



2025 Member Impact Report



From the Executive Director



It has been my privilege to serve you throughout 2025. Looking back over the past year, one theme rises above all others: rapid response. While the Foundation continued to deliver our core programs and events—including the Beltwide Cotton Conferences, Emerging Leaders Program, Producer Information Exchange, Southern Extension Weed Scientists Meeting, and the Federal Regulator Tour—2025 was defined by our ability to meet new challenges with speed, coordination, and purpose.

When the two-spotted cotton leafhopper emerged as a significant threat to Southeast cotton production, the Foundation moved quickly to partner with the Georgia Cotton Commission and industry collaborators to fund a post-doctoral position at the University of Georgia dedicated entirely to this new pest. We also advanced sustainability and consumer education efforts by supporting microplastic textile research at the University of Memphis, complementing the National Cotton Council of America's Plant Not Plastic campaign. In addition, the Foundation facilitated an initiative to procure and distribute 100% cotton bale bagging, helping identify a cost-effective alternative to woven polypropylene materials.

Alongside these rapid-response efforts, the Foundation continued its commitment to driving innovation. Several research proposals were reviewed and funded in 2025, with results to be presented at the January 2026 Beltwide Cotton Conferences.

This year, we were pleased to welcome five new members, bringing our total to 35 dedicated allied industry partners. Your engagement and support make all our work possible. The events of 2025 reaffirmed how essential it is for our industry to have an organization like The Cotton Foundation—one capable of responding swiftly to emerging threats, evolving priorities, and exciting new opportunities.

Thank you for your continued trust in the Foundation leadership team and for your steadfast commitment to the U.S. cotton industry. Together, we are building resilience, advancing innovation, and positioning cotton for a strong and sustainable future.

Chad Brewer, PhD
Executive Director
The Cotton Foundation



Mission & Purpose



The Cotton Foundation was created in 1955 as a 501(c)3 organization to give U.S. cotton's agribusiness allies opportunities to support the U.S. cotton industry over and above the products and services these firms provide. Membership includes banks, seed companies, chemical and equipment manufacturers, publishers, and others whose success depends at least in part on U.S. cotton and who share a common concern for a healthy U.S. cotton industry.

Through member contributions, the Foundation supports various research and education projects that address current needs of the U.S. cotton industry. Cotton Foundation members are also able to sponsor special projects over and above their dues which enable the Foundation to conduct its overall mission of strengthening U.S. cotton's position in the competitive global market more efficiently. These projects are chosen to help the Foundation achieve the following goals:

- support present Foundation leadership and member education programs;
- provide educational programs that improve safety, productivity and environmental stewardship of the industry work force;
- identify short-term and longer-term issues facing the cotton industry and then develop and implement projects to address issues or needs;
- develop and provide funding for programs to help influence industry and government research;
- identify long-term, industrywide strategic issues that will affect the cotton industry; and identify and assess in a timely manner the impact of proposed regulations.

Leadership



The Cotton Foundation Board of Trustees is elected annually each year in August at the Annual Membership meeting. The following individuals have served the Cotton Foundation, and their time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Dean Calvani, Producer

Philip Edwards, Producer

David Light, Producer

Todd Rovey, Producer

Sam Whitaker, Producer

Stacy Smith, Producer

Hank Jones, Consultant

Rogers Leonard, Consultant

Jack Royal, Consultant

Gary Adams, NCC

Chad Brewer, NCC

Drew Davis, NCC

Travis Becton, John Deere

Eric Castner, FMC

Andrew Conner, BASF

Jennifer Crumpler, Bayer

Macie O'Shaughnessy, Syngenta

Matt Rekeweg, Corteva

Jeff Smith, Valent

Ross Rutherford, Lummus





2025 Beltwide Cotton Conferences

The National Cotton Council and its cooperating partners welcomed attendees of the 2025 Beltwide Cotton Conferences in New Orleans, LA for three days of individual reports, panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and seminars. The Beltwide Cotton Conferences allow for the dissemination of cotton-related research, promote collaboration and communication across the Cotton Belt and beyond, and strengthens U.S. cotton's profitability and competitiveness. Cotton Foundation member support of the Beltwide Cotton Conferences is vital to the continued success of the meeting. The [Beltwide website](#) contains information for upcoming meetings as well as the conference [proceeding archives](#).

