



# 2006-2007 Multi-Commodity Education Program

*A Special Education Project of The Cotton Foundation*

**Sponsored by John Deere and Monsanto**

**T**he Multi-Commodity Education Program was launched October, 2006, when producers from the Midwest/Far West traveled to North Carolina to observe cotton production/processing and other agricultural operations. The schedule was developed in conjunction with local producer organizations and leadership.

Then in August, 2007, a group of Sunbelt growers saw agricultural production/processing and agribusiness operations in North Dakota. The tour was arranged by the North Dakota Grain Growers Association.

The Multi-Commodity Education Program is supported by The Cotton Foundation with grants from Deere & Company and Monsanto. NCC's Member Services is responsible for program management.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Provide current and emerging leaders an opportunity to better understand conditions and challenges faced by their peers in other geographic regions.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to meet their counterparts in other geographic regions to gain a better understanding, through first hand observation and discussion, of agronomic practices, technology utilization, cropping patterns, marketing plans, and operational structure.
- Observe production, harvesting, and processing of various crops in the areas visited.
- Visit research facilities, processing operations and other facilities of interest and relevance to the local economy.
- Provide John Deere and Monsanto with an opportunity to establish stronger relationships with producers who are current and future leaders.





## PARTICIPANTS



- ☛ Identified by cooperating organizations which represent a diverse group of commodities.
  - ☛ Must derive their primary livelihood from production agriculture.
  - ☛ Must agree to spend approximately one week away from home; participate in all activities and; submit completed evaluations, reports, etc.
  - ☛ There is no age limit.
- Program participation is limited to participants, sponsors, hosts and support staff.
- ☛ All expenses related to travel and participation in group activities will be covered by The Cotton Foundation.



## LOGISTICS



- ☛ Agenda is planned by cooperating associations and sponsors.
- ☛ Air reservations to be made by NCC staff coordinator with guidance from participants and/or cooperating organizations.
- ☛ Hotel accommodations and ground transportation (charter buses) to be reserved by National Cotton Council staff coordinator.



## 2006 PARTICIPANTS

Mike Bruer, Alberta, MN  
 Danny Geis, Loyal, OK  
 Bill Greving, Prairie View, KS  
 Clint Jessen, Pine Bluffs, WY  
 Garry Niemeyer, Glenarm, IL  
 Steve Pigg, Bushnell, IL  
 Rob Rynning, Kennedy, MN  
 Kevin Waslaski, Langdon, ND  
 Priscilla Jahner, ND Grain Growers, Bismark, NC  
 Sheena Johnson, NC Grain Growers, Bismark, NC

## 2006 TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Cotton Incorporated  
 Hanesbrands Textile Plant  
 Monsanto Research Center  
 Greenville Turf & Tractor Dealership  
 Cargill Cotton Company  
 Carolinas Cotton Growers Association  
 Farm tours of commodities including: cotton tobacco, peanuts, swine, sweet potatoes, corn and soybeans

## 2007 PARTICIPANTS

Donny Lassiter, Conway, NC  
 Ronnie Lee, Bronwood, GA  
 Lawrence Long, Indianola, MS  
 Mark McKean, Riverdale, CA  
 Paco Ollerton, Casa Grande, AZ  
 Bryan Patterson, Amherst, TX  
 Stuart Posey, Roby, TX  
 John Willis, Brownsville, TN  
 Drew Harris, Media Representative

## 2007 TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Busch Agricultural Resources  
 John Deere Air Seeder Plant  
 Mapleton Winery  
 Canola/Sunflower processing plant  
 Sugar Beet Farm/Plant  
 Blue Flint Ethanol Plant  
 Farm tours of commodities including: wheat, barley, corn, sunflowers, canola, potatoes, sugar beets, soybeans and edible beans