

2016 Beltwide Cotton Conferences

January 5-7 • New Orleans, Louisiana • New Orleans Marriott Hotel

GENERAL INFORMATION





Beltwide Cotton Conferences

The Beltwide Cotton Conferences (BWCC) speed the transfer of new technology to U.S. cotton producers and other industry members with the goal of strengthening U.S. cotton's competitive position in the world marketplace and enhancing industry members' profitability.

Coordinated by the National Cotton Council (NCC) and its cooperating partners, this annual forum is recognized as the global champion for cotton technology transfer. Three days of individual reports, panel discussions, and seminars are designed to enlighten industry members about the latest research developments and their practical applications in cotton production and processing. The 600-plus reports are subsequently made available on CD-ROM and on the Beltwide web site at <https://www.cotton.org/beltwide>.

While cotton industry members recognize the wealth and

range of information made available through these reports, they also gain valuable information from fellow attendees - processors, researchers, Extension, consultants, agribusiness representatives and others. This dialogue among all who have a vested stake in a healthy U.S. cotton sector helps industry members tailor new products and production/processing systems to their operations for maximum efficiency.

The Conferences' success can be attributed to the alliance of the NCC and its many partners. Federal and State Agricultural Experiment Stations, the Cooperative Extension Service, Universities, USDA, Cotton Foundation members, news media and other regional and national cotton organizations all contribute and support the Beltwide Cotton Conferences. This partnership leads to increased U.S. cotton industry productivity and profitability.

Table of Contents

General Information	2	Housing Questions and Answers	8
Beltwide Contacts.....	2	New Orleans Area Map	9
Schedule at a Glance	3	Registration Information.....	10
2016 Conference Highlights	4	Travel.....	10
Housing Information	7	2017 Beltwide Cotton Conferences.....	11



Courtesy of New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau

General Information

The information below, along with conference updates, online meeting registration, housing and travel reservations, can be found on the Beltwide web site. Visit <https://www.cotton.org/beltwide> for the latest information about the Conferences.

Meeting/Banquet Rooms

A function room request form is required to reserve a meeting/banquet room. The request form (http://www.cotton.org/beltwide/index.cfm?page=meeting_banquet_rooms) may be completed online from the Conference web site. The deadline to reserve a meeting room is Tuesday, December 1, 2015. Rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Continuing Education and Certification Credits Discontinued

Providing blanket application of continuing education unit (CEUs) credits by Beltwide Cotton Conferences (BWCC) staff on attendees' behalf is no longer feasible. Discontinuing the CEU application process and the CEU sign-up desk is not a decision made without considering the impact of that policy change on BWCC attendees.

The CEU application process has always been tailored to each certifying entity's (state regulatory or association certifier) individual CEU requirements. Until recently, the application process across certifying entities was relatively uniform. However, the application process among the various states has now diversified to the point that it is no longer feasible for BWCC staff to provide blanket CEU application service. It also should be noted that two state certifying entities are no longer accepting the BWCC program for CEU credits.

In the opinion of BWCC staff, Technical Conference programs are robust enough to serve as a source of CEU credits for several technical disciplines. Individuals are encouraged to apply for credits themselves based on their level of participation in the BWCC programs.

If CEU credits are important to a technical conference's attendees, that conference is encouraged to seek CEU approval by submitting CEU applications for each appropriate state, certified crop advisor (CCA) or other professional disciplines on behalf of its attendees.



