

Enrollment Open for the Texas International Cotton School

Friday, May 14, 2021

By Whitney Curry

Enrollment for the 40th session of the Texas International Cotton School, scheduled for **August 2-12, 2021**, in Lubbock, Texas is now open. Social distancing guidelines will be followed, and the class size has been restricted to 10 students this year, first come, first serve basis of full tuition payment.

The Texas International Cotton School is uniquely structured to provide an integrated understanding of the Texas cotton industry and how it interacts with the global cotton/textile complex. The intensive two-week program covers all aspects of cotton, from field to the fabric. Since its inception, the school has been a collaboration between the Texas cotton merchants who make up the Lubbock Cotton Exchange and the faculty and staff of the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute of Texas Tech University.

During the two weeks of the school, more than 30 experts from across the United States teach the students, who learn about the cotton marketing chain – including seed breeding, farm production, harvesting, ginning, warehousing, merchandising, and textile manufacturing. All facets of U.S. and global trade of cotton are covered, so students obtain an understanding of what is required to successfully participate in the U.S. cotton market and its diverse export demands. The students also learn about the important quality attributes of cotton fibers and how these translate into processing efficiency and textile product quality. Throughout the program, students have repeated opportunities to interact with cotton industry representatives as well. For more information visit: <https://www.texasintlottonschool.com>

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2020 County Production Figures Released

Friday, May 14, 2021

By Shawn Wade

Mother Nature wasn't very kind to the Texas High Plains during the 2020 crop year, as dry conditions throughout the season contributed to a higher level of abandonment, especially in non-irrigated cotton and ended with a large portion of the region in extreme drought.

It is estimated that cotton growers in the PCG service area produced between 2.2-2.3 million bales in 2020, which is below the historical average. The reason that total is not more exact is the result of a change in policy by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service which discontinued the publication of crop reporting district level data beginning with the 2020 production season. The end result is that any county that does not meet publication criteria is now simply left unreported and there is no attempt to quantify the amount of unreported county level data to the district level.

This is a significant issue in a state as large as Texas that has significantly different production windows and can see vastly different crop outcomes from one part of the state to another in the same growing season. Under this revised NASS policy, the Texas Upland cotton production number totals 4.57 million bales, but the total for reported counties is only 4,159,340 bales – a difference of 418,660 bales.

Getting back to the 2020 High Plains production totals, reported county figures total just over 1.94 million bales which, if the previously mentioned 2.2-2.4 million bales is accurate, means that 200,000-300,000 bales of that unreported production is likely cotton produced within PCG's 42-county service area.

Planted acreage in the PCG counties reported by NASS in 2020 totals 4,114,600 acres. Certified acreage data for the PCG service area available through the USDA Farm Service Agency shows that a total of 4,319,084 Upland cotton acres were planted last year, a difference of 204,484 acres.

A larger discrepancy exists in the harvested acres reported by NASS that totals 1,624,600 acres for the PCG area compared to the USDA FSA certified acreage data

that indicates 2,159,237 acres were harvested. A startling difference of 534,637 acres, but one that is likely exacerbated by the fact that not all producers report failed acres to FSA after a crop loss occurs.

Either way the differences in the numbers makes it difficult to determine exactly what the PCG service area's actual acreage abandonment percentage really was for 2020. It seems likely that since USDA NASS cross checks its survey data information against both USDA FSA acreage data and USDA Risk Management Agency information, that the 39.5 percent abandonment figure is too low and that the actual number is closer to the 50 percent value derived from the January FSA Certified acreage report.

According to the final county level production estimates, along with some guesswork on what percentage of the state's unreported production was most likely produced in the Plains Cotton Growers 42-county service area, points to the area accounting for approximately 50 percent of the 4.57 million bales of Upland cotton produced in Texas this past season. To compare, the Texas High Plains usually produces closer to 60 percent of the state's crop.

Statewide production was down 28 percent from 2019, although because there was a higher percentage of acres abandoned in 2020 the statewide average yield per harvested acre of 686 pounds is actually higher than 2019's 589 pound average.

