

2024 Beltwide Cotton Conferences

January 3–5 • Omni Fort Worth Hotel • Fort Worth, Texas



National
Cotton
Council 
OF AMERICA



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 by USB drive 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 / Beltwide Contacts.....	3
Tentative Schedule at a Glance	4
2024 Conference Descriptions	5–6
Housing Information.....	7
Fort Worth Map	8
Registration Information	9
2023 Sponsors	10
2025 Beltwide Cotton Conferences	11

General Information / Beltwide Contacts

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.

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Meeting Arrangements

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Peggy Robinson
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probinson@travelellennium.com

Meeting/Banquet Rooms

A function room request form is required to reserve a meeting/banquet room. The request form may be completed online from the Conference web site. The deadline to reserve a meeting room is Monday, December 18, 2023. Rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Transportation and Car Rental

Call Peggy Robinson, the Council's travel consultant at Travelennium, for air and car rental reservations. Fares paid will include any applicable discounts when booked through Travelennium. For rental cars, if booked through Travelennium, the discount for both Hertz and Avis are always included. There is NO FEE for booking a car through Travelennium.

Airport Ground Transportation

DFW International Airport is approximately 25 miles from the Omni Fort Worth Hotel.

Taxi service is approximately \$55 each way and shuttle service is approximately \$18 per person; super shuttle available 24 hours at (972) 615-2410.

UberX (economy) \$31–\$40 or Lyft (standard) \$22–\$27

Love Field Airport is approximately 35 miles from the Omni Fort Worth Hotel.

Taxi service is approximately \$70–\$80 each way and shuttle service is approximately \$36 per person; super shuttle available 24 hours at (972) 615-2410.

CEU Information

Providing blanket application of continuing education unit (CEUs) credits by Beltwide Cotton Conferences (BWCC) staff on attendees' behalf is no longer offered.

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 (MO, FL) no longer accept the BWCC program for CEU credits.

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.

Tentative Schedule at a Glance

Omni Fort Worth Hotel

See final program for detailed schedule posted in early December

Wednesday, January 3

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*Onsite Registration, Badge Printing and
Cashier Stations Open*

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Cotton Consultants Conference

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

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception

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

Thursday, January 4

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.

Technical Conferences

(Hours posted in final schedule)

- Cotton Agronomy, Physiology, and Soil
Cotton Agronomy, Physiology, and Soil
Conference
- Cotton Consultants Conference (a.m.
only)
- 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 and Utilization
Conference
- Cotton Sustainability Conference
- Cotton Weed Science Research
Conference

Friday, January 5

7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Onsite Registration, Badge Printing and
Cashier Stations Open*