- Consultants Conference (\$6,000) – **BASF, Bayer Crop Science, Corteva Agriscience, FMC, Syngenta**
- Final Program (\$7,000) – **Farm Credit**
- Cotton Engineering Systems Conference (\$1,500) – **John Deere**
- Cotton Ginning Conference (\$1,500) – **TAMA**
- Cotton Sustainability Conference (\$1,500) – **S&K Packaging**

2025 National Cotton Council Annual Meeting

Each year in February, the National Cotton Council holds its Annual Meeting where delegates from the seven cotton industry segments convene to develop, discuss, and approve Council policy for the coming year. Delegates are assigned to one of six program committees (Farm Program & Economic Policy, Health, Safety, & Environmental Quality, International Trade Policy, Packaging & Distribution, Public Relations & International Market Development, and Research & Education). The democratic process of the Council's policymaking procedure ensures a unified voice for the entire U.S. cotton industry. More information about the Council's structure can be found [here](#). Other Council business is addressed during the Annual Meeting as well such as officer elections, committee meetings, and award presentations. In 2025, NCC officers, board members, advisors, and delegates gathered in Dallas, TX for the event. The Cotton Foundation Board of Trustees also holds an in-person meeting in conjunction. Cotton Foundation members are welcomed and encouraged to attend and observe this process and network with folks in the industry. Cotton Foundation members generously supported the following 2025 Annual Meeting events:

- Night of Cotton Reception (\$4,500) – **AgroLiquid, AMVAC, Corteva Agriscience, Farm Progress, ICE Futures, John Deere, Nutrien, Samuel Strapping, Syngenta, TAMA, Valent**
- Hospitality Center (\$16,000) – **John Deere**
- Annual [Video Report](#) to Members (\$10,000) – **Bayer Crop Science, Farm Credit**
- General Session Opening Video (\$10,000) – **BASF**
- General Session (\$7,000) – **Corteva Agriscience, Farm Credit, Signode**
- Final Program and Online Registration (\$12,000) – **Bayer Crop Science**
- On-site Registration (\$7,000) – **Corteva Agriscience**
- Annual Meeting Mobile App (\$10,000) – **Nutrien**
- American Cotton Producers Business Session (\$12,000) – **Bayer Crop Science**
- Saturday Luncheon Keynote Speaker (\$10,000) – **Bayer Crop Science**
- Officers and Past Chairman Dinner (\$7,000) – **FMC**
- Farm Program and Economic Policy (\$2,500) – **Nutrien**
- Packaging and Distribution Committee Meeting (\$3,000) – **TAMA**

American Cotton Producers

The American Cotton Producers (ACP) is an organization of twenty-four cotton producer leaders elected by their peers from across the Cotton Belt. Membership is uniformly distributed among the major cotton-producing states.

The ACP is comprised of the chairman of the producer delegation from each of the sixteen state units; the five producer members of the NCC's Board of Directors; and three regional vice chairmen and the chairman, who is elected at-large by all NCC producer delegates. Thus, all state units are represented, and membership is uniformly distributed. All are elected for annual terms and must be producer delegates to the NCC.

Unlike other segments of the cotton industry, producers are not represented by a national organization separate from the NCC. Instead, they rely on strong state and regional organizations. From a national standpoint, the ACP is the producers' advocate within the NCC and has responsibility for developing recommendations on all matters affecting the production sector.

- ACP Spring Meeting – **Corteva**
- ACP & CF Joint Summer Meeting – **Farm Credit**

Cotton Foundation General Projects



General Projects are supported by Cotton Foundation membership dues and are approved by the Board of Trustees. Project proposals are accepted, compiled, and presented to the Research and Education Screening Committee before presentation to the Board for final approval. Project coordinators provide Cotton Foundation members project updates and share deliverables as projects develop and are completed. The Cotton Foundation would like to thank the following individuals for serving on the Research and Education Screening Committee:

Jeff Mink, Syngenta, Chairman

Dean Calvani, Producer

Wen Carter, AMVAC

Jennifer Crumpler, Bayer

Joel Faircloth, Corteva

Natalie Hummel, ADAMA

Scott Kohne, BASF

Ryan Kurtz, Cotton Incorporated

Rogers Leonard, Consultant

Ross Rutherford, Lummus

Charlotte Sanson, ADAMA

Marjory Walker, NCC

Sam Whitaker, Producer

- [Foundation Trustees Approve Research Projects](#)



Journal of Cotton Science

The [Journal of Cotton Science](#) published its first issue in 1997 and has served the cotton scientific community as the first online, open-access, peer-reviewed research journal since. JCS publishes quarterly issues of accepted manuscripts as accessible PDFs that aim to enhance our understanding of cotton science. Manuscripts are submitted to the following disciplines: Agronomy & Soils; Arthropod Management & Applied Ecology; Breeding, Genetics, & Genomics; Economics & Marketing; Engineering & Ginning; Plant Pathology & Nematology; Textile Technology; and Weed Science. The revised Cotton Ginners Handbook is also available through JCS.

In 2025, alongside manuscript submissions and publications work has been completed in the background to update the JCS website. It will go live alongside the main NCC website. We are excited for the updates that are to come. In total, thirty-two manuscripts have been submitted to date this year and have gone onto peer-review. There have been numerous submissions that were immediately returned to the author as they did not meet basic Journal standards. The JCS has published three regular issues and one special issue for the WCRC-8 with plans to publish a fourth regular issue before the end of the 2025 year. A breakdown of 2025 article submissions is below.

Discipline	Rejected	Withdrawn	In Progress	Published*	Total
Agronomy & Soils	4		2	2	8
Arthropod Mgmt & Applied Ecology			3	9	7
Breeding, Genetics, & Genomics	2		4	3	7
Economics & Marketing		1			1
Engineering & Ginning			4	1	5
<i>*Cotton Ginners Handbook</i>					
Plant Pathology & Nematology			3	1	3
Textile Technology			1		1
Weed Science				1	
<i>*WCRC-8 Special Issue</i>				9	
Total	6	1	17	26	32

*Published numbers include manuscripts submitted in previous years that were published in 2025.

Cotton Pest Loss Survey

Since 1978, estimates of cotton losses from pests have been compiled based on surveys and observations from county agents, extension specialists, crop consultants, and research entomologists. Don Cook (Mississippi State University) has coordinated this survey for insect pests since 2017. Reports are presented annually at Beltwide which can be found in the [Beltwide proceedings](#). Archived reports are also available [online](#).

Travis Faske (University of Arkansas) also collects and compiles similar survey data as related to cotton losses due to disease. The most current report (2024) can be found [here](#).

FOV4: Threat to Upland Cotton Production

Texas A&M faculty (previously Jane Dever, currently Terry Wheeler) utilize funds to cover land rent costs for research ground in a heavily infested site to conduct FOV4 research and cultivar screenings. Cotton breeders across the Southwest and West can conduct research at this site. Various publications from Dr. Dever, Dr. Jinfa Zhang, and Dr. Terry Wheeler, among others have been made possible by the continued support of the Foundation.

Pest Management Strategic Plan

The Cotton Foundation in cooperation with the Southern IPM Center and Dr. Kater Hake have created a much needed [updated pest management reference document](#) for the High and Rolling Plains (Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas). These types of documents are utilized by federal regulatory agencies for policy decisions. Producers, consultants, extension specialists, county agents, and other pest management experts contributed to the creation of this document via workshops, editing, and review. The document is included in the [National Integrated Pest Management Database](#). The Mid-South PMSP is in the final stages of revisions and should be published before the end of the 2025 year. Work has begun on the Southeastern region PMSP. The grower workshop is set to be held during the Southern Southeastern Annual Meeting in January 2026.

Additional Exposure

- [Collaboration Drives Midsouth Cotton Pest Management](#)

Don Parker Memorial Cotton Foundation Endowed Scholarship

The National Cotton Council, in collaboration with the Cotton Foundation and Mississippi State University, announced the establishment of the Don Parker Memorial Cotton Foundation Endowed Scholarship. Dr. Parker spent his early career advocating and promoting Mississippi agriculture and became a visionary leader and champion for the U.S. cotton industry during his time with the National Cotton Council. Prior to his death, Don worked diligently to pave a way for underrepresented minorities to become involved in agriculture and the cotton industry by providing the opportunity for an education at Mississippi State University. This scholarship was renamed to honor the work and legacy of Don.

