

2020 National Cotton Council Report to Members



The Memphis-based National Cotton Council communicates united industry positions on various issues to appropriate government bodies and works for U.S. policy that assures worldwide competitiveness and protects member's income. The NCC has compiled an impressive record of advocacy for an industry in which farms and businesses directly involved in the production, distribution and processing of cotton employ more than 125,000 workers and produce direct business revenue of more than \$21 billion. Accounting for the ripple effect of cotton through the broader U.S. economy, direct and indirect employment surpasses 280,000 workers with economic activity of almost \$100 billion.

This report is sponsored by Farm Credit.



Joint Message from the Chairman and the President

The National Cotton Council aggressively tackled U.S. cotton's priorities throughout 2019. Among major actions were advocating for disaster/recovery assistance package legislation and working closely with USDA and the House and Senate agriculture committees on timely 2018 farm law implementation.

During the FY20 budget process, the NCC opposed cuts to crop insurance. The NCC also worked to make sure cotton's priorities were maintained in USDA's FY20 budget and discouraged detrimental amendments that sought to undo fundamental farm law programs.

On the trade front, the NCC engaged with the Administration and Congress on the importance of reaching a resolution in the U.S.-China negotiations with the aim of getting improved access in China for U.S. cotton and cotton textile products. The NCC conveyed U.S. cotton's recommendations for the Administration's second round of Market Facilitation Program trade assistance – to offset China's retaliatory tariffs. We stepped up outreach with Congress to build support for U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement approval and communicated with Congressional leaders on the need to strengthen the Berry Amendment provisions in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

A major undertaking was the launch of a pilot of the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol farm-level sustainability initiative. That involved assembling a multi-stakeholder board and working with groups, organizations and industry firms to create the program, bolster producer participation and reaching out to brands and retailers to help them understand how the Trust Protocol provides sustainable U.S. cotton for their supply chain.

The NCC also monitored court cases, agency rulemaking and other regulatory activity on production issues ranging from "Waters of the U.S." to worker protection standards and on cotton flow issues ranging from commercial driver's license to warehouse reporting requirements.

Cotton Council International (CCI) continued to position U.S. cotton as the "The Cotton the World Trusts" and conveyed U.S. cotton's sustainability efforts, including the Trust Protocol rollout, in multiple promotional events.

The Cotton Foundation Board of Trustees approved funding for nine general research projects totaling \$212,000 for 2019-20. Included are studies related to pest management, sustainability, regulatory issue information gathering, plant protection products re-registration, risk data updating and education.

More details of the NCC's 2019 activities follow under the major headings of Legislative Affairs, Trade, Communications, Technical, Cotton Council International and The Cotton Foundation.

K. Michael Tate, Chairman (2019)

Gary Adams, President/Chief Executive Officer



K. Michael Tate
Chairman (2019)



Gary Adams
President/Chief Executive Officer

Farm Policy/Legislative Affairs

Major activities carried out during 2019.

Legislative Affairs

During 2019, the National Cotton Council (NCC) worked closely with Congress to advance a disaster assistance package.

Letters to Chairman Designate of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Sanford Bishop (D-GA) and Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA), a member of the House Agriculture Committee supported their amendment to House-approved legislation to provide relief and recovery assistance for farmers affected by wildfires, Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and other natural disasters in 2018. Their amendment ensured that a total of about \$3 billion would be appropriated into USDA's Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (WHIP). Throughout the year, the NCC worked with USDA and Congress to include key improvements to WHIP and state block grants as part of the disaster assistance implementation.

The NCC, American Farm Bureau Federation and Farm Credit Council also coordinated a letter from 135 organizations to the President and Congressional leadership urging them to reach the consensus necessary to enact a disaster assistance bill. The groups noted that the livelihoods of farm families and the economic health of rural communities were at stake.

Bart Davis, a cotton and peanut producer from Doerun, Ga., testified on behalf of the NCC at a "State of the Farm Economy" hearing conducted by the House Agriculture Committee's General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee. His testimony, which focused on the hurricanes that ravaged the Southeast in 2018, emphasized that Congressional aid was crucial.

After the House passed a much-needed disaster and recovery assistance bill in June, the NCC issued a statement commending several Congressional Members for their initiative and leadership. Thanked were: Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL); John Hoeven (R-ND), who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee's Agriculture Subcommittee; multiple Cotton Belt Senators; Sanford Bishop (D-GA), who chairs the House Appropriations Committee's Agriculture Subcommittee; Austin Scott (R-GA) and other Cotton Belt Representatives.



NCC Chairman Mike Tate visited with Congressional Members, including Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL) regarding the need for Congress' quick approval of a disaster package to mitigate losses damaged caused by Hurricanes Florence and Michael and other weather events.

When USDA announced the details of the Wildfires and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) for 2018 and 2019 crop losses due to hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, and other covered disaster events, the NCC posted on its website additional details and WHIP+ examples.

After Sen. John Thune (R-SD), along with Reps. Jason Smith (R-MO) and Sanford Bishop (D-GA), introduced the "Death Tax Repeal Act" (S. 215; H.R. 218) in their respective chambers, the NCC joined two coalitions on letters to those Congressional Members supporting this legislation aimed at permanently ending the estate tax.

Prior to the FY20 budget process, the NCC joined a large group of national farm and agribusiness organizations on letters to the House and Senate budget committees' leadership

and to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue opposing cuts to crop insurance. Among points emphasized were that 1) from natural disasters to trade wars to government shutdowns – the public-private partnership that is crop insurance has been a consistent and reliable risk management tool and 2) the certainty of federal crop insurance offers lenders the assurances they need to continue to provide capital to America's hard-working farmers and ranchers. The NCC also worked to make sure cotton's priorities were maintained in USDA's FY20 budget.

The NCC joined more than 20 other agricultural organizations on a letter to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Committee leadership offering a strong endorsement of Dr. Heath P. Tarbert to be the next chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). The letter noted Dr. Tarbert had 1) demonstrated his commitment to learning the issues and challenges facing the agriculture sector and 2) advocated on its behalf.

