the lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. with the conference to begin shortly thereafter.

The 2020 Ag Issues Conference will focus on looking to the future of agriculture with keynote speaker Glenn Thompson, US Congressman of Pennsylvania's 15th District. Congressman Thompson is the Senior Republican on the House Ag Committee just behind the soon to retire Ranking Member, Mike Conaway. He is the heir apparent to be the next Chairman or Ranking Member of the Ag Committee. Congressman Thompson currently serves as Republican Leader of the Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee.

Congressman Thompson will be joined by Congressional Host Jodey Arrington, US House Congressman of Texas District 19. There will be a question and answer session during the conference.

Prior to the luncheon, members of the Western Peanut Growers Association are encouraged to attend the organization's 37th Annual Business Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

For more information about this event, contact the Western Peanut Growers Association at (432) 758-2050.