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

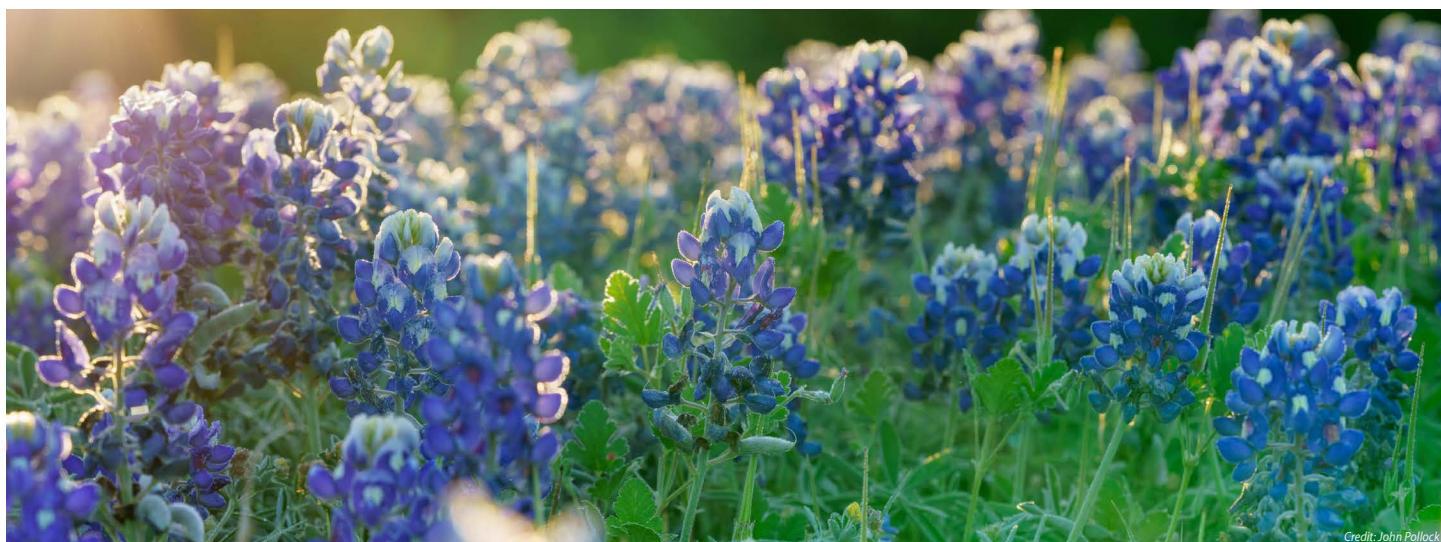
Joint Poster Session

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Technical Conferences

(Hours posted in final schedule)

- Cotton Agronomy, Physiology, and Soil
Conference
- Cotton Disease Council
- Cotton Economics and Marketing
Conference
- Joint Session: Cotton Engineering-
Systems and Ginning Conference
- Cotton Improvement Conference
- Cotton Insect Research and Control
Conference
- Cotton Sustainability Conference
- Cotton Quality and Utilization
Conference
- Cotton Weed Science Research
Conference



Credit: John Pollock

2024 Conference Descriptions

Technical Conferences

Wednesday, January 3

Cotton Consultants Conference

The Cotton Consultants Conference is comprised of invited presentations to help satisfy the technical needs of cotton consultants and others involved in agronomic and pest management decision making. This conference is open to all individuals who desire technical pest management and production related updates.

Thursday, January 4, and Friday, January 5

Cotton Agronomy, Physiology and Soil Conference

The Cotton Agronomy, Physiology and Soil Conference provides a forum for a discussion of the life processes of cotton plants and interactions among plant and soil variables that affect crop performance and profitability. Presentations and posters will focus on topics ranging from molecular biology to applied agronomic research. This includes recent and on-going research that addresses broad topics related to all aspects of cotton production, including, but not limited to rotations, plant nutrition, fertilizer formulations, fertilizer application rates and techniques, beneficial use of wastes (manures and biosolids), tillage methods, irrigation technology, remote sensing, and precision agriculture. Research presented will include basic studies designed to provide a better understanding of these life processes to studies on the genetic, chemical, biological and physical means of manipulating the cotton physiology of the plant for higher yield and improved fiber quality. Applied research relating to physiological aspects of cotton growth, production and management are also 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 formal presentations and posters relating to diseases and nematodes of cotton.

Cotton Economics and Marketing Conference

The conference addresses a wide range of topics including marketing, production, consumer demand, trade, policy analysis, and risk management. The conference includes a Cotton Economics Forum, which explores the market outlook as well as developments in policy and trade. Subsequent sessions and poster displays from researchers in industry, government and academia focus on the improvement of understanding of economic and policy-related factors affecting cotton production and downstream industries.

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.

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, contamination, 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.

2024 Conference Descriptions

Technical Conferences

Thursday, January 4, and Friday, January 5

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, and a student paper competition. A blend of university and industry presentations provides technical as well as practical information to farmers, agricultural consultants and crop managers.

Cotton Quality and Utilization Conference

The Cotton Quality and Utilization Conference provides a forum for participants from the entire cotton supply chain to discuss and promote quality and utilization challenges, opportunities, and developments for cotton. This conference provides an excellent opportunity for cotton researchers and industry representatives to come together an exchange information and new developments for the measurement of cotton quality and/or utilization of cotton fiber as a manufacturing raw material. Issues being faced in this field include the measurement challenges in cotton breeding and biotechnology programs, fiber competition and the acceptance of globally recognized cotton standards and classing.

Cotton Sustainability Conference

The Cotton Sustainability Conference is a forum for participants from the entire cotton value chain to discuss and promote continuous improvement in the sustainability of US cotton. Participation from universities, producers and consultants, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and brands and retailers will allow for a holistic conversation of current sustainability trends in the industry. This forum will also cover new sustainability programs and best management practices; industry, brand, and retail sustainability goals; market opportunities and downstream perspectives.