Key Differences in Title 1 Programs: 2014 vs. 2018 Farm Bill

Provision	2014 Farm Bill	2018 Farm Bill
Base Acres	No restrictions on farms planted to grass, pasture, idle or fallow in any year	Base acres on farms planted entirely to grass or pasture, including cropland that was idle or fallow, from 2009 – 2017 are no longer eligible for ARC/PLC payments
ARC/PLC	One-time election for 2014-2018 crop years	One-time election for 2019/20 and 2020/21; annual election for 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 crop years
ARC-CO Payments	Payment rates based on FSA administrative county for each farm	Payment rates based on county where each farm is physically located
ARC-CO Data Sources	Data sources for county yields included: NASS, RMA, and State Committee (STC) sources	Data sources for county yields used in order of precedence: RMA, NASS, and STC sources
ARC-CO Irrigated (I) and Non-Irrigated (NI) Yields	County must have at least 25% I acreage and 25% NI acreage for a crop based on 2008-2013 FSA planted acreage data	To qualify, one of the following must be met: 1) RMA data for I and NI must be available in 3 of the 5 years between 2013-2017 or 2) Using FSA data from 2013-2017, at least 10% of the acreage must be I and 10% NI and an avg of 5,000 acres was planted every year from 2013-2017
PLC Reference Price vs. Effective Reference Price	Reference price = \$0.367 for seed cotton	Effective Reference Price = lesser of: 115% of the reference price or the greater of: \$0.367 or 85% of the Olympic Average MYA price for the previous 5-year period
PLC Payments	Payments made when effective price < reference price	Payments made when effective price < effective reference price
PLC Yield Updates	One-time opportunity to update PLC yields using 2008-2012 data (applied to 2018 PLC seed cotton payments)	One-time opportunity to update PLC yields using 2013-2017 data (applies to 2020 – 2023 PLC payments)

The NCC conducted educational webinars on 2018 farm law implementation for its members.

The NCC joined numerous other national and regional agricultural organizations on a letter requesting full funding for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network for FY20. Sent to the chairmen and ranking members of both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations' Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, the letter

noted that the current prolonged farm economy downturn was causing even greater stress for farmers/ranchers and that net farm income in 2018 was nearly 50 percent less than in 2013.

After the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies approved its FY20 spending bill for USDA, the Food & Drug Administration and other related agencies -- the NCC continued to monitor that appropriations process to ensure the industry's priorities were maintained.

Included in that measure was \$1.8 billion for farm programs, including \$30 million to assist the implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill; \$11.52 million for the Joint Cotton Pest Account to continue boll weevil eradication activities; and full funding for the three USDA Agricultural Research Service cotton ginning laboratories. The bill also ensured that both the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development program were funded at farm bill provided levels. Congress later approved legislation that contained funds for these industry priorities.

Late in the year, the NCC joined numerous other agricultural, conservation, crop insurance and lender organizations on a letter to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Office of Management and Budget Acting Director Russell Vought urging them not to propose cuts to crop insurance in the FY21 President's budget.

The letter stated that, "The need for a strong crop insurance safety net was put to the test in 2019 when farmers across the Midwest and Mid-South experienced historic precipitation amounts during the planting season and then, during harvest, faced unprecedented and earlier than anticipated winter conditions." The letter also noted that farm debt had increased 55 percent over the last decade.

Farm Policy

The NCC expressed thanks to the House and Senate agriculture and appropriations committees' leadership, including Cotton Belt Members, for urging USDA and the Administration to reopen all Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. Later, the NCC conveyed its appreciation to USDA and the Administration for the reopening which restarted several farm program and other critical services for America's producers and other industry stakeholders.

NCC staff participated in a USDA listening session for stakeholders to provide comments on issues and priorities for implementation of 2018 farm law programs administered by the FSA, Risk Management Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The NCC also filed comments with USDA regarding the U.S. cotton industry's priorities. Later, the NCC joined numerous other agricultural organizations on a letter to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue regarding farm bill implementation and farmer decision aids. The groups requested the Secretary "quickly allocate funding to begin this important education effort in addition to timely implementation."

NCC staff also participated in USDA's listening session for stakeholders to provide comments on issues and priorities for implementation of farm bill export promotion programs administered by the Foreign Agriculture Service. The NCC commented on the industry's usage of the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development program noting that the U.S. cotton industry has long utilized these important export promotion vehicles.

The NCC joined numerous other organizations on a letter to the House and Senate budget committees' leadership urging them to reject calls for additional cuts to policies within the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry or the House Committee on Agriculture. The letter conveyed the message that, "The 2018 Farm Bill improves upon reforms made in 2014 and is budget neutral, with the measure projected to spend far less over 10 years compared to the 2014 Farm Bill. The bill does so while also improving access to conservation programs, maintaining a commitment to nutrition programs, investing in research, and providing farmers and ranchers with the risk management certainty needed in this uncertain environment."

After USDA initiated farm law implementation, the NCC prepared and conducted four implementation educational webinars for its members. The sessions covered Seed Cotton ARC/PLC election, 2019 and 2020 crop enrollment, marketing loan provisions, program eligibility provisions and the Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills. The NCC

posted on its website its webinar presentation and a series of YouTube presentations covering the presentation's major elements and updated its farm bill resources web page.

In other activity, the NCC:

- joined other interest organizations in working with Congress and the Administration to find a solution to restart the operation of the marketing loan program during the government shutdown early in 2019.
- responded to Rep. Mike Conaway's (R-TX) announcement that he was not seeking re-election by distributing a statement noting that the Congressman – who chaired the House Agriculture Committee from 2015-18 – wholeheartedly served U.S. agriculture, including demonstrating superb leadership through the development and passage of the 2018 farm bill.
- conducted its planting intentions survey for the 2020 season by distributing a questionnaire to upland and extra-long staple cotton producers across the Cotton Belt.

Trade

Major activities carried out during 2019.

