



# COTTON NEWS

*A Service of Plains Cotton Growers Inc.*



## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: WESTERN CAUCUS VISITS WEST TEXAS**



LtoR: Martin Stoerner, PCG President, Walt Hagood, Nouredine Abidi, Ph.D., Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), Fred Keller (R-Pa.), Jodey Arrington (R-Texas), Ronny Jackson (R-Texas), Tracey Mann (R-Kan.), Jason Smith (R-Mo.), Michelle Fischbach (R-Minn.), Mike Conaway and Eric Hequet, Ph.D.

Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-Texas) hosted members of the Congressional Western Caucus Wednesday, showcasing West Texas as the nation's leading region for agriculture/energy production, education, and research and development.

While touring Texas Tech University (TTU), the caucus visited the TTU Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute (FBRI), learning about research dedicated to improving cotton quality and U.S. textile production.

The FBRI serves the research needs of university researchers, cotton breeders, public agencies and textile manufacturers as an international leader in enhancing fiber quality.

Eric Hequet, Ph.D., Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor at FBRI, took the caucus on a tour of the institute showcasing the production and manufacturing of textiles from gin to mill.

Throughout the tour, congressional members asked questions and explored opportunities for the U.S. to manufacture high-quality textiles.



Plains Cotton Growers CEO Kody Bessent assisted in explaining fiber quality of High Plains cotton.



### **Research Highlight**

High Plains cotton producers battle drought, wind, wildfires and more when it comes to bringing in good yields. However, weather conditions aren't the only threat to cotton crops. Terry Wheeler, Ph.D., professor of plant pathology at Texas A&M AgriLife Research, has dedicated the majority of her career to combating roundworms, (nematodes) in cotton crops. Her work is supported by the Plains Cotton Improvement Program.

**Q: What types of nematodes are primarily present on the High Plains?**

**A:** Root-knot nematodes have been in the High Plains region for a long time. Gaines County and Terry County have the largest number of cases of these pests. Root-knot nematodes prefer a sandy soil — they move from the soil into the root system of the plant.

Read the full article here: [bit.ly/3MhOLi6](https://bit.ly/3MhOLi6).

## FSA State Director Appointed

Kelly Adkins has been appointed Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director for Texas.

Adkins was raised on a small family farm in Haskell County. While enrolled at Texas Tech University, Adkins worked at the Texas A&M Agricultural Research and Experiment Station where he gained a deeper knowledge of agriculture. Adkins took a position with the FSA upon graduation where he has held a variety of positions during his tenure.



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# 2022 Upland Cotton Loan Chart Released; Discounts for Plastic Get Sizable Increase

The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency released the 2022-crop Upland Cotton Loan Premium and Discount tables on April 18th. The consistent theme we see in the charts this year, compared to the 2021 tables, are smaller premiums and also smaller discounts — especially in the White grades 11-41 and Staple lengths 34 and longer.

The revised premium and discount tables apply to the Base Loan rate for Upland cotton, which has also been announced and remains at 52 cents per pound for the 2022 crop.

The 2022 chart also adds to the increase in discounts for plastic contamination in the discount schedule for Extraneous Matter, specifically for Level One and Level Two Plastic, to reflect the market's continued focus on this type of lint contamination.

When prices are high like they have been during the 2021-crop marketing year, premiums and discounts in the subsequent year's loan table tend to move toward each other. The higher overall price for cotton makes the full application of discounts or premiums less critical in establishing the sale price.

As a result of this dynamic, Color/Leaf/Staple combinations that normally receive a discount will see slightly smaller markdowns under the 2022 loan chart compared to 2021. However, premium qualifying Color/Leaf/Staple combinations will be smaller in 2022.

As noted earlier, the 2022 premium and discount table for Extraneous Matter saw another significant increase in the discounts applied to bales identified as containing Plastic. Discounts for Plastic jumped the most — increasing to -4000 points for both Level One and Level Two plastic contamination.

Read the full article and view 2022 charts: [bit.ly/394DZNH](https://bit.ly/394DZNH).

### Shipping Container Disruptions



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