Beltwide Contacts

Coordinator

Dale Thompson
 (901) 274-9030
 (901) 725-0510 fax
dthompson@cotton.org

Meeting Arrangements

Ellen Ferrell
 (901) 274-9030
 (901) 725-0510 fax
eferrell@cotton.org

Debbie Richter
 (901) 274-9030
 (901) 725-0510 fax
drichter@cotton.org

Media

Marjory Walker
 (901) 274-9030
 (901) 725-0510 fax
mwalker@cotton.org

Cotton Nelson
 (901) 274-9030
 (901) 725-0510 fax
cnelson@cotton.org

Air Travel/ Rental Car

Kitty Rutledge
 (800) 844-4924 #318
 (901) 762-7022
 (901) 766-0126 fax
krutledge@travelennium.com

Schedule At A Glance

New Orleans Marriott Hotel

Tuesday, January 5

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Onsite Registration, Badge Printing
and Cashier Stations Open

Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Cotton Consultants Conference

*(Open to all registered attendees with
name tags)*

New Developments from Industry:
varieties, chemistry, equipment,
emerging technologies

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception

*(Open to all registered attendees with
name tags)*

BASF

Wednesday, January 6

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Onsite Registration, Badge Printing
and Cashier Stations Open

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Joint Poster Session

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Consultants Conference

(Open to all registered attendees)

- Selected presentations from
Technical
Conferences

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Technical Conferences

(Hours posted in final schedule)

- Cotton Agronomy & Physiology
Conference
- Cotton Disease Council
- Cotton Economics and Marketing
Conference
- Cotton Engineering-Systems
Conference
- Cotton Ginning Conference
- Cotton Improvement Conference
- Cotton Insect Research and Control
Conference
- Cotton Quality Measurement
Conference
- Cotton Soil Management & Plant
Nutrition Conference
- Cotton Weed Science Research
Conference

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Cotton Grower Beltwide Luncheon

(By invitation only)

Meister Media Worldwide

Thursday, January 7

7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Onsite Registration, Badge Printing
and Cashier Stations Open

8:00 a.m. – Noon

Joint Poster Session

8:00 a.m. – Noon

Technical Conferences

(Hours posted in final schedule)

- Cotton Agronomy & Physiology
Conference
- Cotton Disease Council
- Cotton Economics and Marketing
Conference
- Joint Session: Cotton Engineering-
Systems and Ginning
- Cotton Improvement Conference
- Cotton Insect Research and Control
Conference
- Cotton Soil Management & Plant
Nutrition Conference
- Cotton Utilization Conference
- Cotton Weed Science Research
Conference

2016 Conference Highlights

Technical Conferences

Tuesday, January 5 and Wednesday, January 6

Cotton Consultants Conference

The Cotton Consultants Conference is comprised of invited presentations to help satisfy the technical needs of the cotton consultant and others involved in agronomic and pest management decision making. A general session will be followed by round table discussions allowing participants to engage in small group or one-on-one discussions with industry experts. This conference is open to all individuals who desire technical pest management and production related updates needed in the development of efficacious and cost effect management decisions.

2016 Conference Highlights

Technical Conferences

Wednesday, January 6 and Thursday, January 7

Cotton Agronomy and Physiology Conference

The Cotton Agronomy and Physiology Conference provides a forum for a discussion of the life processes of cotton plants. Presenters will discuss topics from molecular biology to applied agronomic research. Research to be presented will range from basic studies designed to provide understanding of these life processes to studies on the genetic, chemical, biological and physical means of manipulating the physiology of the plant for higher yield and improved fiber quality. Applied research relating to physiological aspects of cotton growth, production and management also is part of the program.

Cotton Disease Council

The Cotton Disease Council represents all areas of cotton disease and nematode research, extension, teaching, industry and production. Participation is open to all individuals with an interest in diseases and nematodes of cotton. The program includes committee reports from the chairmen of the three standing committees and formal presentations and posters relating to diseases and nematodes of cotton.

Cotton Economics and Marketing Conference

The conference addresses a wide range of topics, from the microeconomics of cotton production to macroeconomic issues related to the structure of the cotton industry, markets and trade. The conference will include a Cotton Economics Forum which will explore issues and perspectives related to market outlook, policy and trade issues. Subsequent session presentations and poster displays from researchers in industry, government and academia will focus on improving understanding of the marketing and economic factors affecting the cotton industry.