China Negotiations

The National Cotton Council (NCC) steadfastly reached out to the Administration and Congress in the U.S.-China negotiations – emphasizing the importance of quickly reaching a trade agreement with China that provided structural improvements to market access in China for U.S. cotton and cotton textile products.

One of the first actions on this issue was the NCC's joining with more than 40 other agricultural organizations on a letter to President Trump. The letter highlighted the importance of the Administration engaging with China to address long-standing trade and subsidy policy concerns along with intellectual property rights and technology transfer practices. However, the groups noted the 1) critical nature of the trade relationship with China due to the retaliatory tariffs and 2) importance of removing the tariffs imposed by the United States once an agreement was reached so that more robust trade in agricultural commodities could resume.



NCC Chairman Mike Tate, second from left, attended President Trump's announcement ceremony regarding Market Facilitation Program assistance to offset retaliatory tariffs from China.

NCC Chairman Mike Tate wrote to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue outlining the cotton industry's analysis of the cotton market impact and recommendations for the structure of the Administration's second round of trade assistance – to offset the retaliatory tariffs from China as part of the ongoing trade dispute. For the second

Market Facilitation Program round, the NCC recommended that the program: 1) be based on recent planted and prevented planted acreage; 2) use the higher of actual yields, approved APH insurance yields, or PLC payment yields; 3) fully reflect the magnitude of the market price impacts; and 4) avoid application of payment limits or means testing to the program because all production and acres are affected by the price decline. The NCC also urged USDA to 1)

assist the participants in the cotton distribution and marketing channels to offset the higher costs associated with shipping cotton to alternative markets and 2) recognize the significant impacts on the cottonseed segment and their product markets.

The NCC distributed a release in which it conveyed its appreciation to the Trump Administration for instituting a second round of trade mitigation payments. NCC Chairman Tate said this assistance was timely as many producers across the Cotton Belt were still feeling the impact from severe weather-related events in 2018. He noted that the assistance program continued the provision of funds for export promotion which the U.S. cotton industry needed to expand markets for its raw fiber. He strongly encouraged the Administration to engage in constructive dialogue with China to address unfair trade practices and barriers.

After USDA announced a \$16 billion package through the Market Facilitation Program, Food Purchase and Distribution Program, and the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP), the NCC issued a release in which it conveyed its appreciation of the Trump Administration for recognizing the economic pressures caused by the trade tensions with China and providing this support to assist American farmers. NCC Chairman Tate noted cotton futures prices had fallen by 30 cents per pound since summer 2018 -- which equated to about \$250 less revenue per acre for a producer with average yields. Tate also noted that the U.S. cotton industry was grateful to the Administration for its allocation under the ATP to promote cotton and cotton manufactured products.

The NCC joined with 18 other organizations on letters organized by the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) to leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. The groups strongly urged the Committees to maintain and strengthen the Berry Amendment provisions in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) -- which supported the domestic manufacture of textiles, apparel, and other sewn products as well as footwear. The NCC also continued to work with NCTO and other partners to protect the Berry Amendment provisions as the NDAA bill moved through Congress.

USMCA

Throughout the year, the NCC continued its advocacy and education efforts with Congressional Members to help build the support necessary to get the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) approved in 2019.

Specifically, the NCC was among a group of 68 agriculture and food associations and companies which wrote to Congressional leadership in support of timely USMCA passage. The NCC, along with nearly 1,000 other agricultural organizations, sent another letter to Congressional leadership urging swift USMCA passage. That letter outlined the many benefits that would stem from the ratification of USMCA including an additional \$2.2 billion in U.S. economic activity, freer markets/fairer trade, and certainty in the North American market.



NCC Chairman’s Mike Tate’s visit with Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX) was part of the NCC’s outreach to the Administration and Congress regarding a push for a timely U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement.

The NCC issued a release commending President Trump and his Administration for the outcome of negotiations with Mexico and Canada to remove the U.S. Section 232 tariffs and the corresponding retaliatory tariffs. The NCC also 1) continued to help educate Members of Congress “on the importance of timely USMCA approval to restore certainty in the North American market, which represents significant export market share for both

U.S. cotton and cotton textile products” and 2) joined other textile and fabric groups, including NCTO, on a letter to the chairmen and ranking members of both the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee -- urging Congress not to threaten final passage of the USMCA by including controversial unrelated trade measures in any way. The letter noted that the USMCA made important improvements over the current agreement for domestic textile manufacturers and workers, including a stronger rule of origin for certain regional textile products.

In the House, the USMCA working group appointed by the Speaker accelerated its negotiations with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to reach agreement on the changes Democrats were seeking before bringing USMCA up for a vote.

Late in the year after the Administration reached an agreement with Congress and the governments of Mexico and Canada on the final terms of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the NCC issued a statement supporting the final USMCA and urging swift Congressional approval. The NCC and the National Council of Textile Organizations, along with other cotton and textile industry groups, also sent a letter of support to the House prior to its overwhelming passage of the USMCA.

Other Trade Matters

The NCC joined other members of the “Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports” in writing to the House Appropriations Committee’s Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee leadership -- requesting their

strong support for maintaining vital funding for USDA's agricultural export programs. The letter noted that these programs included the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development program, both of which provide critical funding for Cotton Council International's worldwide activities.

Agriculture Secretary Perdue and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer announced the appointment of 140 private-sector members to the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade (APAC) and six Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees (ATAC).

Cotton sector APAC members included: Dale Artho, a Wildorado, Texas, producer; Dow Brantley, III, an England, Ark., producer; Brenda Morris, an Ocilla, Ga., producer; and Gary Adams, NCC president/CEO, Cordova, Tennessee. Cotton sector members of the Tobacco, Cotton and Peanuts ATAC included: William Barksdale, Cargill Cotton, Cordova, Tenn.; Kevin Brinkley, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, Lubbock, Texas; Sledge Taylor, a Como, Miss., producer/ginner; Randy Veach, a Manila, Ark., producer representing the Arkansas Farm Bureau; George Clayton, Standard Cotton; and Michelle Huffman, an economist in NCC's Cordova, Tenn. headquarters. The appointees will serve until June 15, 2023, and the committees will be supplemented by additional appointments over the next four years.