The Cotton Foundation agreed to contribute annually to the permanent endowment fund for the scholarship. A Special Project was also established should Foundation members wish to contribute additional funds through the Foundation. The Mississippi State University Foundation is also directly accepting contributions to an [annual scholarship](#). It is an immense pleasure to report that the endowed scholarship will be full funded by January 2025 thanks to generous donations across the industry. Funds will be available to award the first scholarship for Fall 2026.

Compendium of Cotton Diseases and Pests, Third Edition

Travis Faske (University of Arkansas) has collaborated with other colleagues (Terrence Kirkpatrick, Craig Rothrock, and Jason Woodward) to edit and compile the third edition of the *Compendium of Cotton Diseases and Pests*. The Cotton Foundation contributed financially to the publication costs of this book. As part of the Foundation's support, we have received five copies of the book which are currently being held in our library.

Characterizing EPA PM_{2.5} Stack Sampler Performance: Cotton Gins

The objectives of this project were to determine if there were Method 201a stack sampling errors and estimate the magnitude of errors in gins across the Cotton Belt. If the calculated errors are positive, then oversampling has occurred. Oversampling can lead to a source (e.g. cotton gin) being over-regulated and forced to comply with more stringent air quality regulatory requirements than a source where no oversampling or under sampling has occurred.

Through this research, oversampling was shown to be a significant issue for the cotton gins evaluated in this study. The EPA Method 201a oversampling rates ranged from 86% to 2,164% and varied based on the cotton gin processing system sampled. The variability in oversampling can be connected to the relationship between oversampling and non-lint systems and high-lint systems.

This work was presented at the 2025 Beltwide Cotton Conferences and a manuscript is under peer-review. The group has continued this work and is now focusing on EPA's PM₁₀ Stack Sampler Performance. The PM₁₀ Stack

Sampler Performance preliminary findings were presented at the 2025 ASABE Texas Section Meeting and updated information will be presented at the 2026 Beltwide Cotton Conferences.

Refining Cotton Maturity and Target Development Curve for the Southern High Plains

This project aims to: monitor cotton maturity patterns in the Southern High Plains to determine if it significantly differs from either the midsouth model (Oosterhuis and Bourland, 2008), and/or a recent model in the Texas Panhandle (Borman, 2024); recalibrate maturation curves and their associated developmental targets; investigate lint yield and fiber quality contributions by fruiting position and timing of physiological cutout; and Create target development curves with associated benchmark parameters for the Southern High Plains using modern cultivars and area specific production practices.

In 2025, data were collected from the following RACE trial sites: Hale Co. (near Plainview), Crosby Co. (near Cone), and Terry Co. (west of Brownfield). At each of these sites, four varieties were chosen that should differ significantly in relative maturity. While there are some varieties that are common to the three sites, each site's varieties are unique. Dayson Schacher, the graduate student leading this project, presented some of the data at the CANVAS meeting in November and will also be presenting at the 2026 Beltwide Cotton Conferences.

Effects of Proposed Field Border Pesticide Drift and Runoff Mitigation on Tarnished Plant Bug Infestations in Cotton

This study aims to evaluate the effects of proposed insecticide/herbicide mitigation strategies on the incidence of TPB infestation and damage in cotton fields, as well as the effects on economic impacts imposed by potential yield loss.

Large fields were divided into halves with one half being treated for tarnished plant bugs and treatments on the other half excluding a 60 ft border width. The trial was replicated in two locations: Alexandria and Winnsboro, LA. Seven days after treatment, plant bug numbers in treated portions of the field were approximately two times higher in treated areas of the field adjacent to untreated borders relative to treated areas adjacent to treated borders. This effect was seen in treated areas up to 60 feet in distance from untreated borders. This data suggests that unsprayed borders, which are a suggested insecticide drift mitigation, can lead to more rapid infestation of treated areas and result in increased yield loss in areas adjacent to unsprayed borders.

