



National Cotton Council Meetings

NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL meetings concerning the effects of the new Farm Law will be taking place the latter part of June, 2008. Meetings affecting cotton growers in Kansas begin today at Wellington, Ks., at the Raymond Frye Complex at 8 a.m. and at Hugoton, Ks., at Memorial Hall at 4 p.m.

The only meeting on the subject held in Oklahoma will be Thursday, June 26 at Altus, Ok., at 10 a.m. at the Oklahoma Cotton Cooperative Assn. headquarters.

CHINA TRIP scheduled by NCC leaders is taking place the last part of June, 2008.

NCC Vice Chairman Jay Hardwick, Newellton, La., leads the delegation. Producers and other cotton people from Texas, Arkansas and California make up the visiting group.

"This visit continues a healthy dialogue and interaction between the US and Chinese cotton industries," Hardwick said. "Learning more about China's cotton infrastructure, its standards, marketing practices, policies and their overall cotton needs will be invaluable in helping US cotton continue to supply the type of fiber and service this rapidly growing country needs. Acquiring this in-depth understanding is essential to ensuring our industry's competitiveness in today's global marketplace."

The visit will build on previous China cotton industry familiarization trips by US cotton leaders in 2006 and 2007 in which US leaders and USDA officials updated Chinese cotton industry officials and mill buyers on US cotton quality.

COTTON SHIPPING CONTAINER availability and other issues affecting cotton trade flow were addressed when NCC staff attended the Agriculture Transportation Coalition's 2008 annual conference.

Peter Friedmann, AgTC exec. director, explained small and mid-size agricultural shippers are facing incredibly long waits, sometimes months, just to receive a slot on an outbound ship. He said an imbalance in imports to exports, especially in a system designed to maximize import traffic, has only brought more problems in inefficiencies on the export side. This development prompts AgTC to urge exporters to book space as far ahead as 12 weeks.

TALKIN' COTTON is produced by NTOK Cotton, a cotton industry partnership which supports and encourages cotton production in North Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. For more information on the cotton scene, see okiecotton.org and ntokcotton.org. For questions and comments on Talkin' Cotton, contact eventerprise1@hughes.net.