Communications

Major activities carried out during 2019.

Public Attitudes

The National Cotton Council (NCC) conveyed the industry's positions and concerns to Congressional Members and key government agency officials regarding critical legislative, trade, regulatory and environmental matters. For example, the NCC distributed releases in which it conveyed its appreciation to the Trump Administration for 1) instituting a second round of trade mitigation payments and 2) for the outcome of negotiations with Mexico and Canada to remove the U.S. Section 232 tariffs and corresponding retaliatory tariffs.

The NCC utilized social media across Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, podcasts via YouTube and Instagram. The posts highlighted news and information from the NCC, Cotton Council International and the U.S. cotton industry. The overall goal is informing, educating and creating positive perceptions regarding the NCC and the industry among the NCC's primary audiences of its members, Congress/Congressional staffers and consumers.

The NCC continued as an in-kind supporter of America's Heartland, the award-winning national television series celebrating American agriculture. The long-running series, aired on public television and the RFD-TV cable and satellite channel, educates consumers about the origins of their food, fiber and fuel.

The NCC continued to participate in Farm Policy Facts (FPF) (<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org/>). The FPF and "The Hand That Feeds Us" initiatives are committed to ensuring American agriculture's long-term success by facilitating meaningful conversations with legislators and consumers about how food and fiber is produced.



Mock media interviews were part of the communications training the NCC provided for Ben Good, a Starkville, Miss., cotton producer, and other 2019 Emerging Leaders Program participants.

Information Services

The NCC utilized key communications vehicles such as its Cotton's Week newsletter, radio news lines, columns, videos and webinars in various trade publications for disseminating key information to its members. Regarding farm law implementation, for

example, the NCC's educational webinars were highly publicized and information such as YouTube videos of the presentations were made and posted on the NCC's website www.cotton.org. That site continued to be a significant tool for the timely sharing of important information to NCC members and other interested groups, including feeds from the NCC social media channels.

Weekly RFD-TV segments highlighting important industry issues continued to be produced. Video offerings included monthly segments for Cotton International's web podcast series on various economic topics as well as various Ag Day segments on key news topics. The NCC updated its "Prevention of Plastic Contamination" video with such timely tips as 1) what to do with round module wrap rolls once they are empty and 2) synchronizing module truck bed-chain speed with the ground when picking up modules.

Comprehensive communications support was provided for multiple NCC-coordinated Cotton Foundation special projects. Among those programs were Emerging Leaders, Multi Commodity Education, Policy Education and Producer Information Exchange.

In other communications activity, the NCC:

- made a significant portion of its website information accessible only to its members, who were encouraged to obtain a website login password if not already having one; and
- contracted with BoardBookit to facilitate the electronic distribution of meeting schedules, reference materials, hotel maps and other information to attendees at the NCC's annual meeting, other 2019 NCC meetings and those planned for 2020.



U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol directors and advisers discuss the program’s 2020 launch during a meeting in Memphis.

U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol

A major initiative aimed at affecting public attitudes was the NCC’s 2019 launch of the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol pilot. The Trust Protocol is a program

designed to confirm and increase awareness of the fact that U.S. cotton producers are farming responsibly and striving for continuous improvement.

The Trust Protocol’s mission is to be the world leader for sustainable cotton production. The Protocol has a vision to meet U.S. cotton’s customers’ sustainability goals by validating that U.S. cotton is the most responsibly-produced cotton in the world while striving for continuous improvement to reduce its environmental footprint.

This U.S. cotton industry farm-level sustainability initiative is governed by a multi-stakeholder board that was appointed late in the year in preparation for full Protocol implementation in the spring of 2020. The Seam is the Protocol’s IT partner. The Trust Protocol worked with groups, organizations and firms such as gins, merchants, and marketing cooperatives which assisted in recruiting producer participants and in verification of information obtained through the Protocol. Recruitment materials were created along with significant development of the Protocol’s website, www.TrustUSCotton.org.

Technical

Major activities carried out during 2019.

Regulatory

The NCC submitted comments to USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on the agency's interim final rule on "Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation." The comments suggested many ways in which the NRCS could clarify the regulations for farmers while more closely aligning their regulation with the statute and Congressional intent.

The NCC joined 37 other organizations in the American Alliance for Innovation on a letter to Senators in support of EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler to serve as Administrator – saying that Wheeler would carry on the Trump Administration's plan for common sense, scientifically-supported regulations. Soon after the nomination, the Senate voted 52-47 to confirm Wheeler in that post.

The Pesticide Policy Coalition, of which the NCC is a member, submitted comments to EPA regarding a petition from the Center for Food Safety (CFS) seeking revisions to testing requirements for pesticides prior to registration. Among points emphasized was that CFS' actions would go against Congressional intent when it created the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (which does not include duplicative testing).

The NCC attended the ceremonial swearing-in of Alexandra Dapolito Dunn as the new assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. Dunn oversees EPA's pesticide program and the work on identifying chemicals that are subject to the requirements of the Toxic Substances Control Act. In early-summer, Dunn and other EPA staff visited three cotton farms, a gin, a warehouse, and a cottonseed oil mill in the Lubbock area while accompanied by local cotton industry members as well as NCC and Plains Cotton Growers staff. The EPA officials also participated in a meeting with producers and cotton research and Extension staff that included discussion of: 1) specific insect, weed, and nematode pests, 2) specific pesticides, and 3) issues faced by EPA as it tries to fulfill a mission of protecting human health and the environment while providing tools for farmers to be successful in growing fiber, food, and feed.



Alexandra Dunn, far left, assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, visited with Paul Kitchens, a Slaton, Texas cotton producer, during a Lubbock area tour of cotton operations.