Cotton Engineering-Systems Conference

The conference provides an opportunity for discussions between engineering researchers and individuals from other industry segments. Engineers and other researchers from industry, universities and federal agencies present information on an array of engineering solutions to problems in cotton production, harvesting and processing.

2016 Conference Highlights

Technical Conferences

Wednesday, January 6 and Thursday, January 7

Cotton Ginning Conference

The Cotton Ginning Conference provides a forum for researchers and industry representatives to exchange information on new technology to improve gin operation efficiency and the preservation of fiber quality. Industry issues are addressed by researchers and industry experts covering areas such as innovative management strategies, energy conservation, environmental regulations and compliance, labor law compliance and safety.

A joint session with the Cotton Engineering Systems Conference will include the most recent cotton ginning and harvesting research results, with a primary focus on those related to cotton ginning and harvesting, environmental quality measurements and fiber quality preservation.

Cotton Improvement Conference

The Cotton Improvement Conference focuses on breeding and genetics research and development, including classical and newer molecular approaches. The conference provides a forum for scientists and representatives from both industry and public institutions to share the results of their research and development efforts among plant breeders, applied and molecular geneticists, other research scientists and the public.

Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference

The Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference highlights the latest developments in cotton insect pest management with technical papers and posters. A blend of university and industry presentations provides technical as well as practical information to farmers, agricultural consultants and crop managers.

Cotton Quality Measurements Conference

The Cotton Quality Measurements Conference provides an opportunity for researchers focused on aspects pertaining to cotton quality and the measurements of cotton quality to share their research. The conference includes presentations on active and recent research pertaining to instruments and procedures used to measure and evaluate the diverse properties of cotton fibers. Issues being faced in this field include the measurement challenges in cotton breeding and biotechnology programs, global competition and discussions of a universal classing system, and the acceptance of globally recognized cotton standards and cotton testing conditions. The conference is a forum for discussing relationships among fiber quality, processing efficiency and product quality as well as measurement characteristics such as fiber length distribution, fiber neps and contamination (e.g., trash, seed coat fragments and stickiness) along with new developments in measurement and fiber evaluation technology.

Cotton Soil Management and Plant Nutrition Conference

The Cotton Soil Management and Plant Nutrition Conference focus is on interactions among plant and soil variables that affect crop performance and profitability of production. Oral and poster presentations from recent and on-going research will address broad topics related to all aspects of crop production including rotations, plant nutrition, fertilizer formulations, rates and techniques, beneficial use of wastes (manures and biosolids), tillage methods, irrigation technology and precision agriculture.

2016 Conference Highlights

Technical Conferences

Wednesday, January 6 and Thursday, January 7

Cotton Utilization Conference

The Cotton Utilization Conference is concerned with the marketability of cotton fiber as a manufacturing raw material. This includes all aspects of cotton fiber processability, textile yarn and fabric manufacturing, fabric finishing and processing machinery. This Conference provides an excellent opportunity for cotton researchers to formulate research goals for new and expanded markets in cotton textile and nonwovens manufacturing.

- **Textile Technology Symposium:** The Cotton Textile Technology Symposium will explore the latest research into practical aspects of cotton's openability, cleanability and processability as the key to its raw-material value for utilization in textile processing.

- **Fabric Chemistry, Nonwovens & Products Symposium:** This symposium will address the potential for expansion of consumption of cotton fiber in nonwovens as well as focusing on traditional textile finishing chemistry, cellulose modification and applications to innovative cotton finishes, and novel products that can open and expand new high volume and high-value-added markets.

Cotton Weed Science Research Conference

The Cotton Weed Science Research Conference will include paper and poster presentations highlighting the latest research on weed management systems in cotton. Papers will emphasize practical and economical weed control programs involving overviews of new herbicides and technological advances, control options for difficult weed control and resistance management, weed control in reduced tillage and row-spacing systems, and management systems for various herbicide tolerant traits.



