



ARIZONA COTTON GROWERS

Adam Hatley, President | Jadee Rohner, Executive Director

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

ARIZONA COTTON INDUSTRY
ANNUAL MEETING



SAVE THE DATE
COTTON
TRUMPS
EVERYTHING

JUNE 11 & 12 | SEDONA, ARIZONA
2025



UPCOMING DATES

FEB. 6: 2025 FIELD CROPS "CLINICS" 

FEB. 13-15: NCC ANNUAL MEETING 

FEB 15: MOHAVE, LA PAZ COUNTY, PINAL &
MARICOPA COUNTIES PLOW UP DEADLINE 

FEB. 27: MAXIMIZING IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY
WORKSHOP 

RAINMAKER
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INDUSTRY INFORMATION

PRECISION
COTTON
PLANTING
IN ARIZONA:
ENHANCING
FARM EFFICIENCY



DR. PEDRO ANDRADE SANCHEZ
Biosystems Engineering
University of Arizona

PLOWER
PROGRAM
ARIZONA COTTON
RESEARCH AND
PROTECTION COUNCIL



NOTICES

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
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HOLD



PRECISION PLANTING OF COTTON IN ARIZONA: TECHNOLOGY DESIGNED TO GAIN OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY IN THE FARM

Cotton farming in Arizona has developed over many decades creating the highly productive systems we know today. Local growers have a deep understanding of their farming operations, and every year success starts with an adequate crop stand. Tillage/seedbed preparation is the first step, then the rest is about optimal planter performance. As simple as it seems, we know that optimal planting is challenging; the quality of planting changes from field to field, and in most cases within a field.

Everything in the farm is in constant state of change, therefore optimal planting is theoretically dynamic, and that's where precision planting technologies become useful options because they are designed to continually adjust operational parameters on-the-go. Electronics in farm equipment may appear intimidating at first, but row planters are like any other technology that must be updated to keep up with the many challenges in cotton farming. Farming with increasing efficiency is the name of the game.

The good news is that precision planters can be visualized as upgraded versions of the older-conventional systems. The fact that we can retrofit our existing planting equipment offers a huge economic advantage. Moreover, smart adoption of precision planting technology means selecting only those components that the grower needs the most. In a broad sense, precision planting is a collection of components driven by variable electrical, hydraulic and pneumatic drives. These actuators include soil engaging tines for enhanced soil conditioning ahead of drilling, frame/shank lifters for dynamic downward force control, electric motors for variable/high-speed seed metering and disc opener depth, adaptable seed-trench closing, etc. Moreover, new systems for simultaneous chemical input delivery are becoming available in precision planting, but once again, keep in mind that these are independent options to choose from. Also remember that Cooperative Extension is one resource to discuss precision planting solutions for the upcoming 2025 cotton season.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[PRECISION PLANTING
RESEARCH IN AZ](#)

[UPDATES ON PRECISION
PLANTING RESEARCH](#)

[CONTACT DR. PEDRO
ANDRADE SANCHEZ](#)

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2025

ARIZONA COTTON GROWERS



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Casa Grande, AZ 85122

 **Willcox Office**
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Willcox, AZ 85643

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The First Regular Session of the 57th Arizona Legislature opened January 13th week with Governor Katie Hobbs delivering her third [State of the State address](#). The session is set against a backdrop of partisan tensions, as the Democratic governor faces a GOP-controlled Legislature.

Hobbs aims to promote bipartisanship, focusing on issues like child care, housing affordability, and funding for law enforcement, while also critiquing Republican initiatives, particularly around education funding and the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program. The Senate has laid out a conservative agenda centered on education choice and regulatory reform.

Water management is a key issue this session, with legislators needing to balance urban growth and agricultural needs.

Governor Hobbs introduced a [FY 2026 Executive Budget](#) of \$17.7 billion, targeting key sectors such as agriculture, education, water infrastructure, and public safety. Notable allocations include \$127,000 for a food safety scientist to enhance agricultural product testing and \$119,300 for ongoing inspections of meat-processing facilities, supplemented by \$45,000 in one-time funding. The budget forecasts a modest ending balance of \$146.9 million and sustains the Budget Stabilization Fund at \$1.54 billion.

