

PCG Joins Aggie Coalition Opposing Tax Hike Proposals to Budget

Friday, September 10, 2021 By Kody Bessent

This week, the House of Representatives began a series of Committee mark-ups to consider legislative proposals, which include crippling tax increases to the overall budget reconciliation process to address the recently passed \$3.5 trillion reconciliation plan under the Biden Administration's "Build Back Better" agenda.

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. (PCG), along with the National Cotton Council and Southwest Council of Agribusiness, joined over 330 federal and state agricultural organizations in a letter (<https://bit.ly/2X3sjFy>) to Congress vehemently opposing tax proposals that would devastate the agriculture industry and Texas economy if realized.

Highlights from the letter include:

- Requesting Congress not alter or eliminate long-standing tax code provisions that are fundamental to the financial health of production agriculture and the businesses that supply its inputs, transport its products, market its commodities, and support the vibrancy of U.S. agriculture industry
- Remaining ardently opposed to repealing the step-up in basis and to imposing new capital gains taxes on family farms and ranches when there is a death in the family
- Firmly believing the current federal estate tax code provisions must be maintained
- Opposing elimination or reduction of Sec. 199A or like-kind exchange which will result in a massive tax increase for farmers and ranchers at a time when they can ill afford it

"Throughout the last several years, production agriculture has withstood times of low prices, disaster related events due to mother nature, and more recently challenges brought on during the COVID-19 pandemic." PCG CEO Kody Bessent said. "At a time when the economy is beginning to recover following the pandemic, Congress should not recklessly raise taxes or alter long-term risk management tools on

family farms and businesses—many of which have taken a lifetime to build."

As the budget reconciliation process proceeds in Congress, PCG will continue to work with the Aggie Coalition and Members of Congress to preserve federal tax provisions that have long-supported production agriculture.

High Plains Cotton Crop – Holding Strong

Friday, September 10, 2021 By Whitney Curry

Although variability in the crop is becoming more evident producers remain upbeat and optimistic about the crop throughout the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. service area. The crop continues to progress well with open bolls peeking through in many fields as producers closely monitor dryland acres for moisture stress and weigh the timing of final irrigation activity.

Currently, there has been no significant outbreaks of insects in the area, however, Dr. Suhas Vyavhare, extension entomologist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Lubbock, says producers should continue to be watchful of Stink Bugs and Lygus especially on late planted cotton that may still have vulnerable young bolls.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency released the September certified acreage reporting data which only added 27,857 Upland cotton acres nationwide. Texas Upland cotton plantings increased by only 7,275 acres going from 6.228 million acres in August to 6.235 million acres in September.

Statewide, Texas Upland cotton acres reported as failed also increased slightly moving from 393,816 in August to 456,106 acres in September. Analyzing that change shows that 59,375 of the 62,290 additional acres reported as failed were attributable to counties in the PCG service area, raising the projected abandonment rate on the High Plains to 10.75 percent.

With the demand for cotton remaining healthy and the potential for a substantial crop this season the cotton market continues to react favorably with prices at press time trading at 93.50 cents on the December 2021 futures contract.

Upcoming Events:

*West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute
Annual Conference*

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

FiberMax Center for Discovery, Lubbock
<https://wtaci.eventsmart.com>

Advancing Eco Agriculture – Field Day

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Natural Ecosystem Restoration, Ropesville
<https://bit.ly/3BUJQhM>

Crop Scan AgReport – Into the Homestretch Toward Harvest

Monday, September 6, 2021 By Cotton Grower Staff

Cotton Grower magazine's Crop Scan AgReport for early September shows an overall crop determined to finish strong, despite some borderline hurricane rain and wind – plus some insect clean-up. Fingers remain crossed for a long, open fall.

Kerry Siders, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent-IPM for Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties, stated that, cotton has made good progress the last several days with generally 90-degree temperatures and mostly clear skies.

Siders noted that he has received several calls about heat unit accumulation this year, and cannot calculate for every location, but provided some stats on heat units (HU) for Levelland based on National Weather Service observations that he submits each morning. From May 20 until September 1, we have accumulated 1665 HU (DD 60). In June, we averaged 17.4 HU per day, in July we averaged 16.5 HU, and in August we have averaged only 16 HU per day. Based on historical average daily temperatures from this point on, we should accumulate an additional 350 HU. This will give us a projected total of 2015 HU for the season – about 145 HU less than our historical average of 2160 HU.

Siders made note that as he has stated before, “We make cotton in August.” We continued to be blessed with rains in August. Temperatures have already begun to moderate, and we are losing day length as well. I mention this because of my nervousness as we go into September. Pray for open, sunny weather with an occasional gentle rain.

Kerry states that we all know, though, that we can have some weather events which can undo all the hard work we have applied to our crops. Now I do not mean a hail-out – I'm talking regrowth and delayed maturity.

So, this said, and to my point...be careful irrigating into September.

Cotton insects generally have decreased across most area fields. He is not seeing the numbers of cotton aphids that he saw a few weeks ago. Most of these were cleaned up by ladybird beetles, green lacewings, and parasitic wasps. Cotton bollworms and an occasional armyworm species can be found in cotton, but little damage. The grain in the area has taken much pressure off from worms. The late and/or growthy non-*Bt* cotton fields with three and more nodes above white flower scattered throughout Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb counties will need to be checked for another 10-15 days. Lygus have become more common this week, so watch for them.

Cotton fields which reached physiological cut-out (5 nodes above white flower) before August 10 should have accumulated 400 heat units by now and will be safe from most insects other than cotton aphids. He plans on continuing to watch scouting program fields through the end of September.

To read the full report of other regions across the United States visit: <https://bit.ly/3yW8xIS>.

Field to Market Farmer Spotlight Honorees

Thursday, September 9, 2021 By Shawn Wade

The Texas Alliance for Water Conservation is proud to announce that Barry Evans and Dr. Donna McCallister were recognized as Field to Market's 2021 Spotlight Honorees.

Evans grows cotton on the high plains of Texas and works closely with Dr. McCallister, an assistant professor at Texas Tech University, to implement and measure conservation practices on his farm. Field to Market honored Evans and Dr. McCallister on June 23 during its annual Plenary and General Assembly Meeting, recognizing their outstanding leadership in implementing innovative approaches to water conservation and soil health in Texas.

The Texas Alliance for Water Conservation is dedicated to engaging with farmers to advance continuous improvements in sustainable outcomes across the food and agriculture value chain.

To watch the video highlighting Barry and Dr. McCallister, along with all the honorees, wonderful work visit: <https://bit.ly/3E1VERe>.

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