The NCC filed comments with EPA on their proposed guidance document for conducting Endangered Species Act (ESA) biological risk assessments for species potentially affected by pesticides that are under review. While the NCC applauded EPA's efforts to relieve a regulatory bottleneck that continually threatens the availability of all pesticides, the NCC noted that many of the agency's proposed ideas were overly conservative and would unnecessarily slow the process down. The NCC followed this

process and engaged with EPA and other agencies as needed.

NCC staff participated in a Congressional Western Caucus (WC) roundtable discussion that was followed by the unveiling of a draft legislative package comprised of 19 bills intended to modernize the ESA. The NCC and other stakeholders provided clear examples of how and why the current ESA implementation was not working for the species the law was intended to protect or the agricultural producers, rural communities and businesses that it harms in the process. The NCC later sent a letter to the WC supporting the draft package of 18 separate bills which had been expected to be introduced early in 2020.

The NCC issued a news release in which it conveyed its appreciation for EPA's proposal to change some aspects of the Worker Protection Standards finalized under the last Administration. The proposed revisions would: 1) modify the Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) to be enforceable only on the farmer's property; 2) exempt immediate family from having to leave their homes or outbuildings; 3) clarify that applications can resume as soon as an individual has vacated the AEZ; and 4) simplify the decision-making process on whether the AEZ must be 25-feet or 100-feet. NCC Chairman Mike Tate stated that, "I believe these changes, when finalized, will provide much-needed assurance to farmers and applicators,

reduce their potential liability, eliminate the loss of useable field edges and still protect human health and the environment.”

Allen McLaurin, a North Carolina cotton producer who represents the U.S. cotton industry on EPA's Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee, was involved in that panel's discussion of such items as funding for EPA's office of pesticides, future pesticides for hemp, disaster response, bio stimulants, and pesticide applications by unmanned aerial vehicles.

WOTUS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA published the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’” (WOTUS) in the Federal Register. After reviewing the document, the NCC, joined by 25 affiliated industry groups, submitted comments to EPA and the Corps. Among points made were the need for the rule to strengthen the prior converted cropland exclusion with the idea that “ditches” and “impoundments” didn’t need their own categories.

The NCC monitored this issue. That included a Texas District court ruling in mid-2019 that the Obama Administration's EPA violated the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) when forming its version of the WOTUS rule. Specifically, the court found that the EPA did not uphold the notice-and-comment portion of the APA when it did not allow for comment on drastic changes that appeared in the final rule but not in the proposal.

After attending the EPA/Corps signing of a repeal of President Obama's 2015 WOTUS rule, the NCC issued a statement in which NCC Chairman Mike Tate noted that “cotton producers and all of agriculture deserve a commonsense and understandable rule that not only ensures environmental and human health but protects farmland and our rights to conduct our operations in a responsible and economically sustainable manner with flexibility that wasn’t present under the 2015 rule.”

The repeal was scheduled to go into effect on December 23, 2019, and the NCC continued to follow the rulemaking process, including the proposed replacement final rule.



NCC comments on a proposed WOTUS rule noted that “ditches” and “impoundments” didn’t need their own categories.

Crop Protection Product Support

The NCC continued to engage EPA on crop protection product registrations and other regulatory matters that affect efficient cotton production.

The NCC filed comments with EPA regarding treated seeds.

The NCC also participated in

the comments submitted to EPA from the Pesticide Policy Coalition on this issue which it monitored throughout 2019. The comments emphasized that 1) there was no benefit gained by duplicating the registration process for the article (seed) after it has been treated as labeled with a registered pesticide and 2) the loss of the “treated article” exemption likely would end utilization of treated seed.

EPA, which determined that glyphosate is “not likely to be carcinogenic to humans,” published its human health risk study for glyphosate for public comment. Soon after, the NCC filed comments to the EPA in response to the publication of its “Glyphosate Proposed Interim Registration Review Decision.” The comments discussed the need for effective weed management using a variety of tools, including the increasing use of glyphosate and transgenic cotton varieties tolerant to glyphosate applications.

EPA also issued guidance regarding labeling of glyphosate products stating that the agency would no longer approve product labels claiming that glyphosate was known to cause cancer. Mark McKean, a California cotton producer, NCC director and American Cotton Producers member, stated, “I and my fellow cotton growers around the country applaud EPA’s willingness to stand behind their science, and the science of so many other groups, to assure the public that glyphosate does not pose a cancer risk.”

Later, the Food and Drug Administration published results from its annual Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program that determined all glyphosate residue levels detected were below the safety tolerances established by EPA and that several commodities had no detectable residues at all.

The NCC filed comments on EPA's Proposed Interim Registration Review Decision for Buprofezin (trade name Courier). The NCC took issue with EPA's consideration of requiring coarse droplet sizes for insects that reside on the underside of cotton leaves. The NCC also

urged the agency to work with USDA on obtaining scientific data that evaluates the impact of various droplet sizes on insecticide product efficacy, so the agency could understand the lack of effect it might have on aphids and whiteflies.

The NCC issued a statement saying it was grateful for EPA's decision granting use on cotton of sulfoxaflor (commercially known as Transform©) – a uniquely designed insecticide that targets piercing/sucking insect pests such as aphids and plant bugs. NCC Chairman Mike Tate said that EPA had been diligent in requesting new studies of sulfoxaflor use on cotton and other crops – efforts that provided additional data for the agency's scientific review per court order.

Biotechnology

Throughout 2019, the NCC continued to follow developments regarding biotechnology. That included President Trump's issuance of the executive order, "Modernizing the Regulatory Framework for Agricultural Biotechnology Products." That order directed the Food and Drug Administration, USDA and EPA to review their respective agricultural biotechnology regulatory systems for streamlining processes and removing overly burdensome regulations.

The NCC submitted comments to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regarding its latest proposal to revise and reinvigorate the Part 340 rules on the introduction and release of new genetically engineered organisms. While the NCC largely agreed with the new proposal, it disagreed that the relatively new science of gene editing should be classified as genetic engineering due to the amount of regulations and negative public opinion that will ensue as a result. The NCC's comments also suggested that a new self-determination process for new traits should have a mandatory review by the agency to ensure accuracy and transparency in the regulatory process.