Courtesy of New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau

Housing Information

Book, modify or cancel reservations:

Online

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=13743115

Phone

800-654-3990

Hotel Information

Hotel

New Orleans Marriott Hotel
555 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Rates*

\$169 single/double

**Applicable taxes not included*

Parking*

Valet \$40.00/day

**Taxes included*

Confirmation of Reservations

An acknowledgement will be sent via email at the time the reservation is made. A hotel confirmation will be sent via email from the hotel after December 14. Paper acknowledgements will not be mailed.

Room Rates & Taxes

All rates are per room and are subject to 14.75% tax per day. To take advantage of the special Beltwide rates, book your reservation no later than Friday, December 14, 2015. After December 14, the BWCC room block will be released and the hotel may charge higher rates.

Room Guarantee

All reservations require a credit card to hold the reservation.

Payment Methods Accepted

The following credit cards can be used to confirm your reservations: VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DINERS CLUB. Checks will only be accepted as payment upon checkout.

Special Requests

Special requests cannot be guaranteed; however, the hotels will do their best to honor all requests. You will be assigned specific room types upon check-in, based on availability.

Reservation Changes

Changes to your reservation may be made by telephone or online.

Cancellations/Refunds:

Reservations may be cancelled without penalty at least 72 hours to avoid a one night's room and tax charge.

Group Housing

A minimum of 10 rooms is required to establish a group block.

To reserve a block of rooms under a company or individual name, go to <https://www.cotton.org/beltwide>, click on the housing link, and download a group request form. Complete the form and fax to the hotel. You will then receive a contract from the hotel. Contract must be signed and returned to the hotel to confirm the group block. Upon signing the contract, the company or individual is responsible for 100% of the total room block for each night, whether used or unused.

Housing Questions and Answers

I can find a lower rate on the Internet, why should I book at the official BWCC hotel?

Negotiated hotel rates incorporate many benefits for you and the Beltwide Cotton Conferences. Based on the number of rooms in the block, other facilities in the hotel including meeting rooms, banquet space, speaker/staff rooms, etc. are made available to the BWCC at a reduced cost. As the number of room nights is reduced, rates for space and equipment, as well as room rates and registration fees for attendees will rise. Additionally, room pickup is the BWCC's strongest negotiating tool for future meeting rates and space.

Why does the hotel assess a cancellation fee after the cut-off date?

Over the past several years, it has become increasingly difficult to manage hotel room blocks for the BWCC. When the BWCC room blocks fill up prematurely with reservations that are cancelled before the conference, other members cannot get a hotel room in the official hotels. If the hotels cannot rebook the room with another BWCC attendee or individual guest, they charge attrition fees to the BWCC.

Due to the substantial number of cancellations that occurred after the cut-off date and prior to the 1999 Conferences, the BWCC Steering Committee modified its cancellation fee policy for the 2000 Conferences. Since this time, attendees have taken greater ownership in canceling unneeded rooms in a more timely fashion, giving more opportunities for the rooms to be resold. If the rooms are not resold, the BWCC may be liable for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Simply raising or lowering our room block does not alleviate any of the problems associated with cancellations or rooms reserved outside of the official hotels. Hotels are booked three to five years in advance based on room pickup history. To protect the BWCC block and the hotel for this long term commitment, the BWCC is contractually liable for attrition penalties because of unfilled rooms. Unfilled rooms include unbooked rooms as well as those caused by early departure.

If I change the number of room nights reserved after the cut-off date will it affect the BWCC room block?

The second type of attrition possibility results from individuals who book a room for the entire period, then leave early or push back their arrival date. Although an attendee has, in fact, used their reservation, they have reduced the number of room nights that the BWCC will be picking up in the block. By planning well and reserving the correct number of nights, the hotel has a greater opportunity to resell those rooms so that the BWCC will not be liable for them. Reserve only the number of rooms you need for the time you expect to stay.