On a national basis, Texas growers accounted for 32.5 percent of the 14 million upland bales produced in the United States in 2020, easily maintaining their position as the No. 1 cotton producing state in the nation. Georgia was second with 2.18 million bales, and Arkansas was third with 1.277 million bales.

Lubbock County was the top-producing county on the High Plains with 203,500 480-pound bales of cotton and averaging 585 pounds per harvested acre. Lynn County was second with 186,200 bales, and Floyd County third at 178,000. Overall yield per harvested acre on the High Plains based on the available NASS data averaged 575 pounds in 2020, up from 506 in 2019.

Joining, Lubbock, Lynn and Floyd counties in the top ten cotton-producing counties in the High Plains Region (reported in 480-lb bales) were: Hale, 148,000; Crosby, 135,000; Hockley, 120,000; Lamb, 89,000; Gaines, 87,500; Dawson, 82,000; and Terry, 67,000.

As for yield, Hartley County ranked at the top for 2020, averaging 1,226 pounds per harvested acre. Carson County was second in yield per harvested acre at 1,000 pounds.

A complete listing of the 2020 upland cotton production totals for Texas and other states is available on the NASS website (<http://www.nass.usda.gov>).

NEXT Cotton Incorporated "Cotton & Coffee" Set for May 18, 2021

Friday, April 16, 2021

By Whitney Curry

Cotton Incorporated encourages growers to participate in the next Cotton & Coffee program, which is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 18, 2021**, at 7:30 a.m. Central via Zoom web call.

Join the Cotton Board's CEO, **Bill Gillon**, and Cotton Board Chairman, **Jimmy Webb** as they discuss the results of the most recent Five-Year Economic Evaluation of the Cotton Research and Promotion Program.

Registration is complementary and open to all U.S. cotton producers and industry partners, but you must pre-register to attend, so please contact your local Cotton Board Regional Communications Manager. The two covering Texas are Christi Short, 469-951-6161, cshort@cottonboard.org; and Shelley Heinrich, 806-670-3250, sheinrich@cottonboard.org.

Editor's Note:

"Cotton News", a weekly service of Plains Cotton Growers to the cotton industry and news media in the 42-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

2020-crop Upland Cotton Production

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. 42-County Service Area

(Totals do not include unreported county data)

County	Planted (Acres)	Harvested (Acres)	Yield per Harv. Acre	Production (Bales)
Andrews	•	•	•	•
Armstrong	•	•	•	•
Bailey	80,000	25,800	558	30,000
Borden	44,400	16,900	283	9,950
Briscoe	36,500	18,300	748	28,500
Carson	94,000	32,100	1,000	66,900
Castro	54,500	26,000	820	44,400
Cochran	151,500	44,700	413	38,500
Crosby	222,000	117,200	553	135,000
Dallam	•	•	•	•
Dawson	334,000	55,200	713	82,000
Deaf Smith	31,500	12,700	756	20,000
Dickens	33,500	13,300	469	13,000
Floyd	207,000	103,100	829	178,000
Gaines	315,000	104,500	401	87,200
Garza	46,500	41,400	528	45,500
Gray	38,300	15,700	529	17,300
Hale	250,000	111,700	636	148,000
Hansford	63,900	29,000	983	59,400
Hartley	39,000	20,900	1,226	53,400
Hemphill	•	•	•	•
Hockley	288,000	109,000	528	120,000
Howard	137,000	8,700	364	6,600
Hutchinson	•	•	•	•
Lamb	192,000	58,600	729	89,000
Lipscomb	•	•	•	•
Lubbock	276,000	167,000	585	203,500
Lynn	358,000	239,500	373	186,200
Martin	180,000	27,400	331	18,900
Midland	•	•	•	•
Moore	41,000	23,200	921	44,500
Motley	•	•	•	•
Ochiltree	43,500	27,600	713	41,000
Oldham	•	•	•	•
Parmer	49,500	22,400	729	34,000
Potter	•	•	•	•
Randall	•	•	•	•
Roberts	•	•	•	•
Sherman	•	•	•	•
Swisher	100,500	40,200	585	49,000
Terry	264,000	78,500	410	67,000
Yoakum	143,500	34,000	408	28,900
High Plains Total	4,114,600	1,624,600	575	1,945,650

(weighted)