



# ARIZONA COTTON GROWERS

Adam Hatley, President | Jadee Rohner, Executive Director

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### APRIL 2025

**COMMITTEE HEARINGS**



**AZ LEGISLATIVE DINNER**

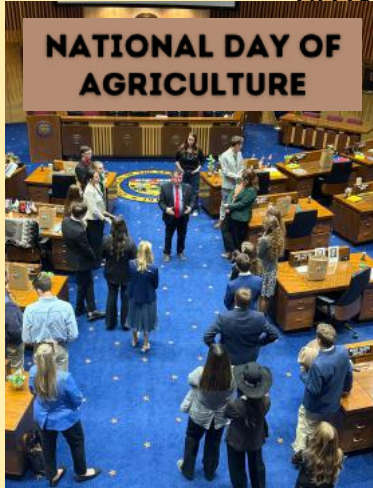


**READ MORE**

**YUMA LEGISLATIVE TOUR**



**NATIONAL DAY OF AGRICULTURE**



## UPCOMING DATES

APRIL 3: LEGISLATIVE INTERN TOUR

APRIL 15: COTTON & COFFEE - 7:30AM CENTRAL -

APRIL 15: SPRING ACP MEETING- DALLAS, TX

APRIL 22: AZDA STAKEHOLDER INPUT SESSION

APRIL 30 - MAY 1: AZCPA DESERT AG CONFERENCE

## INDUSTRY INFORMATION

### TODAY'S 4-H YOUTH ARE "BEYOND READY"

SANDRA GERMANN

Executive Director

Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation



### 2025 LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

JADEE ROHNER

Executive Director



## NOTICES

AZDA UNUSABLE PESTICIDE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

2025 ARIZONA COTTON INDUSTRY ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCED

USDA PROJECTS HIGHER ACREAGE

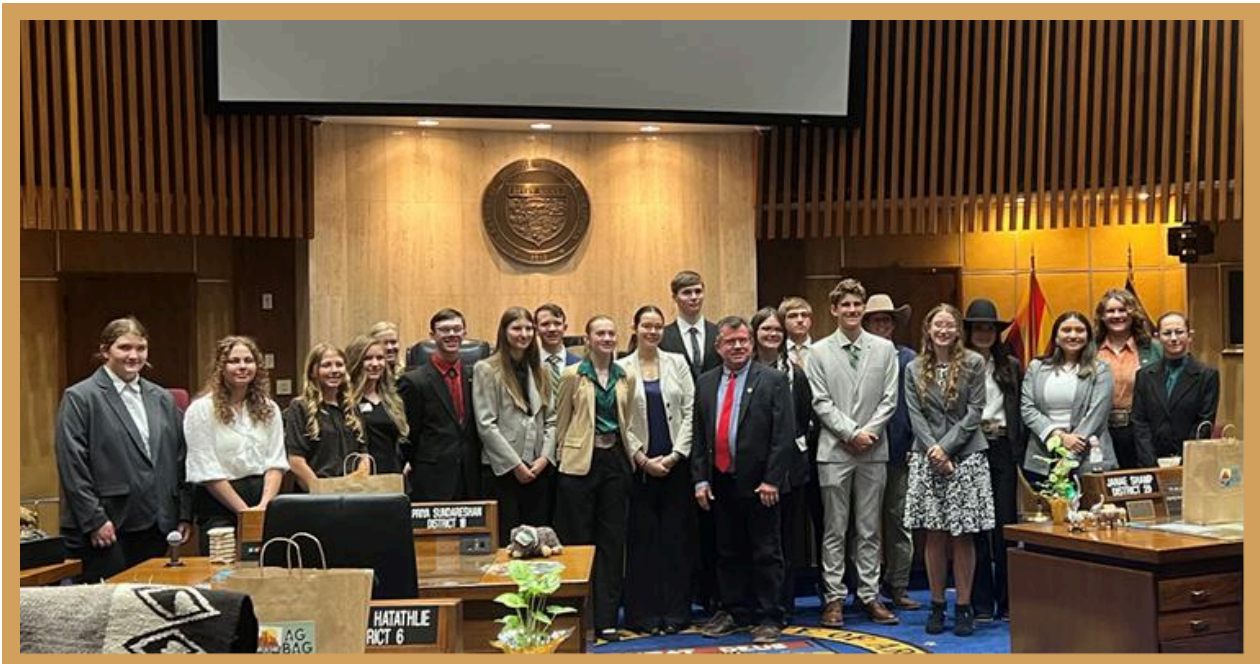
KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL MEETING