Who can I contact if I still have questions?

In short, it's good business to stay in the designated official hotels. By doing so, you gain the opportunity to further network with your industry peers and remain in the center of the activity surrounding the conference.

We appreciate your support of the Conferences by continuing to book your guest room in our official hotels. If you have any questions, please contact the National Cotton Council's Meeting & Travel Department at (901) 274-9030.

New Orleans Area Map



Registration Information

<https://www.cotton.org/beltwide> Click on Registration Link

Deadline for Discounted Registration Fees is December 14.

You must register online at <https://www.cotton.org/beltwide>. Registration opens September 21st will continue on-site through the last day of the conference. Discounted pre-registration fees will be in effect through December 14.

Spouse registration is complimentary, but required and is not intended for business partners or associates.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

Full refunds will be granted if the request is received in writing by Friday, December 14, 2015.

Conference registration will be located in the the New Orleans Marriott beginning at 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 5, continuing through 12 p.m., Thursday, January 7.

Note: Name badge is required for entrance into all conference functions.

Registration fee includes

- All meetings of the Beltwide Cotton Conferences
- Entry to Poster Board Display
- Access to more than 600 technical papers
- Upon request, one copy of proceedings on CD-ROM mailed mid-May, 2016 (extra charge will apply). An electronic version of the proceedings may be accessed through the Beltwide web site for Beltwide attendees and all NCC and Cotton Foundation members.

Registration Fees Through December 14th

NCC or Cotton Foundation Members	\$175.00
Non-Members.....	\$300.00
Students	\$ 80.00
Research, Extension, Associations, Consultants	\$175.00
International Research, Extension, Associations, Consultants.....	\$300.00

Registration Fees Beginning December 15th

NCC or Cotton Foundation Members	\$200.00
Non-Members.....	\$350.00
Students	\$100.00
Research, Extension, Associations, Consultants	\$200.00
International Research, Extension, Associations, Consultants.....	\$350.00

Travel

Airline Tickets & Rental Car Reservations

Call our travel consultant, Kitty Rutledge at Travelennium for air and/or car reservations at 800-844-4924, ext. 322, or by email at krutledge@travelennium.com.

Airline Tickets:

Discounted rates available on Delta and American. Fare discounts will be reflected when you book through Travelennium.

Car Rental: Discounted rates with Hertz

Call Kitty, or call Hertz at 800-654-3131 or online at www.hertz.com and refer to Hertz discount number 1715002.

Airport Ground Transportation

New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is located 20 minutes from the official BWCC hotel. Transfer cost by shuttle is approximately \$20 one-way per person. Shuttle takes approximately one hour from the airport, as it makes multiple stops. Taxi fare is approximately \$33 per person one-way for one or two people.

Sponsors of Special Activities, Events and Contributors

MONSANTO



Coffee Breaks

<http://www.monsanto.com>



Bayer CropScience

Registration

<http://www.bayercropscienceus.com>

 **BASF**

The Chemical Company

Welcome Reception

<http://agproducts.basf.us>

MONSANTO



Confex Podium

<http://www.monsanto.com>



FARM CREDIT

Lending support to rural America

Internet Café and Wi-Fi

<http://www.farmcreditnetwork.com>

Various Beltwide Activities and services are provided by the Beltwide Cotton Conferences and the National Cotton Council.

These include:

Beltwide Conference Audio/Visual

Printed Program

Beltwide Mobile Web Site

A composite image featuring a cotton field in the foreground and a city skyline at night in the background. The cotton plants are in full bloom, with white bolls ready for harvest. The city skyline includes several tall skyscrapers, some of which are illuminated with lights. A prominent feature is a tall, slender tower with a large, spherical top that is also illuminated with lights. The sky is a deep blue, suggesting dusk or dawn.

Dallas

2017 Beltwide Cotton Conferences

January 4-6 · Dallas, Texas

Hyatt-Regency Dallas