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 weed control and resistance management, weed control in reduced tillage and row-spacing systems, and management systems for various herbicide tolerant traits.

Housing Information

Book, Modify or Cancel Reservations

Online

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/fort-worth/meetings/beltwide-cotton-01032024>

Phone

1-800-843-6664

Hotel Information

Omni Fort Worth Hotel
1300 Houston Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Rates

\$169 single/double

Plus 7% state & local taxes plus additional 6% state occupancy tax, 9% city occupancy tax, and 2% Fort Worth Tourism PID Fee.

Check-In/Check-Out

Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

Confirmation of Reservations

An acknowledgement will be sent via email at the time the reservation is made.

Cutoff Date

Cutoff date for obtaining the special contracted room rate is Friday, December 15, 5:00 p.m. CST. After December 15, the BWCC room block will be released, and the hotel may charge higher rates.

Room Guarantee and Payment Methods

All reservations require a credit card to hold the reservation.

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

Rates for suites are available upon request. Arrangements for hospitality suites should be made directly with the Omni Hotel by calling Faith Loomos 817-350 4037.

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. Please have your confirmation number on hand when attempting to make reservation changes.

Cancellations/Refunds

Reservation deposits are fully refundable if canceled 48 hours prior to arrival.

Parking

Overnight valet parking is \$40 per day (unlimited in/out privileges).

Overnight valet parking for oversized vehicles per day is \$48 per day (unlimited in/out privileges).

Day valet parking is \$25 for the day (no in/out privileges)

The hotel does not offer self-parking.

Hotel Services & Dining

Join Omni Hotel's Select Guest program and be rewarded on your very first stay. Members enjoy complimentary perks including in-room Wi-Fi, pressings, shoeshine, morning beverage delivery and free nights. Go to <https://www.omnihotels.com/loyalty> to enroll in the program.

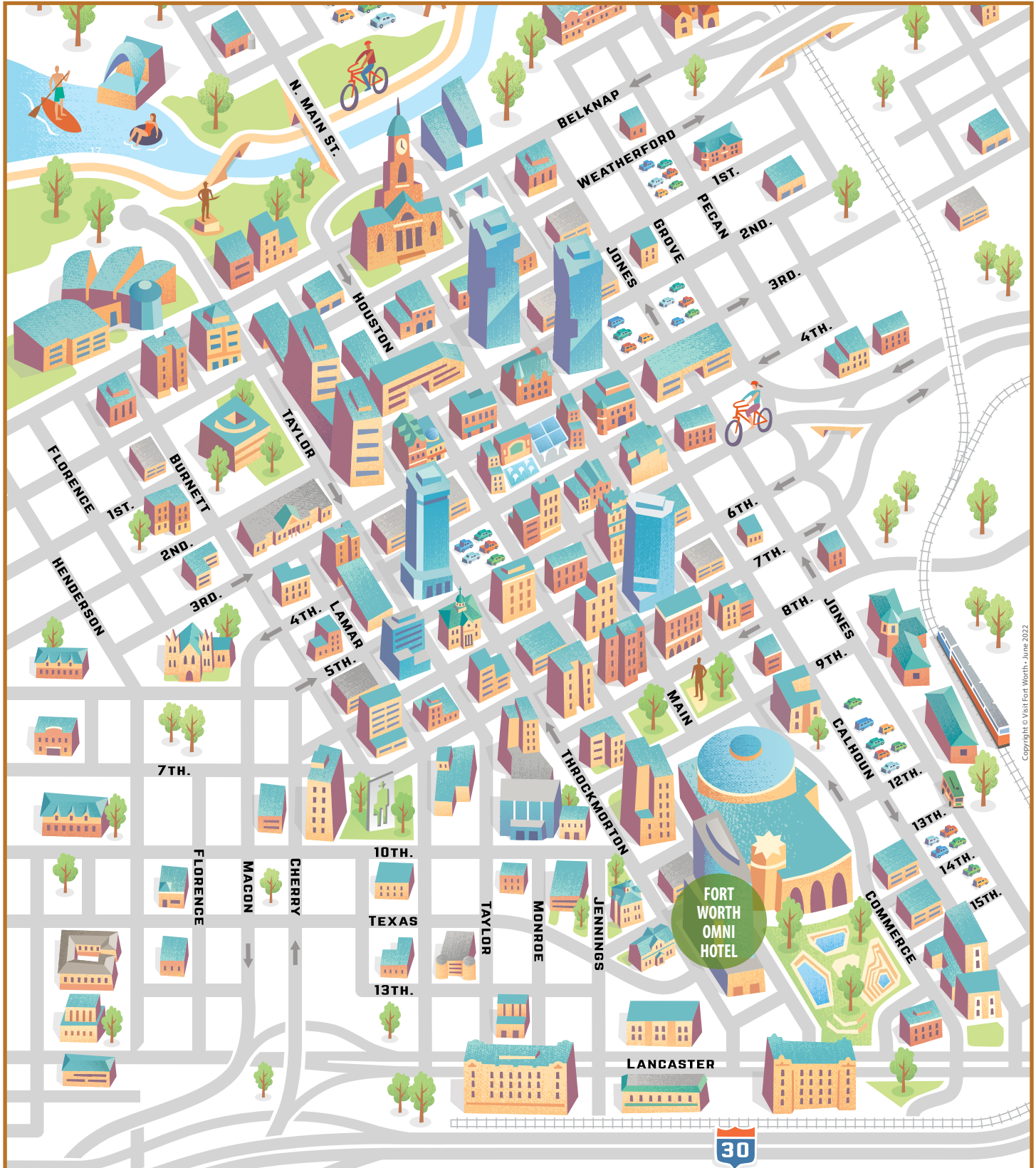
Dining options include Cast Iron Restaurant, Bob's Steak & Chop House, Whiskey & Rye, Wine Thief and Starbucks.