## TODAY'S 4-H YOUTH ARE "BEYOND READY"

The lack of workforce preparedness among young people is a growing issue for employers from small businesses to industry and all areas of the public sector. Youth today lack the essential skills needed for future jobs with 77% of employers saying we need to focus less on traditional school subjects and more on real world skills. Furthermore, 85% of the jobs that will exist in the year 2030 have not even been invented yet. Our country's future depends on a talent pipeline to solve society's greatest challenges. The good news is that the skills needed (work ethic, sense of responsibility, persistence, drive, the ability to work with others, creative and analytical thinking, resilience, flexibility, etc.) are the skills that 4-Hers have been learning and excelling at since 1902.

Take one of these skills, "resilience", which is the capacity to withstand or recover quickly from difficulties; toughness. Much like the resilience in the show ring, shooting sports competition or robotics demonstration when things don't go one's way, these skills are also needed in the workplace. Today's 4-H youth are "Beyond Ready" with the talent needed to thrive in the workplace and solve tomorrow's greatest challenges.



### And what are 4-Hers up to this month on the statewide front?

Twenty 4-H youth from across the state took the Capitol by storm for the **Engaged Citizen's Event on National Agriculture Day, March 18th**. Gathering the night before for workshops and engagement activities from both AZ Farm Bureau and Project Central leadership, select youth from Apache, Navajo, Gila, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Pinal, Maricopa and Yavapai Counties explored advocacy, leadership and the legislative process while gaining skills to shape the future. From engaging with the Director of the Dept. of Agriculture, to delivering 90 AGBAGS to legislators, to engaging in leadership seminars and legislative discussions, these youth leaders made their voices heard.

As leaders, community members, and future employees, today's 4-H youth are ready. Thank you Arizona Cotton Growers for your continued support of Arizona 4-H.



## ARIZONA

### UNUSABLE PESTICIDE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) is bringing back the highly popular “Unusable Pesticide Disposal Events”. In Fall 2024, the AZDA offered two events – one in Yuma and another in Maricopa. Due to the success of the program, the AZDA will continue to offer this valuable service each year. If there is enough interest in other areas, a change could be made or additional events could be held. If you are interested in participating and have not submitted the registration form, please do it no later than early June.



The two documents, the Unusable Pesticide Disposal Event registration form and the instructions can be found at <https://agriculture.az.gov/download-forms>. For registration, you will find an Excel spreadsheet with two tabs, one for liquids and one for dry products. If you have compressed gas cylinders, please attach pictures with your registration. Please return the registration form to [smerle@azda.gov](mailto:smerle@azda.gov).

If you have additional questions, please contact Jack Peterson at [jpeterson@azda.gov](mailto:jpeterson@azda.gov).

### LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

The 2025 Arizona Legislative Session kicked off on January 13th, and in just 77 days, Arizona Cotton Growers have actively participated in at least seven significant events. Collaborating with the Arizona Farm & Ranch Group, the Arizona Nursery Association, and several other organizations, we hosted multiple key events, including the Arizona Agriculture Legislative Dinner and the distribution of “Ag Bags” on the National Day of Agriculture. These events aimed to offer our legislators a direct insight into Arizona's agricultural sector, highlighting the dedication of producers to ensure the industry's ongoing success, along with sharing personal stories and addressing current challenges.

A heartfelt thank you goes to ACGA Board Members and our partners for their outstanding representation of the cotton industry. We strongly encourage our members to remain informed and engaged as we continue to navigate the legislative landscape. Your involvement is crucial, and together, we can advocate for the needs and interests of our industry. Whether by attending events, communicating with policymakers, or sharing your experiences, every effort makes a difference. Let's unite to secure a prosperous future for Arizona agriculture.



This Month's Newsletter Sponsor is AMS.



## 2025 ARIZONA COTTON INDUSTRY ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCED

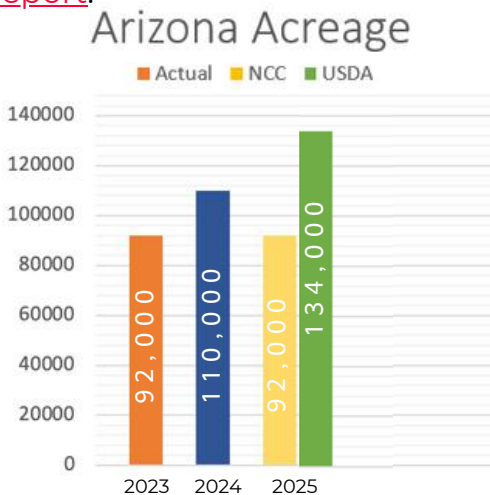
The Arizona Cotton Growers Association and Arizona Cotton Ginners Association are excited to announce their 2025 Az Cotton Industry Annual Meeting! This important industry event will be held on Wednesday, June 11th and 12th, at the beautiful Sedona Hilton Resort in Sedona, Arizona. The meeting will provide valuable industry updates and insights, and attendees are encouraged to complete and submit the registration form to secure their spot.

