



ARIZONA COTTON GROWERS

Adam Hatley, President | Jadee Rohner, Executive Director

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

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INDUSTRY INFORMATION

UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL



RANDOMIZED REGULATORY COMMERCIAL SEED SAMPLING



JADEE ROHNER
Executive Director

UPCOMING DATES

- MARCH 1: MARICOPA, PINAL, COCHISE, GRAHAM, GREENLEE & PIMA COUNTIES PLOW UP DEADLINE ➔
- MARCH 18: NATIONAL AG DAY
- MARCH 18: COTTON & COFFEE -7:30AM CENTRAL- ➔
- MARCH 19: ACGA BOARD MEETING
- MARCH 25-27: MARICOPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU FARM-CITY BREAKFASTS ➔

NOTICES

BOI REQUIREMENT BACK IN EFFECT

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AGRICULTURAL BMP SURVEY REMINDER



UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL

Throughout 2024, the National Cotton Council (NCC) made significant efforts to boost U.S. cotton's visibility across various platforms. NCC leaders from the seven segments of the U.S. cotton industry addressed a wide range of issues, from trade to regulatory matters, with a primary focus on developing a new farm bill.

The NCC actively communicated its priorities to Congress and the Administration, advocating for a meaningful farm bill that includes a strong safety net and comprehensive risk management tools. NCC staff educated many new Congressional members on the importance of production agriculture to the national economy and the necessity of strong farm legislation.

Although Congress approved and President Biden signed a one-year extension of the current farm bill in late 2023, the NCC emphasized that this extension did not provide an adequate safety net given the rising costs of production.

In September, the NCC spearheaded an effort, supported by over 300 organizations representing commodities, lenders, and other rural interests, urging Congress to pass a new farm bill with improved safety net provisions. This campaign involved meetings with nearly 100 House and Senate offices, including key Congressional leadership offices in both chambers, to emphasize the critical need for legislative action.

The NCC's Strategic Planning Task Force, consisting of eighteen industry members representing all segments and production regions, continues to assess global economic challenges and competitive pressure facing the U.S. cotton industry. Key issues identified include the widening gap between rising production costs and falling market prices, heightened competition from Brazilian and Australian cotton production, and the influx of Chinese polyester flooding the market. Additionally, the NCC is addressing lint contamination issues reported by textile customers, which negatively impact the industry's overall economic health.

Exports are crucial for the sustainability of U.S. cotton. The industry stands to gain from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's announcement of an additional \$300 million in competitive grant funding through the Regional Agricultural Promotion Program (RAPP). This program is designed for applicants aiming to open markets in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and South and Southeast Asia.

The NCC continues to support the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol, enhancing our cotton's marketability through sustainability and transparency. Planted acreage in the Trust Protocol has risen to 2.1 million acres, a 31% increase from last year, demonstrating our industry's commitment to responsible production.

The NCC will continue its longstanding service to the U.S. cotton industry by addressing challenges in farm policy, international trade, regulatory requirements, and appropriations in the coming year.



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RANDOMIZED REGULATORY COMMERCIAL SEED SAMPLING

This past year the Arizona Cotton Growers Association Board of Directors became aware of concerns from producers regarding the declining physical quality of seeds, as well as challenges with germination and establishing stands. In partnership with the Arizona Cotton Research & Protection Council (ACRPC), we have engaged the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) to prioritize a statewide regulatory commercial cotton seed sampling for the 2025 crop year. As part of their commitment to consumer protection, their regulators have begun randomly collecting samples which will undergo both warm and cool germination tests at the Arizona Department of Agriculture State Lab to ensure that they meet the label guarantee.



We appreciate the collaboration among various segments of the cotton industry, it goes without saying that their assistance and cooperation made this endeavor plausible. We plan to work diligently to ensure that the sales process remains seamless while emphasizing efficiency and timeliness in every phase.