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 complete the group housing request form. You will then receive a contract from the hotel to be signed and returned 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.

Fort Worth Area Map



Registration Information

Deadline for Discounted Registration Fees is December 14.

All attendees must register online at <https://www.cotton.org/beltwide>. Registration opens September 15 and will continue on-site through the last day of the conference. Discounted pre-registration fees will be in effect through December 18.

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 Monday, December 18, 2023.

Conference registration desk will be located in the Omni Fort Worth Hotel beginning at 9 a.m., Wednesday, January 3, continuing through 12 noon, Friday, January 5.

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 USB Flash Drive mailed mid-May, 2024 (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.

Pre-Registration Fees Through December 18 (Midnight CST)

NCC/COTTON FOUNDATION MEMBERS; U.S. RESEARCH, EXTENSION, ASSOCIATIONS, AND CONSULTANTS	\$200.00
U.S. NON-MEMBERS of NCC or THE COTTON FOUNDATION	\$400.00
STUDENTS OF U.S. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	\$80.00
INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS	\$500.00

Registration Fees Beginning December 19

NCC/COTTON FOUNDATION MEMBERS; U.S. RESEARCH, EXTENSION, ASSOCIATIONS, AND CONSULTANTS	\$250.00
U.S. NON-MEMBERS of NCC or THE COTTON FOUNDATION.....	\$450.00
STUDENTS OF U.S. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	\$100.00
INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS	\$550.00



2023 Sponsors of Special Activities, Events and Contributors



**Confex Podium
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[https://www.cropscience.bayer.com](https://www.cropsscience.bayer.com)



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<https://farmcredit.com>



Consultants Conference
<https://www.basf.com/us/en.html>



Consultants Conference
<https://www.syngenta.com>



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Consultants Conference
<https://www.corteva.com>



Cotton Ginning Conference
<https://www.tama-usa.com>



Cotton Weed Science Conference
<https://www.valent.com>



JOHN DEERE

**Cotton Engineering - Systems Conference
Cotton Sustainability Conference**
<https://deere.com>



Special thanks to the **GEORGIA PEANUT COMMISSION** for providing the peanuts in the registration area.
<https://gapeanuts.com/>

The following Beltwide activities and services are provided by the Beltwide Cotton Conferences and the National Cotton Council:
Beltwide Conference Audio/Visual • Beltwide Printed Program • Beltwide Mobile Web Site

2025 Beltwide Cotton Conferences

January 14 – 16 • New Orleans, Louisiana • New Orleans Marriott Hotel



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