

## **Pandemic Cover Crop Program – Deadline June 15**

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 By Whitney Curry

Agricultural producers who have coverage under most crop insurance policies are eligible for a premium benefit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) if they planted cover crops during this crop year. The Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP), offered by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), helps farmers maintain their cover crop systems, despite the financial challenges posed by the pandemic.

There is a *hard deadline* of **Tuesday, June 15, 2021**, to certify eligible 2021 cover crops and qualify for the PCCP benefit. To receive this benefit, producers must file a Report of Acreage form ([FSA-578](#)) for cover crops with their local FSA office by next week, which is distinct from the normal acreage reporting date. The normal acreage reporting deadline with FSA has not changed, but to receive the premium benefit, producers must file by June 15. The cover crop fields reported on the Report of Acreage form must match what the producer reported to their insurance company for crop insurance policies. ***To file the form, producers must contact their local FSA office.***

The PCCP provides premium support to producers who insured their spring crop with most insurance policies and planted a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year. The premium support is \$5 per acre, but no more than the premium owed.

All cover crops reportable to FSA are eligible and include cereals and other grasses, legumes, brassicas and other non-legume broadleaves, and mixtures of two or more cover crop species planted at the same time.

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*40<sup>th</sup> Session*

**Texas International  
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## **Legislative Leaders Visit Lubbock for the West Texas Rural Summit**

Friday, June 11, 2021 By Whitney Curry

Yesterday several key legislative leaders gathered at the Museum of Texas Tech for the West Texas Rural Summit to discuss important issues affecting the agriculture industry. Panelists discussed federal Tax and Trade Policy, Transportation and Critical Infrastructure, and Agriculture Policy, as well as the recent State Legislative Session.

Kicking off the event were State Senator Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and Representative Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) who recapped important issues the Texas State Legislature faced during the 87<sup>th</sup> Session.

Senator Perry noted this was one of the most productive sessions he has had. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water and Rural Affairs, Perry focused on rural broadband, the I-27 reform bill, helped secure passage of H.B. 2089 (relating to the detection and mitigation of plant pests and diseases) which is significant for the members of the PCG service area, and battled to reestablish funding for the boll weevil eradication program for the next biennium.

Representative Burrows currently chairs the House Calendars Committee. Every bill that moves through the session, passes through this committee. Burrows discussed some of the challenges that were faced and noted that the Legislature is likely to be called back for a special session to address several unfinished items from the 87<sup>th</sup> Session.

Discussing federal Tax and Trade Policy was the Honorable Kevin Brady (TX-8) who is the ranking member on the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means. He noted that as the economy continues to re-open post COVID-19, there are currently 9 million job openings to be filled. Additionally, Brady stated as Congress continues to debate financial offsets for a transportation and infrastructure package, he and his colleagues will be vigilant in protecting tax reform provisions authorized under his leadership in 2017 such as maintaining stepped up basis and the current capital

gains tax. Congressman Brady will be retiring at the end of his term in 2023.

A panel discussion on Transportation and Critical Infrastructure featuring the Honorable Alvin New, TXDOT Commissioner, the Honorable Kevin Brady (TX-8), the Honorable Michael Cloud (TX-27), and Ms. Jennifer Harris, State Program Director for Connected Nation Texas.

When discussing Texas infrastructure and how we compare to the rest of the U.S., New stated that Texas has the 9<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world and that the Lubbock district has more lane miles than any other area in Texas.

Congressman Michael Cloud (TX-27) discussed export movements along the Texas Coast noting that there is currently an ongoing project at the Port of Corpus Christi to increase capacity to export products and to expand the ag capacity along the coast.

The Agriculture Policy panel consisted of the Honorable Glen “G.T.” Thompson (PA-15), the Honorable Michael Cloud (TX-27), the Honorable August Pfluger (TX-11), and the Honorable Ronny Jackson (TX-13). Congressman Thompson, who is the ranking member on the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, was the keynote speaker on the panel and discussed the importance of rural America and the future of agriculture.

Additionally, it was noted that a collective group of Texas Republicans have formed a Texas Ag Task Force to stand together on agriculture issues. Congressman Cloud currently serves as the lone Texas Republican on the House Committee on Agriculture and is one of five co-chairs of the Ag Task Force.

Looking toward the future, the panel said the focus of the House Committee on Agriculture needs to be the 2023 Farm Bill. According to Congressman Thompson, he is hoping for Farm Bill Fridays to invite different commodities and determine what has and has not been working in the 2018 Farm Bill.

When discussing current pieces of legislation, it was noted that the RESTORE Act, which has been referred to the House Committee on Agriculture for consideration, is a bipartisan effort and was co-written with Congressman Henry Cuellar (TX-28) to reauthorize the WHIP Plus program to mitigate disaster related events in 2020 and 2021. At this point, they are eyeing two strategies to pass this bill either as a stand-

alone package or attaching it to another piece of legislation that is moving forward.

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## AgriLife Extension 2021 Hailout/Replant/Late Plant Guide

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 By Texas AgriLife Extension

This annual guide will be posted at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu> by **Monday, June 14**. Last year’s guide is essentially the same (see below) except crop prices for most crops are much higher, even 50% in cases. The information remains applicable to the week of July 5<sup>th</sup> for a few late planting decisions like sunflower, grain sorghum, and summer annual forages.

The information targets the Texas South Plains (Lubbock region), but the information’s crop discussion, last recommended planting dates, and industry contact information is still relevant for surrounding regions including the Rolling Plains, Abilene-San Angelo, southeast New Mexico, and the lower Texas Panhandle.

Last year’s document is posted at <https://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2020/06/Hailout-Replant-LatePlant-Guide-TX-S-Plains-Trostle-Maeda-2020.pdf>.

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## NEXT Cotton Incorporated “Cotton & Coffee” Set for June 15, 2021

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Cotton Incorporated encourages growers to participate in the upcoming Cotton & Coffee program, which is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 15, 2021**, at 7:30 a.m. Central via Zoom web call.

This month join Cotton Incorporated’s **Mike Shen** and **Mary Ankeny** as they discuss how the Product Development and Implementation team utilizes research, fabric development, and design to keep cotton relevant in all facets of the textile industry.

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](mailto:cshort@cottonboard.org); and Shelley Heinrich, 806-670-3250, [sheinrich@cottonboard.org](mailto: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](mailto:editor@plainscotton.org)