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ARIZONA COTTON RESEARCH AND PROTECTION COUNCIL

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January 26, 2021

Dear Cotton Grower:

The main rule governing the Plow Down Program (Cultural Practices) under Rule R3-4-204, has been renamed to "Cotton Pest Management: Interior", and modified, in recognition of the regulatory changes brought about by the Pink Bollworm Eradication Declaration on October 19, 2018. The cultural control (cotton post-harvest crop remnant destruction) portion of the rule remains in full effect.

The full text of the rule can be viewed here: <https://www.azcotton.org/assets/files/R3-4-204-Highlight.pdf>

For the 2020 crop year, the rebate for Plow Down compliance is \$2.50 per bale. Prior to the 2019 crop the rebate has been \$2 for several years.

You now can REGISTER YOUR FARM ON LINE at AZCOTTON.ORG OR you must call 1-888-712-4134 to arrange inspection and receive your rebate.

Listed below are the steps necessary for you to receive the bale rebate.

1. Bring your fields into compliance by shredding all of your cotton stalks and tilling the land to destroy the host plant and its root system, with no stalks remaining attached to the soil, prior to planting another crop or prior to the dates listed below, whichever occurs earlier; (Arizona Department of Agriculture Rule R3-4-204 C) (See cultural zones and tillage dates on pg. 3)
- OR
2. If you elect to plant a small grain crop following a cotton harvest, you may, after the host plant is shredded, irrigate and plant with wheat, barley or oats instead of tilling as prescribed in #1 above. Crops other than those noted require 15-day advance notification to the Arizona Department of Agriculture for approval by the Director. (Arizona Department of Agriculture Rule R3-4-204 C)
3. **Go to www.azcotton.org/plower and click on the "Plowdown Certification Request" link to fill out the form on line** or call 1-888-712-4134 with your FSA number as soon as you complete the required shredding and tillage and an Arizona Cotton Research & Protection Council (ACRPC) inspector will check your fields. If your fields are not in compliance, you will have until the tillage deadline to bring

them into compliance. In order to ensure that all of your fields are in compliance before the deadline, please complete your tillage as early as possible.

4. If your fields are in compliance, your gin will receive an electronic notice of compliance (certification #) authorizing your rebate. You **will not** receive a certification letter as in the past, and should contact your gin following the call to the ACRPC to determine when the rebate is released. Gins receive weekly certification reports from ACRPC as the tillage deadline approaches. This process should improve the timeliness of the rebate release authorization.
5. You must fill out the form on line or call 1-888-712-4134 (toll free) or 602-438-2088 with your FSA number to get your rebate REGARDLESS of which option your gin chooses to handle the financial aspects of the PLOWER program.
6. If any cotton fields on a producer's farm are not in compliance by the tillage deadline for the respective cultural zone, the owner/producer will be receive a written Notice of Non-Compliance by the ACRPC inspectors explaining why the fields listed did not meet compliance. **Non-Compliance will result in loss of rebate for the entire FSA farm number and a \$100 per acre penalty for individual acres out of compliance, (A.R.S. § 3-1086 D.).**
7. Upon receipt of the Notice of Non-Compliance, any non-compliant fields need to be in compliance within 5-7 days. If those fields are not brought into compliance by the abatement deadline, A.R.S. §3-205 mandates that the State shall till the land and bill the owner or person in charge for 150% of the tillage costs. Furthermore, A.R.S. §3-205(G) specifically states, **"The director (of the Arizona Department of Agriculture) may impose a civil penalty of one hundred fifty percent of the costs of abatement. At the director's request, the attorney general shall file an action in superior court to recover civil penalties assessed pursuant to this subsection."**
8. The Council, by law, is responsible for reviewing and granting or denying weather related extensions. Before the tillage deadline, a grower must provide the proper weather related documentation and complete the formal request process as outlined at our web site: WWW.AZCOTTON.ORG under the Plower Program tab. (please see the council website for the most current guidelines.)

Please be advised, by law, consideration for an extension is limited to weather related events (ACRPC Rule R3-9-303). To read the actual verbiage, please visit our web site at WWW.AZCOTTON.ORG under the Plower Program tab.

Sincerely,



Leighton Liesner
Director

CULTURAL ZONES AND TILLAGE DATES

Generalized Cultural Zones*	ZONE	New Tillage Date	Host Free Period Days	New Planting Date
YUMA CO except Dateland and Aztec	A	15-Jan	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct
COCHISE, GRAHAM & GREENLEE COUNTIES	B	1-Mar	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct
MOHAVE CO, LAPAZ CO Except Aguila, Vicksburg, Wenden & Salome area	C	15-Feb	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct Days
PIMA CO, plus Winkleman in Pinal Co & Aguila in LaPaz Co	D	1-Mar	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct
REMAINDER OF STATE (PINAL & MARICOPA CO, plus Vicksburg, Wenden & Salome in LaPaz Co)	E	15-Feb	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct

*** Go to WWW.AZCOTTON.ORG FOR SPECIFIC ZONE BOUNDARIES**