



ARIZONA COTTON GROWERS

Adam Hatley, President | Jadee Rohner, Executive Director

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024



Arizona Cotton recently met with Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) & Congressman Schweikert (R-AZ) in Scottsdale, Az

UPCOMING DATES

SEPT. 6: LABOR DAY

SEPT. 4: ACGA BOARD MEETING

SEPT. 17: COTTON & COFFEE ZOOM-7:30AM 

CENTRAL-

OCT. 11: RACIN' FOR THE BACON DERBY DINNER 

OCT. 20 & 21: 5TH ANNUAL AG EXECUTIVE FORUM 

INDUSTRY INFORMATION

PINAL COUNTY PM10 NONATTAINMENT AREA TOUR

ACGA URGES CONGRESSMEN TO SUPPORT AND PASS THE FARM BILL

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Arizona Cotton Growers Assoc.



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STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE
LATEST CHANGES &
UPDATES FROM THE EPA

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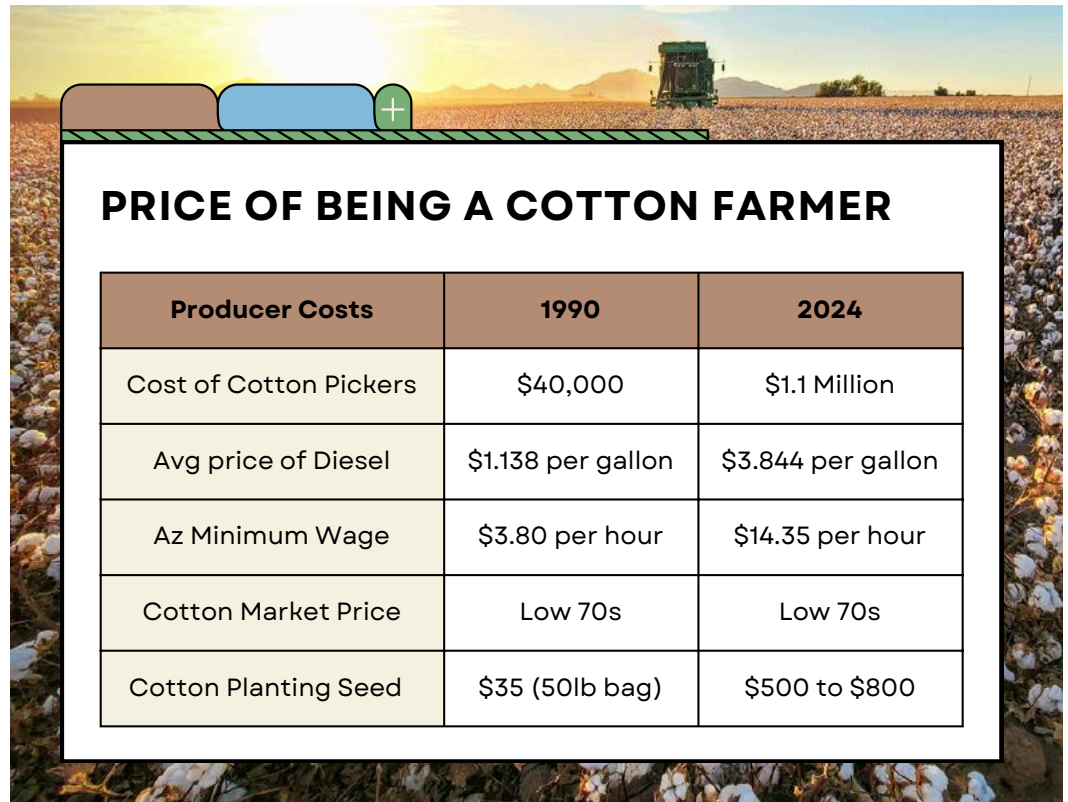
ACGA URGES CONGRESSMEN TO SUPPORT AND PASS THE FARM BILL