The results from this project were presented as a poster at the National Entomological Society of America (November 9-12, 2025). Additionally, the results of the project will be presented as a poster at the 2026 Beltwide Cotton Conferences in January.

Investigation of "Crazy Cotton" Observed in Mid-South Cotton Production

This project aims to: define the scale and level of incidence of abnormal growth in the Mid-South cotton; establish insect isolation experiments; investigate potential causal agents of abnormal cotton growth; and identify abnormalities of meristematic tissue. In 2025, insect exclusion cages were deployed over plots and two important observations were made. First, burrowing bugs were found within some cages, suggesting an insecticide other than bifenthrin may be needed to exclude this insect from the cage. Furthermore, in numerous locations, split terminals were observed both under and outside of the cages. These preliminary results suggest *Lygus* feeding may not be the only cause of the 'crazy cotton' phenomenon. Other causal agents have been or will be investigated including the caging of plant bugs (clouded and tarnished) on seedling cotton, off- and on-label herbicide applications, nutrient management, and seed injury via mechanical and acid-delinting methods. Investigators are also relying on scanning electron microscopy to determine the morphological changes that impacted plants are undergoing.

Gabriella Marotta, the graduate student on the crazy cotton project, has presented findings at numerous meetings and conferences over the year. Attendees of UT's Cotton Tour in September were able to hear her speak

and ask questions and she is scheduled to speak at the Consultant's Conference as part of the 2026 Beltwide Cotton Conferences as well as a presentation in the Agronomy, Physiology, and Soils student competition.

Comparison of Conventional Pesticide Application and Inverted Lay-By Drop Nozzles for Control of Damaging Pests in Mid-South Cotton

This project aims to: determine which spray nozzles should be implemented to inverted lay-by drop nozzle application systems to properly distribute pesticide droplets to target sites on cotton plants; evaluate if insecticide applications utilizing inverted lay-by drop nozzles are more efficacious in controlling tarnished plant bugs and two spotted spider mites in cotton; and justification of the drop nozzle system can be utilized to generate possible mitigation points, as well as provide sufficient control for cotton insect pests.

In 2025, spray card experiments were initiated, and when tarnished plant bug populations migrated into Missouri cotton, efficacy trials began to strengthen the data set. The PhD student assigned to this project began classes at Mizzou in January of 2025, with exceptional performance and has shown great dedication to the fruition of this project. Ally Crowder, the graduate student working on this project, will be presenting findings from the 2025 season at the 2026 Beltwide Cotton Conferences. This project will continue into 2026.

Cotton Foundation Special Projects



Special projects are funded through donations from Foundation members over and beyond annual dues. Projects and programs are established through collaboration with Cotton Foundation members to serve as long-term opportunities to support the U.S. cotton industry. Over the years special projects have been established that support the Cotton Foundation reference book series, Beltwide research and education efforts, education efforts for regulators and legislators, leadership development, and emerging and priority research needs. Special projects in which funds were received during 2024 are highlighted below.

High Cotton Award

The High Cotton Award, presented annually by Farm Press Publications, recognizes U.S. cotton producers for the regenerative production of high-yielding, quality cotton. Top producers from each region are awarded each year. The [2025 recipients](#) were: [Taylor Slade](#) (Southeast), [Sledge Taylor](#) (Mid-South); [David Kohlleppe](#) (Southwest), and [Jake Cauzza](#) (West). Awardees are honored at the Mid-South Farm and Gin Show.



Additional Exposure

- [31st High Cotton class recognized](#)
- [Friends, family and industry honor cotton farmers](#)
- [Meet the High Cotton Award winners](#)
- [High Cotton Awards: Resilient survivors](#)

Emerging Leaders

Bayer Crop Science – \$85,000

The Emerging Leaders Program, now in its tenth year, provides participants with a better understanding of how the NCC operates to fulfill its mission of ensuring the U.S. cotton industry can compete effectively and profitably in both the domestic and global market. Participants also receive professional development and etiquette training, instruction for engaging with the news media, and utilizing social media tools and tactics.