The NCC also submitted comments to APHIS supporting the deregulation of MON 88702 - a cotton plant genetically engineered for resistance to certain insects, primarily *Lygus* spp.

Cotton Flow and Packaging

The NCC was active on several fronts throughout the year addressing issues affecting the timely movement of baled cotton fiber to domestic and foreign customers; the acceptance of materials used to package U.S. cotton fiber; and the development of new, innovative packaging materials and techniques.

The Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee (JCIBPC), chaired by Ben Evans, a Georgia ginner, granted a product approval request and two requests for continued testing of packaging products. Full approval was granted by the JCIBPC for Dubose's strapping system. PAC Strapping was granted approval to continue its compatibility testing of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) strap on patented p-weld friction technology® systems. L.P. Brown's light-weight cotton bale bag was approved for continued testing. PAC Strapping's second year PET compatibility test was granted a "JCIBPC determination" in order for bales in the test program

to be deemed “deliverable” in accordance with Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) Cotton No. 2® rules.

The JCIBPC approved the revised 2019 Cotton Bale Packaging Specifications – later approved by USDA – that included a new requirement for all woven plastic bagging to include a UV inhibitor in the bagging’s coating.

The NCC distributed a news release in which it stated that policies which were included in the USDA Cotton Storage Agreement are aimed at enhancing the industry’s reputation for timely delivery by getting U.S. raw cotton into customers’ hands faster. Those policies – which were based on NCC resolutions regarding warehouse bale shipment reporting – called for warehouses to 1) report their weekly shipments electronically in a more detailed manner and 2) respond promptly to shipping orders from merchants via computer.



New USDA Cotton Storage Agreement policies were aimed at enhancing the industry’s reputation for timely delivery by getting U.S. raw cotton into customers’ hands faster.

The NCC joined numerous agricultural organizations on a letter to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) regarding demurrage and accessorial charges imposed by railroads. The letter 1) noted that in some cases, language imposed by carriers in their conditions of carriage appear

designed to have a chilling effect on rail customers that otherwise attempt to challenge charges that are inaccurate or excessive and 2) supported STB Chairman Ann Begeman’s decision to increase the transparency on the additional significant revenues that were being generated by the Class I railroads.

Later, the NCC joined other cotton organizations and numerous other agriculture and business groups on two letters to the STB. One letter, organized by the Rail Customer Coalition, of which NCC is a member, commended the STB’s Rate Reform Task Force for taking bold action in outlining serious reforms to how the STB reviews excessive freight rail rates. The other letter, organized by the Agricultural Transportation Working Group, of which NCC is a member, conveyed appreciation of the creation of the STB’s Rate Reform Task Force which developed ideas that could lead to modernizing and improving the agency’s rate-challenge process to make it more accessible to rail customers.

The NCC filed comments on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) advanced notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the statutory exemption from Hours of Service requirements for drivers transporting agricultural commodities "during planting and harvesting periods, as determined by each State." The NCC's comments 1) supported leaving in place the current definition of "agricultural commodity" which refers to any agricultural commodity, non-processed food, feed, fiber or livestock and 2) emphasized that the definition allowed the cotton industry to transport its products throughout the supply chain.

Later, the NCC carried a Cotton's Week article regarding FMCSA's announcement that it was establishing the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse that will include CDL drivers who drive any commercial vehicle, including those who haul cotton modules, bales, cottonseed and other cotton products.

The NCC submitted comments to the Department of Labor (DoL), Employment and Training Administration and Wage and Hour Division's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on proposed changes to improve the H-2A temporary agricultural labor certification program. The proposed changes would modernize the Department's H-2A regulations in a way that is responsive to stakeholder concerns and enhances employer access to a legal source of agricultural labor, while maintaining the program's protections for the U.S. workforce and enhancing enforcement against fraud and abuse.

The NCC and the interest organizations representing the industry's warehouse and marketing segments stayed in close communication with USDA leadership about 1) a planned approximate 10 percent increase in fees associated with the U.S. Warehouse Act (USWA) licensed warehouses for numerous commodities, including cotton and cottonseed and 2) the importance of minimizing program costs to limit the need for repeated fee increases on a frequent basis. The NCC also joined onto a letter to a Senate Appropriations Committee subcommittee in support of USDA's budget request for funding to update and modernize the IT systems necessary for the USWA and warehouse services functions. The NCC continued to work closely with USDA to ensure a well-functioning warehouse system that is administered efficiently as possible to limit the need for future fee increases.



An update on a contaminant screening prototype device, at left, and other contamination prevention research was provided at the three well-attended 2019 Ginner Schools including this one in Stoneville, Mississippi.

Research and Education

The NCC joined nearly 60 other industry groups on a letter to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees' subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies requesting \$445 million in the FY20 budget for USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). The letter emphasized that the 1) United States has lost its position as the top global funder of public research and development and 2) requested AFRI funding level would support research that strengthens rural economies, improves public health, and enhances the United States' ability to compete in a global economy.

Continuing its educational activities on lint contamination prevention, the NCC strongly urged producers and gin managers to have their entire harvest and ginning crews watch the updated NCC-produced "Prevention of Plastic Contamination" video. The National Cotton Ginners Association (NCGA) also conveyed this message at its three 2019 Ginner Schools. Among new topics that were incorporated into the video were: 1) what to do with round module wrap rolls once they are empty and 2) synchronizing module truck bed-chain speed with the ground when picking up modules.

After reports from textile manufacturers indicated that PET strap had become a significant contamination source, the NCC reminded gins to perform recommended maintenance and adjustments on strapping systems before beginning the ginning season and 2) monitor performance throughout the season to help ensure contamination-free lint. The gins also were urged to watch for other potential contamination sources prior to the 2019 harvest and ginning season.