In addition to attending, there is an opportunity to sponsor the event. Sponsorships help offset costs and enhance the delivery of key messages to the industry. Those interested in sponsoring can easily do so by clicking the sponsorship link provided.

For detailed information about the Annual Meeting, visit [www.azcottongrowers.org](http://www.azcottongrowers.org). The website offers comprehensive details on meeting registration, golf tournament registration, sponsorship opportunities, and lodging information. Plan to come for the meeting and enjoy a summer weekend in the scenic surroundings of Sedona, AZ!

## USDA PROJECTS HIGHER ACREAGE

The National Cotton Council (NCC) through its [Planting Intentions survey](#) had estimated that 2025 acreage in Arizona would be 92,000 acres, a 16% decrease from 2024. The USDA, however, sees it a little differently estimating Arizona cotton acreage at 134,000 acres in comparison to the actual 110,000 acres harvested in 2024 in their [Prospective Plantings Report](#).



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**KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL MEETING**

At the 2025 National Cotton Council (NCC) Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas, representatives from across the cotton belt gathered to discuss critical industry issues. A primary focus was advocating for a new farm bill to strengthen the cotton safety net and address current challenges facing the sector. Additionally, the NCC's 2025 Planted Intentions Survey showed a 14.5% decrease in cotton acreage, highlighting the need for effective policy solutions. During segment caucuses, the NCC Board worked collaboratively with producers, ginners, and merchants to refine policy strategies aimed at increasing U.S. cotton competitiveness and demand. These discussions ensure that the NCC's efforts align with the diverse needs of the cotton industry.



*NCC Arizona Producer Caucus*

A major point of discussion at the caucuses was the impact of global trade policies and market conditions on cotton prices. Delegates emphasized the importance of securing fair trade agreements and increasing cotton exports, particularly in light of challenges posed by foreign subsidies and tariffs. Another key issue raised was the need for advancements in cotton research and technology to improve sustainability and profitability for producers across the Cotton Belt.

The National Cotton Council directors for 2025 were announced at the NCC's recent Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas. Included in the list of Directors was the Association's own Gerald "Jerry" Rovey, Board Chairman of the Arizona Cotton Growers Association. Elected to the NCC Board during segment caucuses were:

**Cooperatives**

- Reid Nichols- Altus, OK
- Kevin Brinkley- Lubbock, TX
- Paul Bush- Glendale, AZ
- Wayne Boseman- Garner, NC
- David Camp- Greenwood, MS

**Producers**

- David Dunlow- Gaston, NC
- Lewis Everett- Capron, VA
- Gerald Rovey- Buckeye, AZ
- Matthew Hyneman- Jonesboro, AR
- Sutton Page- Avoca, TX

**Merchants**

- John C. King, III- Richardson, TX
- Darren Long- New York, NY
- Azeez Syed- Richardson, TX
- Tommy Hayden- Cordova, TN
- Krista Rickman- Memphis, TN

**Manufacturers**

- Anderson Warlick- Gastonia, NC
- James Martin- Gastonia, NC
- Dan Sistrunk- Spartanburg, SC
- William Bowen- Jr., Inman, SC
- Marc Doyon- Salisbury, NC

**Ginners**

- Ben Evans- Douglas, GA
- J. Bradley Williams- Burlison, TN
- Larry Black- Roscoe, TX
- Tom Pires- Riverdale, CA
- Gary Feist- Anthony, KS

**Warehouses**

- Shane Stephens- Greenwood, MS
- Ray Doroff- Memphis, TN
- Scott Mitchell- Donalsonville, GA
- Eric Wanjura- Lubbock, TX
- Robert Swize- Corpus Christi, TX

**Cottonseed**

- Aaron Pena- Harlingen, TX
- Joe Gribble- Altus, OK
- Brad Chapman- Tipton, IA
- Fred Serven- Chattanooga, TN
- John Chisum- Lubbock, TX