The Program consists of three sessions. The first in Memphis and St. Louis provides an NCC orientation and the development trainings mentioned above. During the second session, class members attend NCC's Annual Meeting to observe policy development. Class members will travel to Washington, D.C. for a focus on policy implementation during the third session.

The 2025–2026 participants include: producers Branden Ahrens from TX, Bryce Howard from TX, and Kirk Teixeira from CA; ginner Craig Rohrbach from TX; merchant Ashley Paddock from IL; warehouse Matt Hennig from TX; cottonseed representative Luke Flair from NE; and marketing cooperative representative Kaimi Whitaker from TX.



Additional Exposure

- [NCC Emerging Leaders Visit Washington](#)
- [2025–2026 Emerging Leaders Program Class Announced](#)
- [Cotton Newsline: July 29, 2025](#)
- [Kirk Teixeira Reflects on Participating in the Emerging Leaders Program](#)

Multi-Commodity Education Program

John Deere – \$30,000

The Multi-Commodity Education Program, started in 2006, allows for producers and other agricultural associations from diverse geographical regions to observe cotton and other agricultural operations within the Cotton Belt. This cross-commodity exchange offers participants a better understanding of production challenges faced by their peers in different geographic regions and the opportunity to observe agronomic practices, technology utilization, cropping patterns, marketing strategies, and operational structure unique to the region. This Program also fosters dialogue among American farmers regardless of the crops they grow and builds relationships between the nation's current and future producer leaders.

This year's participants toured Idaho and included: Bryan Baker, Sudan, TX; Barry Bean, Gideon, MO; David Dunlow, Gaston NC; Cassy England, Marana, AZ; Shane Isbell, Cherokee, AL; Wyatt McKean, Riverdale, CA; David Parrish, Goldsboro, NC; Brett Schniers, Wall, TX; Jake Sheely, Lemoore, CA; and Bill Walker, Somerville, TN.

The group traveled across Southeastern Idaho and were exposed to aspects of Idaho agriculture including barley, potatoes, sugar beets, irrigation systems, dairy and feed facilities, fish hatcheries, phosphate mining facilities, as well as down-stream processing facilities (Anheuser Busch [barley] and fresh pack potatoes).



Producer Information Exchange

BASF – \$125,000

The Producer Information Exchange (P.I.E.) Program, launched in 1989, allows producers to visit regions of the Cotton Belt different than their own to learn about production practices and innovations in other areas. This exposure to practices unique to other regions helps U.S. cotton producers to maximize production efficiency and improve yields and fiber quality. In 2025, producers from the West, Mid-South, and Southeast saw Texas and Oklahoma farming operations and a group of Southwest producers traveled to California to observe farming operations there.

Participants that traveled to TX and OK included: Brendan Babb of Windsor, Virginia; Matthew Brown of Monroe, Louisiana; Leland Cariker and Connor Cariker, both of Dundee, Mississippi; Trevor Cascia and Mark Coit, both of Los Banos, California; Carson Cross of Midville, Georgia; Robert Culverson of Bainbridge, Georgia; Haley Easley of Greenwood, Mississippi; Bryan East of Leesburg, Alabama; Amy Hatley of Mesa, Arizona; Matthew McMichen of Centre, Alabama; Charles Miles of McGhee, Arkansas; John Wallace Jr. of Crawfordsville, Arkansas; and Luke West of Fremont, North Carolina.



Participants that traveled to CA included: Joshua Ast of Mayfield, KS; Darryl Blakey of Silver Spring, MD; Marcus Cave of Rotan, TX; Christopher Clark of Levelland, TX; Bo Eggemeyer of Midkiff, TX; Sterling Field of Durham, NC; Brent Jacob of Winters, TX; Joshua Klatt of Shallowater, TX; Steve Olson of Plainview, TX; Doyle Schniers of San Angelo, TX; Justin Stoerner of Lockney, TX; and Wesley Williams of Roscoe, TX.