Another contamination prevention initiative was the NCC Board's vote to accept a recommendation from the NCC's Quality Task Force involving changes in the reclass procedures for bales with a 71/72 call. It stated, "Due to the negative impact of plastic contamination on the marketing of U.S. cotton in the global and domestic market, it is recommended that beginning with the 2020 crop any U.S. bale designated as 71 or 72, either during the initial classification or upon re-classification, retain that designation. Further, to promote lint quality transparency and stewardship, it is recommended that producers and ginners refrain from re-classing 2019 crop bales designated solely as 71 or 72."

The NCC-coordinated 2019 Beltwide Cotton Conferences in New Orleans attracted 1,013 attendees to the forum's 10 technical conferences and Cotton Consultants Conference. The NCC also began providing unrestricted access to the BWCC proceedings to better facilitate research and educational efforts within the U.S. cotton industry. Dr. Eric Hequet, a former cotton breeder and chair of Texas Tech University's Plant & Soil Science Department, was recognized at the forum on being named the 2018 Cotton Genetics Research Award recipient.

Among other research and education activities:

- the NCC cooperated with the NCGA on the three well-attended 2019 Ginner Schools – the Western Ginners School in Las Cruces, N.M.; the Stoneville Ginners School in Stoneville, Miss.; and the Southwest Ginners School in Lubbock.
- Don Cameron, a California diversified producer and former NCC director, testified before a House Agriculture Committee subcommittee regarding 1) the increased yields and reduced costs that resulted from his use of precision agriculture/irrigation, 2) the importance of USDA conservation programs, and 3) the need for rural broadband.

Cotton Council International

Major activities carried out during 2019.

Cotton Council International (CCI), the National Cotton Council's export promotion arm, continued to position U.S. cotton as the "The Cotton the World Trusts" and expand foreign demand for U.S. cotton fiber, yarn and other cotton products. To further that trust, COTTON USA™ and Oritain™ signed a partnership to provide industry leading, forensic verification of origin for all U.S. cotton. This move was intended to 1) give brands and retailers the assurance needed to make responsible sourcing and purchasing decisions and 2) provide COTTON USA with a unique selling point in both domestic and export markets.



Indonesian textile executives gained a better understanding of how U.S. cotton can add value to their manufactured products during a CCI-coordinated COTTON USA Special Trade Mission.

Trade Missions

As part of a COTTON USA Special Trade Mission coordinated by CCI, textile executives representing 20 Indonesian companies gained a deeper understanding of why U.S. cotton is the world's preferred fiber. These firms

later indicated that they expected to purchase an additional 194,000 bales of U.S. cotton in the next year.

Likewise, textile manufacturing executives representing 14 countries also traveled through the U.S. Cotton Belt as part of CCI's biennial Orientation Tour. Those manufacturers were expected to consume about 3.7 million bales in 2019 and the countries they represented consume about 101 million cotton bales per year in their textile mills, which represents about 82 percent of the world's cotton consumption.

WHAT'S NEW IN COTTON™

As part of its WHAT'S NEW IN COTTON™ initiative, CCI showcased an array of U.S. cotton-rich apparel created with innovative technology at Première Vision in Paris – which attracted about 53,000 visitors from 127 countries.

COTTON USA showed the global home textile industry WHAT'S NEW IN COTTON™, including new innovative technologies to drive sales growth at the Heimtextil in Frankfurt, Germany. The show attracted 67,500 visitors and 3,025 exhibitors from 65 countries.

COTTON USA also presented WHAT'S NEW IN COTTON?™ at the Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles trade show. Attendees visit COTTON USA's booth to learn about: 1) its collaboration with leading brands and retailers around the world, 2) how to license the COTTON USA™ Mark and 3) new innovative technologies to drive sales growth.

COTTON USA also had an information booth at Yarn Expo, held concurrently with the Intertextile event. CCI also exhibited jointly with the Spinners and Weavers Association of Korea at Preview in Seoul 2019 to showcase WHAT'S NEW IN COTTON™ with a focus on innovative, U.S. cotton-rich products from Korean COTTON USA™ licensees.

CCI partnered with China's chief professional uniform designer, Liu Wei, who specializes in using new technical fabrics, to launch the 2019/20 COTTON USA Uniform Collection during Beijing Fashion Week. As an extension of the uniform project, COTTON USA then showcased the Liu Wei Uniform Collection and held an education forum on the advantages of COTTON USA at the Shanghai Occupational Uniform Expo -- to widen its impact throughout the uniform supply chain.

CCI also partnered with Chen Wen, a denim design master in China, and H.W. Textiles Co., Ltd., a Hong Kong-based denim fabric manufacturer, to launch a 2019-20 Fall/Winter Denim Fashion Collection during China Fashion Week at The Beijing Hotel. The denim fashion show showcased U.S. cotton-rich denim fabrics in recycled, innovative and retro fashion.



Textile manufacturing executives representing 14 countries traveled through the U.S. Cotton Belt as part of CCI's biennial Orientation Tour.

At the Peru Moda trade show in Lima, Peru, CCI highlighted how the U.S. cotton industry intends to meet its 2025 sustainability goals. CCI also promoted how its COTTON USA licensing program can boost business. Lima also was the site of the 2019 International Congress of

Textile Innovation for Sustainable Development. On behalf of CCI, Dr. Andrew Jordan conducted presentations on the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol and a recent micro-fiber study. He also held seven face-to-face meetings with U.S. cotton fiber buyers and export manufacturers

regarding the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol and the U.S. cotton industry's commitment to building on its legacy of stewardship and transparency/trust from the farm to the customer.

At Colombiatex in Medellín City, Colombia, the COTTON USA Sourcing Program featured five U.S. mills (Buhler, Frontier, Hamrick, Keer America and Parkdale). These mills were able to finalize new sales of 200 tons of cotton yarns at Latin America's largest textile show, which attracted visitors from 60 countries.

Sourcing Events

U.S. cotton and U.S. cotton textile manufacturers welcomed President of the Republic of Guatemala Jimmy Morales and U.S. Ambassador Luis E. Arreaga to the COTTON USA Pavilion at the Apparel Sourcing Show in Guatemala City. U.S. mills were featured in COTTON USA's booth along with the COTTON USA licensing program and U.S. cotton sustainability.