At the National Cotton Council's encouragement, the Association has been diligently arranging meetings with our state's Congressmen and Senators to seek their support for the Farm Bill. Currently, we have already had discussions with two Congressmen, and we are in the process of scheduling more meetings this month. A special opportunity emerged with the support of the NCC Committee for the Advancement of Cotton (CAC), allowing producers Todd Rovey & Ross Rayner to meet with Congressman Schwiekert and Speaker Johnson. During these discussions, we emphasized the challenging economic circumstances faced by the cotton industry, highlighting the significant obstacles such as extreme weather and high input costs affecting farmers in Arizona and throughout the cotton belt.

A comparison between costs in 1990 and 2024 reveals that while market prices for cotton have fluctuated around a similar range, production costs have significantly risen, staying high. This situation presents financial stability challenges for farmers.

Reauthorizing the farm bill, a meaningful farm bill in 2024 to address deteriorating conditions, is an opportunity for Congress to tackle agricultural challenges and provide essential support to farm families and rural communities.

A robust farm safety net, strong federal crop insurance, conservation programs, and international marketing initiatives are vital for the well-being of American agriculture. Moving forward, the Association will continue to meet with policymakers to humanize the Farm Bill through dialogues sharing producers' stories, aiming to illuminate the practical implications of these policies. Emphasizing that while the majority of it is dedicated to the Nutrition Program, failure to renew with meaningful investments could jeopardize the future of family farms and agricultural production in the coming years.



Congressman Gosar (R-AZ) meets with Producers at Tempe Office.



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PINAL COUNTY PM10 NONATTAINMENT AREA TOUR

The Association was pleased to be a planning partner in the Pinal County PM10 Nonattainment Area Tour on August 19th & 20th for county, state and federal air quality leaders. It isn't uncommon for some of our regulatory agencies to be unfamiliar with our best management practices, and common daily challenges encountered in field and surrounding areas.

PM 10 Nonattainment Background

Seven of Arizona's fifteen counties have designated areas, classified as nonattainment areas by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which require air quality monitoring data for criteria pollutants above the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which are outlined in the Clean Air Act. One of those counties is Pinal County- the 10th largest county in Arizona by total land area, with 5,366.7 square miles and is a fantastic example of how soil can vary due a variety of factors, including: precipitation, texture, terrain, and biological factors. This area's air often contains higher levels of Particulate matter 10 (PM10) than federal standards allow. PM10 is a major air pollutant in Arizona, and is especially prevalent in hot, dry climates with little vegetation. PM10 is made up of particles smaller than 10 microns, and is mostly dust. It can cause respiratory problems, and irritate the eyes, throat, and lungs.

Tour Attendees

- Anita Lee, District 9 EPA Assistant Director
- Matt Poppen, MAG Environmental Director
- Anu Jain, Pinal County Air Quality Director and Staff
- Daniel Czecholinski, ADEQ Air Quality Director
- Paco Ollerton, ADEQ AgBMP Committee Chairman

Tour Stops

- Knorr Farms
- Hidden Valley Air Quality Monitor
- Red River Feed Yard
- 11 Mile Corner Farm
- Tierra Verde Farms
- Dickman's Dairy
- Auza & Sons Farm



Tour Takeaway

The tour was informational, and each of our hosts did an amazing job representing their segment of the agricultural industry. These leaders showed interest, and sincerity in seeking a better understanding our practices, philosophies and challenges. We are hopeful that the data collected from the weather stations, the observations of best management practices, collection of soil samples will demonstrate the extensive work put forth by Agriculture to mitigate the impacts on air quality.



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understands the unique challenges Arizona farmers face.

Our specialized team offers customized financial solutions to address seasonality, technological advancements, labor demands and regulatory changes.

Whether expanding acreage, investing in equipment or navigating market fluctuations, we provide the expertise to help you succeed.