Additionally, to enhance transparency, the Association aims to support growers by improving communication regarding seed information available by lot number. We plan to include seed representative contact details and a list of accessible seed data, which growers can request, in an upcoming newsletter and on our website.

Given the significant challenges facing production agriculture, we are acutely aware that producers across the state are grappling with severe issues, including persistent high temperatures, rising input costs, unpredictable global demand, and supply chain disruptions. It is crucial that we all collaborate to guarantee seed quality during these challenging times.

BOI REQUIREMENT BACK IN EFFECT – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Farmers and agribusiness owners, take note—the Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) filing requirement is back in effect. A February 18, 2025, ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas has reinstated the reporting obligations under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). **Businesses subject to this rule must file their BOI with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) by March 21, 2025.**

Originally set to take effect in 2024, the rule was temporarily halted due to legal challenges.

However, a recent court decision lifted the stay, meaning compliance is now required. FinCEN has announced plans to revise the rule later this year to ease the burden on some small businesses, but for now, the current requirements remain in place.

If your farm or agribusiness is structured as an LLC, corporation, or other covered entity, you may need to file. Check with FinCEN, your accountant, or legal advisor to ensure compliance. This keeps it brief while still covering all the essential points. Let me know if you'd like any further refinements!

Please visit [Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting | FinCEN.gov](https://www.fincen.gov) for more detailed information and to help you determine if your business is required to file.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Last week, the Arizona Legislature reached a key milestone as committees completed their initial review of bills, narrowing down the nearly 1,800 introduced bills since the session began. With only about half making it through, the focus has now shifted to floor debates, where lawmakers must push their bills through a final vote in their chamber before sending them to the other side for consideration. This next phase, spanning the next four weeks, will determine which policies continue moving forward and which are left behind.

Although many proposals have been filtered out, there are still ways for discarded bills to reemerge. Lawmakers have several procedural tools at their disposal, including strike-everything amendments, withdrawal petitions, and rules suspensions, which can revive stalled legislation. As the session progresses, strategic maneuvering will continue to shape which policies advance and ultimately become law.

Water security and environmental sustainability remain key issues under consideration. A bill aimed at increasing state oversight of groundwater use in rural Arizona has cleared committee review, seeking to establish new regulations that prevent over-extraction in areas not currently protected by Active Management Areas.

As these bills move into the next phase, water security and environmental protections remain hot topics at the Capitol. Lawmakers will have to navigate tough negotiations and competing interests to get their proposals across the finish line. The decisions made in the coming weeks will have a big impact on Arizona's future, especially when it comes to managing resources responsibly.

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IN MEMORY OF NORMAN "WILEY" MURPHY

Norman "Wiley" Murphy passed away peacefully at home on February 2, 2025. Wiley served as the President of the ACGA from 1999-2000, his leadership left a lasting impact, setting a standard for future leaders of the association and contributing to the prosperity of the cotton-growing community in Arizona.

A memorial service will be held at St. Mark's United Methodist (1431 W. Magee Rd; Tucson, Az) on Friday March 7th at 3pm and a celebratory toast will follow (location announced at the service). Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

[Click here to view his obituary.](#)



AGRICULTURAL BMP SURVEY REMINDER

Best Management Practice (BMP) Survey

Producers in Pinal County, thank you for all the hard work you are currently doing to reduce your contributions of particulate matter (PM) from the air. This is just a reminder that you should have received a survey in the mail that needs to be completed and returned to the Arizona Department of Agriculture by March 31, 2025.

The survey will help to provide essential data for modeling how the Agricultural BMP Program contributes to reducing PM emissions. It can be returned either by the prepaid self-addressed envelope or scan it and email it to rvanleuven@azda.gov.

ARIZONA COTTON INDUSTRY ANNUAL MEETING



COTTON TRUMPS EVERYTHING

SAME LOCATION, NEW VENUE

Sedona Hilton Resort at Bell Rock