Buyers and sellers of U.S. cotton-rich products expect about \$115 million in future sales resulting from 2,300 meetings held during the two-day COTTON USA Sourcing Fair in Macau. In addition, 91 percent of the Fair's participants agreed that U.S. cotton quality was better than cotton from other regions while U.S. cotton's superior quality led 92 percent of participants to report they were "very likely" or "likely" to purchase more U.S. cotton and U.S. cotton products in the future.

The COTTON USA Western Hemisphere Sourcing Fair in Cancun, Mexico enabled participating U.S. mills and retailers to meet with Central American, Mexican and Andean textile and apparel executives to discuss business opportunities.

Colombiamoda provided a significant Sourcing Program opportunity as CCI showcased WHAT'S NEW IN COTTON™ with a focus on innovative U.S. cotton-rich products from Latin American COTTON USA™ licensees at its booth. The Medellín fair attracted 27,200 visitors with 500 exhibitors and 11,800 buyers.

CCI held the first EuroMed COTTON USA Sourcing Fair in Barcelona, Spain to provide regional sourcing assistance for companies looking for U.S. cotton fiber and yarns. The event brought together nearly 70 participants from seven countries, including garment and fabric manufacturers, yarn mills, brands and retailers. A survey found 85 percent of attendees were likely to purchase U.S. cotton/products compared with just 66 percent prior to the event.



CCI President Hank Reichle kicked off the Cotton Day Japan which included reports on U.S. cotton's sustainability/traceability.

Cotton Days

CCI's annual Cotton Days in Korean, Taiwan, China, Japan and Vietnam gathered representatives from the textile supply chain to increase demand for U.S. cotton through the value-added COTTON USA global marketing program. The Cotton Day

events enabled CCI to increase awareness among mills, fabric manufacturers and brand/retailer licensees of 1) innovations in U.S. cotton including U.S. cotton-rich garments and 2) the U.S. cotton industry's production, trade, sustainability, and traceability as well as the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol's launch.

For example, CCI's 2019 China Cotton Day in Qingdao promoted the U.S. cotton industry's sustainability, traceability, production and trade, as well as innovative U.S. cotton-rich garments and the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol. NCC Chairman Mike Tate, who introduced the Protocol, emphasized to attendees the U.S. industry's commitment to growing and producing the most sustainable cotton. CCI China & Northeast Asia Director Karin Malmstrom discussed the environmental impacts of different microfibers along with U.S. cotton's traceability and NCC President/CEO Gary Adams provided a brief introduction of U.S. cotton cultivation and trade.

Likewise, the 2019 Cotton Day Japan kicked off by CCI President Hank Reichle and included reports on U.S. cotton's sustainability/traceability as well as the fiber's technical and financial benefits. CCI received 22 new inquiries on joining the COTTON USA™ licensing program and three current COTTON USA™ retailer licensees in Japan indicated they would significantly increase licensed products.

Educational Initiatives

Reichle also led a U.S. cotton executive delegation to engage with textile industry leadership in Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam. Other participants were: Tim North, chairman of the American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA); ACSA Vice Chairman William Barksdale; ICE Vice President Tim Barry; Supima President & CEO Marc Lewkowitz; AMCOT representative, Carlo Bocardo; and ACP representatives, Doyle Schniers and Jason Condrey.

The fourth COTTON USA Mill Exchange Program brought textile mill executives from five major cotton-consuming nations—Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, India and Bangladesh—to host mills in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to learn how to be more competitive and efficient using U.S. cotton. CCI also hosted technical seminars in India to discuss manufacturing process improvements with mills using U.S. cotton. More than 100 participants representing 42 textile mills and three U.S. cotton merchants attended.

A CCI-sponsored seminar in Hong Kong provided cotton and apparel market updates and sustainable fashion survey results to COTTON USA licensees and partners in the Hong Kong textile supply chain.

Mills participating in the COTTON USA Turkey Conference indicated they expected to purchase an additional 133,632 U.S. cotton bales in the next year as a result of the forum. Approximately 110 representatives from 40 of the country's leading cotton spinning mills attended as well as U.S. merchants, cooperatives and agents representing more than 20 companies.

The Cotton Foundation

Major activities carried out during 2019.

The Cotton Foundation Board of Trustees approved funding for nine general research projects totaling \$212,000 for 2019-20. Included are studies related to pest management, sustainability, regulatory issue information gathering, plant protection products re-registration, risk data updating and education.



Farmers from North Dakota and Idaho saw agricultural operations in the Mid-South as part of the Multi Commodity Education Program, a Foundation special project.

Foundation trustees also elected officers for 2019-20. Paul Ollerton, a Casa Grande, AZ, producer, was elected Foundation chairman and John Willis, a Brownsville, TN, producer, elected president.

Other elected officers are: Gary Adams, executive vice president; Bill Norman, executive director/secretary; Doug Rushing, allied industry trustee with Bayer, treasurer; and Drew Davis, assistant treasurer.

Other Foundation trustees elected for 2019-20 include producers: Neal Isbell, Muscle Shoals, AL; Jon Whatley, Odem, TX; and Dean Calvani, Carlsbad, NM; and allied industry members: Andrew Lauver, Syngenta; Matt Rekeweg, Corteva AgriSciences; Ranjit Nair, John Deere; Burlison Smith, BASF; Chris Reat, FMC; Kelly Fenner, Seal Transportation; and Joe Thomas, Lummus Corporation.

Multiple Foundation member firms continued to sponsor special projects. Through the Foundation, assistance also continued for vital NCC communications vehicles, including the *Cotton's Week* newsletter. In addition, the Foundation's underpinning of the NCC's web server made it possible for the NCC to continue posting valuable educational materials, including streaming video, for industry members.

Several Foundation members also support the NCC-coordinated Beltwide Cotton Conferences and various functions of the NCC's Annual Meeting.