

Producers Optimistic for 2021 Crop

Friday, August 13, 2021

By Whitney Curry

The weather in the Texas High Plains has posed different types of challenges for producers in the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. (PCG) service area this year. With the rainfall and late start to planting, producers are now praying for steady weather, heat units and a good September to finish out the growing season.

Despite the late start most of the crop has received timely rains and mild to optimal temperatures. However, when looking at the crop in the field, the combination of planting date and accumulated heat units it is estimated that the crop is anywhere from 10 to 14 days behind schedule.

The initial statewide USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) report was released this week. Texas upland cotton production is currently forecast at 7.10 million bales from 5.5 million acres harvested. Statewide yield is estimated at 620 pounds per acre, down slightly from 686 pounds last year. In 2020, 4.57 million bales of cotton were produced in Texas on 3.2 million harvested acres.

“A crop of this size certainly has the potential, provided we continue to receive additional timely rainfall, coupled with necessary heat unit accumulation,” PCG CEO Kody Bessent said. “It is important to note, though, that we have well over a month to go before we begin to realize the full potential of the 2021 crop and these next few weeks will be especially critical for many growers.”

According to Dr. Suhas Vyavhare, extension entomologist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Lubbock, there has been some insect activity in almost every field around the area with researchers most recently reporting the presence of aphids in some areas. Vyavhare says over the next few weeks it will be critical to keep an eye out for boll worms moving into cotton from other crops around the area.

One of the bigger surprises of the week was the cotton market closing higher Thursday as traders reacted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s unexpected August crop update in the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report released Thursday. The WASDE report included

a decrease in U.S. Upland cotton production from 17.80 million bales to 17.26 million bales for the 2021 crop. Supported by healthy demand for cotton and the potential for the crop this season the market reacted favorably with prices at press time trading at 94.32 cents on the December 2021 futures contract.

TAWC 16th Annual Field Day August 19

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By Whitney Curry

The Texas Alliance for Water Conservation (TAWC) has set their 16th Annual Field Day for **Thursday, August 19, 2021** at the FiberMax Center for Discovery in Lubbock.

Topics will focus on soil management and soil health, carbon farming, federal policy, cover crops for grazing, and a long-range weather forecast.

After a welcome from Tamara Daniel, executive director for the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Lloyd Arthur, a Ralls County producer, program presentations and presenters will be:

- Carbon Credits and Markets for Agriculture: Considerations for Producers – *Dr. Darren Hudson*, Larry Combest Endowed Chair, Texas Tech University
- Measuring, Reporting and Verifying Soil Carbon – *Katie Lewis*, Associate Professor of Soil Chemistry and Fertility, Plant and Soil Science, Texas Tech University and Texas A&M AgriLife Research
- The Current Status of Washington DC and Federal Policy – *Kody Bessent*, Chief Executive Officer, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
- Producer Panel: Discussion of Utilizing Conservative Tillage on Dry Land and Irrigated Fields – *Barry Evans, Steve Olson, Josh Tunnell, and Orin Romine*
- Cover Crops for Cowboys – *Jeff Miller*, Owner, ForeFront Agronomy
- Weather Outlook: What can we expect in the months ahead? – *Jody James*, Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Lubbock, Texas

The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and donuts, lunch will also be provided, and there is no cost to attend. For questions, please contact Samantha at Samantha.borgstedt@ttu.edu or 806-789-4177.

Plains Ginners Association Sets Annual Meeting, Golf Tournament for August 23

Friday, August 13, 2021 By Whitney Curry

Plains Ginners Association will host their Annual Meeting on **Monday, August 23**, at the FiberMax Center for Discovery in Lubbock.

Registration for the meeting begins at 7:30 a.m., and the program begins shortly after 8 a.m. Speakers include U.S. Representative August Pfluger (TX-11) *tentative*; Dr. Darren Hudson, Larry Combest Endowed Chair for Agricultural Competitiveness at Texas Tech University; Dr. Greg Holt, USDA Gin Lab; and Kody Bessent, Chief Executive Officer, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. Lunch will be served at noon.

Association dues are \$50 annually, and members are encouraged to bring dues check or mail it to Plains Ginners Association, P.O. Box 25, Ropesville, TX 79358.

For more information on the meeting and to RSVP for lunch please contact Jaime Subealdea at Tule Creek Gin by calling (806) 627-4287 or emailing tcgin@midplains.coop. Please RSVP for lunch by Tuesday, August 17.

Registration for the golf tournament begins at 1:30 p.m., with a shotgun start at 2 p.m. at Meadowbrook Golf Course, 601 Municipal Drive in Lubbock. To sign up for the golf tournament, call Darryl Dawson at (806) 763-4371 or email darryl.dawson@adm.com.

NEXT Cotton Incorporated “Cotton & Coffee” Set for August 17, 2021

Friday, August 13, 2021 By Whitney Curry

Cotton Incorporated encourages growers to participate in the upcoming Cotton & Coffee program, which is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 17, 2021**, at 7:30 a.m. Central via Zoom web call.

This month join Cotton Incorporated CEO **Berry Worsham** as he discusses the organizations 2022 budget and strategic plan to increase demand for, and profitability of, cotton.

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.

WTACI Annual Conference Set for September 14

Friday, August 13, 2021 By WTACI

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute (WTACI) will host their annual conference on Tuesday, September 14, at the FiberMax Center for Discovery, located at 1121 Canyon Lake Drive in Lubbock.

This year represents the 69th meeting of WTACI, an unincorporated organization of dealers, industry representatives, agricultural producers, scientists, educators, and agribusiness members who support research and education programs promoting safe and effective use of agricultural chemicals and protection and preservation of the area’s natural resources.

Topics to be discussed at the conference include weather risk in production agriculture; pesticide laws and regulations; carbon cycling and storage in semi-arid environments; predators, pest and cotton; new herbicide technologies for sorghum; an update on cotton diseases in 2021; a Washington DC update; an agronomy panel; and crop protection research symposium. A detailed list of presentations and speakers will soon be available at <http://wtaci.org>.

The conference is approved for 7 CCA credits, and 7 TDA CEUs are pending at this time.

Pre-registration is available online at <https://wtaci.eventsmart.com>. On-line registration fees are \$75 for conference attendees and must be paid at the time of registration. On-site registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. the day of the conference and will cost \$95 for attendees. Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee. For booth and sponsorships opportunities, contact Nathan Foster at (806) 893-7316 or nfoster@wilburellis.com.

Contact Shawn Wade at (806) 792-4904 or shawn@plainscotton.org for questions about the program and CEU’s. If you have trouble or questions regarding registration, contact Whitney Curry at (806) 792-4904 or whitney@plainscotton.org.

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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