Additional Exposure

- [NCC Southwest P.I.E. Tour Kicks Off Next Week](#)
- [NCC's 2025 Western P.I.E. Tour Set to Kick Off in California](#)
- [Cotton Newsline: August 12, 2025](#)

Dunavant Policy Advocacy Program

Endowment from The Dunavant Foundation

The Cotton Foundation, through the generous support of The Dunavant Foundation, is pleased to announce that the Policy Education Program has been renamed to the Dunavant Policy Advocacy Program. This program intends to educate participants on the importance of their involvement and advocacy in the success of the U.S. cotton industry. Participants will gain a more thorough understanding of the National Cotton Council's policy development and implementation process and the role it plays at the state and national level. Participants will also receive leadership and communication trainings to be more effective advocates and communicators.

The inaugural class included: Kade Benson of Lamesa, TX; Wesley Brandon of Marianna, AR; Douglas Harrell of Camilla, GA; Hayne Hazlehurst of Jackson, TN; Calvin Neal of Lubbock, TX; Aaron Palmer of Blythe, CA; James Parker of Lake Providence, LA; Charlcey Plummer of Altus, OK; and Samantha Steinmetz of Apache, OK.

The first session was held at the NCC's Annual Meeting in February. The Council's Washington Office hosted the group in July for the second session. After receiving media training and learning about political advocacy and engagement, the group met with representatives from USDA-FSA, USDA-RMA, USDA-NRCS, USTR, EPA, the White House, and numerous congressional staffers.



Additional Exposure

- [NCC Advocacy Participants Receive Trainings, Briefings](#)

Educational Outreach

Bayer Crop Science – contribution amount varies annually.

In 2025, the Cotton Foundation welcomed twelve federal regulators representing the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture on a week-long farm tour covering the Mid-Atlantic region. Attendees visited a Gildan spinning mill, Cotton Incorporated, and farms and gins in NC and VA. Regulators spoke directly to farmers across the region and other industry stakeholders about the Endangered Species Act regulations and implications, acephate and dicamba registrations, pesticide application technology, and water and fertilizer management. Attendees take the information and experiences they gather during the week back to their respective offices where they can educate their peers and make policy decisions with the U.S. cotton producer in mind. These connections and conversations are invaluable to ensuring that decisions made in Washington, D.C. are considering the real world.



Additional Exposure:

- [The Cotton Foundation hosts Annual Federal Regulator Cotton Tour](#)

Southern Extension Weed Scientist Working Group

AMVAC, BASF, Bayer, FMC, Syngenta – \$10,000 per sponsor

NCGA, Cotton Inc., USB, USA Rice, Sorghum, and Peanut - \$1,000 per sponsor

The Southern Extension Weed Scientist Working Group meets on an annual basis to discuss new and emerging issues, provide state updates, and develop Beltwide research projects to address common issues U.S. producers are facing. Sponsors sit in on open sessions with the specialists and have dedicated time to speak in private with the working group to discuss company specific product performance, research needs, and regulatory issues. In 2025, representatives from other commodity boards were in attendance. The inclusion of commodity boards was welcomed by the specialists as weed related issues occur across commodities therefore research dollars can come

from multiple sources. Commodity representatives communicated funding opportunities to attendees. Gaylon Morgan, with Cotton Incorporated, has ongoing research projects that have been developed because of this meeting and the opportunity for collaboration that it provides.

Specialists from across the Cotton Belt that attended in 2025 included: Scott Nolte and Peter Dotray (TX); Todd Baughmann (OK, now TX); Liberty Galvin (OK); Alex Mangialardi (MO); Justin Calhoun, John Byrd, and Jason Bond (MS); Bob Scott (AR); Connor Webster, Stephen Ippolito and Matt Foster (LA); Steve Li and David Russell (AL); Eric Prostko (GA); and Charlie Cahoon (NC)

Beltwide Nematode & Seedling Disease Research and Education Programs

Bayer Crop Science – \$50,000 total

Bayer Crop Science has sponsored both the Beltwide Nematode and Seedling Disease Research and Education Programs for numerous years. Plant pathologists and nematologists from across the Cotton Belt participate in standardized research trials to evaluate product performance on an annual basis. Specialists meet prior to the Beltwide Cotton Conferences to discuss research findings, emerging issues, and industry needs to address issues related to nematodes and seedling diseases.



The Cotton Foundation would like to express our sincere gratitude to its members for their contributions and dedication to the U.S. cotton industry. Without each of you we would not be in the position to advocate for and advance the industry.

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