

Agriculture News

Cotton News

Lubbock native David Collins Steps Down as Asst. CCI Director

From Cotton Council International

David Collins will leave Cotton Council International at the end of December.

"We appreciate David's service and look forward to his continuing relationship with CCI as a Senior Advisor for South Asia and CCI's Cotton's Revolutions while he pursues other interests," CCI President Jimmy Webb said.

CCI congratulates Collins on his move, wishes him the greatest success on his future endeavors, and is looking forward to continuing to benefit from his expertise as he takes on his new responsibilities as a consultant on January 1, 2013.

"I am excited to be able to continue to support CCI and the U.S. cotton industry while pursuing other interests," Collins said as he prepared for the transition.

CCI is grateful for Collins's long service to CCI and the U.S. cotton industry. He is originally from Lubbock, Texas, and has more than 25 years of experience with CCI. His contributions to CCI span a broad range of market development and trade promotion programs. He entered South Asia on behalf of CCI in the 1990s to develop and implement programs in that region.

More recently he helped build CCI's Cotton's Revolutions, an initiative to create a "virtual think-tank" to help the cotton industry look forward over the next decade to anticipate key issues and industry priorities. Collins will continue working on these programs in his new capacity.

Well Owners Reminded of Recording Period

From the High Plains Water District

High Plains Water District (HPWD) rule amendments require flow meter readings or readings from alternative measuring methods to be recorded between Dec. 15 and Jan. 15 of each year. This information is needed to report annual groundwater use from the Ogallala Aquifer to the district by March 1 of the following year.

The Water District encourages owners/operators of certain water wells or well systems to make readings to determine their ending meter readings for 2012 groundwater use reporting. The ending point for 2012 will be the starting point for 2013 reporting.

On-line reporting of meter readings or alternative measuring methods is available by clicking on the "Log Meter Entries Here" button on the right side of the HPWD web site (<http://www.hpwd.com>). The meter site is also available directly at <http://map.hpwd.com>.

"This meter module is a secure site where persons may create a user account, associate owners/properties with the user account, plot the location of the meter or alternative measuring method on National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) aerial images, and update information about the meter installation. Even if you haven't entered any information until now—you can still do it at this time," Field Data Collection Supervisor Gerald Crenwelge said.

Alternative measuring methods may be used for existing wells in lieu of flow meters during the transitional period from Jan. 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2015. The three approved alternative measuring methods include electricity consumption, natural gas consumption, and nozzle packages/ hour meter readings on center pivot systems.

Groundwater users wanting to "bank" the unused portion of their 2012 allowable production must enter data into the on-line database.

"Readings from either a metered well/well system or alternative measuring method can be used in calculating the amount of water that is eligible for banking in the future. This information must be entered in the on-line meter module so that the database can automatically make calculations. Groundwater users can enter data themselves or HPWD personnel can assist them," Crenwelge said.

He added that all measuring methods (meter or alternative method) are treated equally in the database. Groundwater users need to have accurate beginning/ending meter or alternative measuring method readings so that the database can make proper calculations.

It is important to note that the reporting requirements do not apply to wells producing less than 17.5 gallons of water per minute (25,000 gallons per day) OR wells solely for domestic use (even if they produce more than 17.5 gallons per minute). However, wells that are part of a well system that has a total aggregated capacity to produce more than 17.5 gallons of water per minute (25,000 gallons per day) are included.

Assistance is available to guide persons through the new water meter reporting method.

"A video tutorial on the new site offers instruction on how to complete the meter reporting process. Plus, persons may also stop by the HPWD office or contact us at (806) 762-0181. Several staff members are available to assist persons in setting up their on-line account. We will do our best to accommodate walk-ins—but it will be very helpful if people can make an appointment in advance," said Manager Jim Conkwright.

Additional information regarding reporting requirements and alternative measuring methods are found in the Rules of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District and the district's Meter Specifications and Approved Meter List Manual. Both documents are available for viewing/downloading at <http://www.hpwd.com>.

USDA announces special import quota #19 for upland cotton

The Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation announced a special import quota for upland cotton that permits importation of a quantity of upland cotton equal to one week's domestic mill use. The quota will be established on December 27, 2012, allowing importation of 14,776,787 kilograms (67,869 bales) of upland cotton.

Quota number 19 will be established as of December 27, 2012, and will apply to upland cotton purchased not later than March 26, 2013, and entered into the U.S. not later than June 24, 2013. The quota is equivalent to one week's consumption of cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate for the period August 2012 through October 2012, the most recent three months for which data are available.

Future quotas, in addition to the quantity announced, will be established if price conditions warrant.

and Georgia. Scattered rainfall interrupted fieldwork over the weekend and localized rainfall accumulations totaled one to two inches.

Slightly cooler temperatures were observed in the Carolinas and Virginia and lesser precipitation amounts of around one-inch were recorded. The rainfall helped to recharge subsoil moisture, but droughty conditions expanded in many areas despite wet weather. Harvesting continued in some areas throughout the region as weather permitted, and the last remaining fields were picked. Many gins increased revised estimates as exceptional yields continued to be reported. Some gins in North Carolina and Virginia completed pressing operations for the season. However, many gins continued to operate at capacity in order to process backlogs of modules on gin yards. Some gins had scheduled down time for the entire Christmas holiday weekend; a few gins planned to continue pressing operations through Christmas.

West Texas

Spot cotton trading was active. Supplies and demand were heavy. Producer offerings were heavy. Average local spot prices were higher. No forward contracting was reported. Trading of CCC-loan equities was slow. Foreign mill inquiries were good.

A severe dust storm moved through the region mid-week that caused havoc and disrupted progress. Module trucks were sidelined for about six hours, due to zero visibility on the roadways. Tarps blew off from some modules.

The high winds further depleted any stored sub-soil moisture; precipitation is urgently needed. Immediately following the dust storm, frigid temperatures returned to the High Plains with lows in the teens and in the 30s for the Rolling Plains. Harvesting was virtually completed, with a few fields remaining. Some ginning operations had finalized for the season, and the Classing Offices responded by reducing shifts and work crews.

Regional Summaries

Southeastern Markets

Spot cotton trading was active. Supplies were heavy. Demand was good. Producer offerings were heavy. Average local spot prices were higher. Trading of CCC-loan equities was inactive.

Unseasonably warm conditions prevailed during the period with daytime highs in the low-to-mid 70s in areas of Alabama

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