As we enter the fourth week of the legislative session, 1,230 bills have been introduced. The Association will monitor several of the bills introduced pertaining to agriculture, and engage with bills that impact the cotton industry (below are some bills of special interest):

■ [HB2031: boards and commissions; repeal](#)

Sponsored by Representative Alex Kolodin, R-Scottsdale, he proposes to repeal and amend various sections of the Arizona Revised Statutes, primarily focusing on the elimination or consolidation of several state agencies, boards, and commissions. One of his strategies involves abolishing at least nine state boards and commissions that oversee various industries within the state including the Arizona Cotton Research Protection Council and the Beef Council.

■ [HB2692: appropriation; department of water resources](#)

■ [HB2550: department of water resources; review](#)

Sponsored by Lupe Diaz, R-Benson, is taking a hard look into the Arizona Department of Water Resources, introducing these two bills, one that would cut ADWR's budget in half and another that would move up the agency's regularly scheduled audit to next year, saying he wants to address "the lack of transparency and regulatory overreach" at the department.

■ [HB2714: rural groundwater management areas; establishment](#)

Sponsored by Senator Priya Sundareshan, D- Tucson, and Representative Chris Mathis, D- Tucson. Running the Governor's Water Legislation, titled the Rural Groundwater Management Act, an initiative designed to tackle groundwater issues in rural Arizona. The proposed bill aims to create Rural Groundwater Management Areas (RGMAs) as a viable alternative to the current Active Management Areas (AMAs) and Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas (INAs).

■ [HCM2008: EPA; regional offices; move](#)

Sponsored by Julie Willoughby, R-Chandler, to move Arizona from EPA Region 9 to EPA Region 8 and move the EPA Region 9 office from California to Arizona.



FLOWER PROGRAM

In accordance to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 3-1086 growers are required to plow up cotton fields by dates established by the Arizona Cotton Research & Protection Council (ACRPC).

| Area | Zone | Tillage Date | Host-Free Period | Planting Date |
|---|------|--------------|------------------|---|
| YUMA COUNTY <i>Except Dateland and Aztec</i> | A | 15 January | 15 | No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct |
| COCHISE, GRAHAM, and GREENLEE Counties | B | 1 March | 15 | No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct |
| MOHAVE, LA PAZ COUNTY <i>Except Aguila, Vicksburg, Wenden, and Salome Area</i> | C | 15 February | 15 | No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct |
| PIMA COUNTY <i>Plus Winkleman, Pinal Co, and Aguila in La Paz County</i> | D | 1 March | 15 | No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct |
| REMAINDER OF STATE PINAL and MARICOPA COUNTIES <i>Plus Vicksburg, Wenden, and Salome in La Paz County</i> | E | 15 February | 15 | No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct |

The ACRPC has continued to make efforts to simplify and streamline the process, you may call the Plower Hotline at [602-438-2088](tel:602-438-2088) or fill out the [online form](#) to request an inspection for certification of their farm prior to the deadline. You will be asked to provide your Contact Information, FSA Farm Number(s), Farm Name, Gin(s) planning to be utilized and County.

ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION

ONLINE FORM

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP INFORMATION FILING REQUIREMENT REMAINS ON HOLD

The Beneficial Ownership Information filing requirement is remains on hold, from the Corporate Transparency Act with no deadline as of January 31st. Anticipated updates may come in the next few months, especially with a new Congress and administration. Small business owners should prepare their documentation to ensure compliance if the court reinstates the deadline.

2024 USDA QUICK STATS

| 2024 CROP YEAR | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| TOTAL ACRES HARVESTED | 109,000 ACRES |
| TOTAL ACRES PLANTED | 110,000 ACRES |
| PRODUCTION | 280,000 (480 LB BALES) |
| YIELD | 1,233 LB/ACRE |
| COTTONSEED PRODUCTION | 102,000 TONS |
| PIMA COTTON ACRES HARVESTED | 14,000 ACRES |
| PIMA COTTON ACRES PLANTED | 14,000 ACRES |
| PIMA COTTON PRODUCTION | 30,000 (480 LB BALES) |
| PIMA COTTON YIELD | 1,029 LB/ACRE |
| UPLAND COTTON ACRES HARVESTED | 95,000 ACRES |
| UPLAND COTTON ACRES PLANTED | 96,000 ACRES |
| UPLAND COTTON PRODUCTION | 250,000 (480 LB BALES) |
| UPLAND COTTON YIELD | 1,263 LB/ACRE |

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