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**ARIZONA COTTON RESEARCH AND PROTECTION COUNCIL**

3721 E WIER AVE  
PHOENIX AZ 85040-2933  
602-438-0059 (PH)  
602-438-0407 (FAX)

January 4, 2019

Dear Cotton Grower:

**THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO ACRES PLANTED ABOVE 2700'**

**You now can REGISTER YOUR FARM ON LINE at [AZCOTTON.ORG](http://AZCOTTON.ORG) OR** you must call 1-888-712-4134 to request inspection for compliance.

Listed below are the steps necessary for you to meet compliance.

1. Bring your fields into compliance by shredding all of your cotton stalks and tilling the land to destroy the host plant and its root system, with no stalks remaining attached to the soil, prior to planting another crop or prior to the dates listed below, whichever occurs earlier; (Arizona Department of Agriculture Rule R3-4-204 E) (See cultural zones and tillage dates on pg. 3)  
OR
2. If you elect to plant a small grain crop following a cotton harvest, you may, after the host plant is shredded, irrigate and plant with wheat, barley or oats instead of tilling as prescribed in #1 above. Crops other than those noted require 30-day advance notification to the Arizona Department of Agriculture for approval by the Director. (Arizona Department of Agriculture Rule R3-4-204 E)
3. **Go to [AZCOTTON.ORG](http://AZCOTTON.ORG) and click the "Click here" button to fill out the form on line** or call 1-888-712-4134 with your FSA number as soon as you complete the required shredding and tillage and an Arizona Cotton Research & Protection Council (ACRPC) inspector will check your fields. If your fields are not in compliance, you will have until the tillage deadline to bring them into compliance. In order to ensure that all of your fields are in compliance before the deadline, please complete your tillage as early as possible.  
**\* Go to [WWW.AZCOTTON.ORG](http://WWW.AZCOTTON.ORG) FOR SPECIFIC ZONE BOUNDARIES**
4. If any cotton fields in a producer's farm are not in compliance by the tillage deadline for the respective cultural zone, the owner/producer will receive a written Notice of Non-Compliance by the ACRPC inspectors explaining why the fields did not meet compliance. **Acres not in compliance at the deadline are subject to a \$100 per acre penalty.**

5. Upon receipt of the Notice of Non-Compliance, any non-compliant fields need to be in compliance within 5-7 days. If those fields are not brought into compliance by the abatement deadline, A.R.S. §3-205 mandates that the State shall till the land and bill the owner or person in charge up to 150% of the tillage costs. A.R.S. §3-205(G) specifically states, **"The director (of the Arizona Department of Agriculture) may impose a civil penalty of one hundred fifty per cent of the costs of abatement. At the director's request, the attorney general shall file an action in superior court to recover civil penalties assessed pursuant to this subsection."**
6. The Council, by law, is responsible for reviewing and granting or denying weather related extensions. Before the tillage deadline, a grower must provide the proper weather related documentation and complete the formal request process as outlined at our web site: [WWW.AZCOTTON.ORG](http://WWW.AZCOTTON.ORG) under the Plover Program tab. (please see the council website for the most current guidelines.)

**Please be advised, by law, consideration for an extension is limited to weather related events (ACRPC Rule R3-9-303).** To read the actual verbiage, please visit our web site at [WWW.AZCOTTON.ORG](http://WWW.AZCOTTON.ORG) under the Plover Program tab.

Sincerely,



Leighton Liesner  
Director

<b>Generalized Cultural Zones*</b>			Host Free Period in days	New Planting Date
	ZONE	New Tillage Date		
<i>YUMA CO except Dateland and Aztec</i>	A	15-Jan	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date <b>AND</b> Crop Destruct
<b>COCHISE, GRAHAM &amp; GREENLEE COUNTIES</b>	B	1-Mar	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date <b>AND</b> Crop Destruct
<i>MOHAVE CO, LAPAZ CO Except Aguila, Vicksburg, Wenden &amp; Salome area</i>	C	15-Feb	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date <b>AND</b> Crop Destruct
<i>PIMA CO, plus Winkleman in Pinal Co &amp; Aguila in La Paz Co</i>	D	1-Mar	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date <b>AND</b> Crop Destruct
<b>REMAINDER OF STATE (PINAL &amp; MARICOPA CO, plus Vicksburg, Wenden &amp; Salome in La Paz Co)</b>	E	15-Feb	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date <b>AND</b> Crop Destruct



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Dear Cotton Grower:

It is my pleasure to congratulate our growers and our industry on the Declaration of Eradication of the Pink Bollworm.

On October 19, 2018 U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, declared the Pink Bollworm eradicated from the cotton growing areas of the United States. This order removes Pink Bollworm quarantine zones in the US allowing for more freedom of movement for cotton domestically and internationally. A copy of the proclamation is included with this letter.

This action brings the active program to eradicate the Pink Bollworm to a close from the regulatory perspective. Pink Bollworm was the most costly and injurious pest in the history of the Arizona cotton industry. Pink Bollworm eradication in conjunction with Bt cotton, selective insecticide chemistries and cultural control (plow down program) has resulted in the lowest pesticide usage in Arizona cotton in over 33 years. This is a wonderful time to reflect upon the triumphs, failures, losses and gains all part of the saga to eliminate the Pink Bollworm as the key pest of cotton in Arizona.

The plow down program has and continues to play an important role in cotton pest management in Arizona. Gemini viruses and their vectors, Heliothine complex (tobacco budworm & cotton bollworm, Spodoptera complex (especially fall armyworm), cotton leaf perforator, cotton aphid, RNK, and inoculum density dependent diseases are all exacerbated when stub cotton is allowed and host free periods are not utilized. A successful plow down program also serves to reduce the potential for re-infestation from eradicated insects like Pink Bollworm and Boll Weevil, as well as new exotic pests.

The Council, Arizona Cotton Growers Association, and National Cotton Council are working diligently to insure our growers can continue to enjoy the benefits of planting 100% Bt cotton if they choose to. The Council is also working to insure we continue to have the tools to address any incursions of Pink Bollworm. Most of the remaining Pink Bollworm populations around the world are resistant to Bt technologies, insecticides or both. Please review the included information regarding the plow down program. We look forward to working with you toward a successful year in 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leighton Liesner', is written over the word 'Sincerely'.

Leighton Liesner  
Director