Let's Grow **Together.**

Partner with HTLF Food & AgriBusiness to secure a prosperous future for your operation. We're here to provide the support you need to continue your essential work of feeding and clothing the world.



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UA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION TENT TALKS AND CROP UPDATE MEETINGS

We extend our gratitude to the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Field Crops Team for their exceptional presentations delivered statewide last month, offering valuable and up-to-date crop information for Arizona Cotton Growers.

We acknowledge the challenges faced by producers in attending these events. However, it's worth noting that Continuing Education Units (CEUs) opportunities are frequently available, and the presentations are informed by recent research, weather patterns, and industry requirements. If you were unable to attend, please find some of the materials provided below by clicking the red link.

- [Measuring Biological Control in Your Cotton Field](#)
- [Insecticide Guidelines for Cotton Update](#)
- [Late Season Cotton Management & an Update on the Season 1 & 2](#)
- [Updates of Precision Planting Research of Cotton Seed](#)



La Paz County Crop Update Meeting

Dr. Randy Norton, providing an update on the Season.



The 2024 Annual Cotton Tent Talks

Dr. Peter Ellsworth discusses biological control in cotton, and insecticide guidelines update.



UNIVERSITY OF AZ IRRIGATION SURVEY

On behalf of the University of Arizona, please take a few moments to complete a survey on the use of pressurized irrigation systems, irrigation scheduling models or phone apps, and soil moisture sensors. Their goal is to understand producers current practices and gauge whether they'd consider expanding these advanced methods across more areas of the farm. Thus far the surveys submitted have provided incredibly valuable insights that will be shared with growers at events. Additionally the data collected will guide them in developing research, resources, and extension programs that directly address producer needs. By sharing your experiences and preferences, you help shape the future of agriculture in Arizona.

[Click here to complete the Survey.](#)





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EPA Finalizes Herbicide Strategy to Protect Endangered Species

Summary

- Protects over 900 federally endangered and threatened species from herbicide impacts.
- Strategy includes stakeholder input, aiming to protect species and preserve pesticides for farmers.
- Measures to reduce herbicide exposure will be identified during registration and review processes.

Strategy Improvements and Mitigation Measures

- Simplified strategy with updated data and refined analyses.
- Increased flexibility for pesticide users to implement mitigation measures.
- Reduced additional mitigation for users with existing practices or in areas with low runoff potential.

Key Features of the Final Strategy

- More mitigation options compared to the draft, including cover crops, conservation tillage, windbreaks, and adjuvants.
- Recognizes the role of geographical characteristics and existing measures in reducing runoff.
- Uses updated information to assess herbicide impacts on listed species, focusing restrictions only where necessary.
- Development of a calculator for applicators to determine needed mitigation measures.

Additional Details

- [Click here to read more specific details about the Herbicide Strategy.](#)
- [Click here to Arizona's Agricultural Stakeholders Response to EPA's Draft Herbicide Strategy prepared by the Az Pest Management Center.](#)

EPA Releases Draft Strategy to Better Protect Endangered Species from Insecticides

Summary

- A draft Insecticide Strategy was released for public comment, targeting protections for endangered and threatened species.
- The strategy aims to address the potential impacts of insecticides on over 850 species, focusing on conventional insecticides used in agriculture.
- Lessons from the previous herbicide strategy have been incorporated, including mitigation options for farmers to reduce pesticide runoff.

Mitigation Measures and Efficiency

- The strategy uses updated information to assess insecticide impact on species and to identify necessary protections, reducing unnecessary pesticide restrictions.
- It includes measures like USDA's National Resources Conservation Service practices and private stewardship methods to minimize pesticide runoff.
- Once finalized, the strategy will expedite ESA consultations with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS).

Additional Details

- [Click here to read more specific details about the Insecticide Strategy.](#)
- *EPA is requesting public feedback on proposed mitigations by September 23, 2024. Please consider complete a forthcoming survey to include your feedback.*