

Texas High Plains Acreage Estimates Lower on Dryland Failures

Friday, June 26, 2020

By Mary Jane Buerkle

Mother Nature has not been kind to many Texas High Plains growers this year, particularly in the northern and western parts of the PCG service area, causing the loss of dryland acreage that either never came up, failed to establish a viable stand, or was damaged or destroyed by wind and storms. Irrigated acreage in some areas is suffering as well.

While it still is too early to quantify how much dryland acreage is affected, it likely is safe to say that the number is above 30 percent across the region.

Drs. Calvin Trostle and Murilo Maeda of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension posted the 18th annual edition of their Hailout/Replant/Late-Plant Guide, titled "2020 Alternative Crop Options after Failed Cotton and Late-Season Crop Planting for the Texas South Plains" on the Lubbock Research & Extension Center website. The document can be found at <https://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2020/06/Hailout-Replant-LatePlant-Guide-TX-S-Plains-Trostle-Maeda-2020.pdf> and also is linked on the PCG website at <http://plainscotton.org>.

The primary objectives of this guide include providing producers with guidelines for crop replant options after failed crops, especially cotton; assist with late-season planting decisions where timely planting, duration to crop maturity, and fall weather risk may impact successful cropping; and provide contractor contact information as well as recent approximate pricing, particularly for crops where price is fixed at contract signing. The information applies to the Texas High Plains, Rolling Plains, and the Concho Valley region. The planting dates will change for crop and location.

Dicamba Update

Late last week, the Ninth Circuit denied an emergency motion to halt the use of dicamba products and hold EPA in contempt, upholding EPA's decision to vacate the registrations as ordered by the court on June 3 but allow growers to use existing stocks of XtendiMax, Engenia, and FeXapan that had been in their possession as of June 3, 2020, until July 31, 2020, in accordance with the former federal label.

The court on Thursday also denied a motion by BASF to recall the June 3 order. PCG will continue to monitor proceedings related to the use of dicamba products.

Cotton Industry Seeks Volunteer Leaders

Friday, June 26, 2020

By Shawn Wade

The success of the High Plains cotton industry, like any group effort, is directly tied to the willingness of qualified individuals to volunteer to serve in various leadership positions.

PCG encourages all qualified individuals interested in representing the High Plains as a representative to the Cotton Board, National Cotton Council, or Cotton Incorporated to contact PCG CEO Steve Verett at 806-792-4904 for more information.

Each year, a variety of volunteer positions within the NCC and Cotton Incorporated are filled directly through the industry's caucus process. In addition to naming representatives to the NCC and Cotton Incorporated, PCG and the Texas cotton industry also work together to identify and nominate qualified individuals to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for possible appointment as a Member or Alternate on the Cotton Board, which oversees the highly successful U.S. Cotton Research & Promotion Program.

Important Program Deadlines

U.S. Department of Agriculture Key Programs ARC-CO and PLC Election and Contract 2020 Crop Year ** June 30******

Crop Acreage Certification Deadline
July 15

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Application
August 28

Yield Update for PLC Program
September 30

Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program+ (WHIP+) Application
December 31
(program funds will remain available until expended or December 31)

Small Business Administration Key Programs Paycheck Protection Program **Signup Ends June 30**** Economic Injury Disaster Loan Signup Ends December 31**

USDA Adds Digital Options for Farmers and Ranchers to Apply for CFAP

Thursday, June 25, 2020

From USDA

USDA's Farm Service Agency will now accept applications for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) through an online portal, expanding the options available to producers to apply for this program, which helps offset price declines and additional marketing costs because of the coronavirus pandemic. FSA is also leveraging commercial document storage and e-signature solutions to enable producers to work with local service center staff to complete their applications from home.

"We are doing everything we can to serve our customers and make sure agricultural producers impacted by the pandemic can quickly and securely apply for this relief program," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. "In addition to working with FSA staff through the phone, email and scheduled in-person appointments, we can now also take applications through the farmers.gov portal, which saves producers and our staff time."

Through the portal, producers with secure USDA login credentials—known as eAuthentication—can certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center. Producers who do not have an eAuthentication account can learn more and begin the enrollment process at <http://farmers.gov/sign-in>. Currently, the digital application is only available to sole proprietors or single-member business entities.

USDA Service Centers can also work with producers to complete and securely transmit digitally signed applications through two commercially available tools: Box and OneSpan. Producers who are interested in digitally signing their applications should notify their local service centers when calling to discuss the CFAP application process. You can learn more about these solutions at <http://farmers.gov/mydocs>.

USDA has several other options for producers to complete and submit their CFAP applications. These include:

1. Downloading the AD-3114 application form from <http://farmers.gov/cfap> and manually completing the form to submit to the local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically or by hand delivery to an office drop box. In some limited cases, the office may be open for in-person business by appointment. Visit <http://farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status> to check the status of your local office.
2. Completing the application form using our CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator found at <http://farmers.gov/cfap>. This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimated payments and populate the application form, which can be printed, and then signed and submitted to their local USDA Service Center.

Getting Help from FSA

New customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer general assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from <http://farmers.gov/cfap>. For existing FSA customers, these documents are likely already on file.

Producers self-certify their records when applying for CFAP, and that documentation is not submitted with the application. However, producers may be asked for their documentation to support the certification of eligible commodities, so they should retain the information used to complete their application.

More Information

To find the latest information on CFAP, visit <http://farmers.gov/cfap> or call 877-508-8364.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors may also be required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in office, by phone and using online tools. More information can be found at <http://farmers.gov/coronavirus>.

Farm Stress: Help and Hope

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

June 30 Last Day to Complete Enrollment for 2020 ARC, PLC Programs

Thursday, June 11, 2020 From USDA Farm Service Agency

Agricultural producers who have not yet enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage programs for 2020 must do so by June 30. Although program elections for the 2020 crop year remain the same as elections made for 2019, all producers need to contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency office to sign a 2020 enrollment contract.

To date (as of June 11), more than 1.4 million ARC and PLC contracts have been signed for the 2020 crop year. This represents 89 percent of expected enrollment. FSA will send reminder postcards to producers who, according to agency records, have not yet submitted signed contracts for ARC or PLC for the 2020 crop year.

Producers who do not complete enrollment by close of business local time on Tuesday, June 30 will not be enrolled in ARC or PLC for the 2020 crop year and will be ineligible to receive a payment should one trigger for an eligible crop.

ARC and PLC contracts can be mailed or emailed to producers for signature depending on producer preference. Signed contracts can be mailed or emailed back to FSA or, arrangements can be made in advance with FSA to drop off signed contracts at the FSA county office – call ahead for local drop off and other options available for submitting signed contracts electronically.

Producers are eligible to enroll on farms with base acres for 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.

For more information on ARC and PLC including web-based decision tools, visit <http://farmers.gov/arc-plc>.

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