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ARIZONA COTTON RESEARCH AND PROTECTION COUNCIL
3721 E WIER AVE
PHOENIX AZ 85040-2933
602-438-0059 (PH)
602-438-0407 (FAX)

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>

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO ACRES PLANTED ABOVE 2700'

You now can REGISTER YOUR FARM ON LINE at AZCOTTON.ORG OR you must call 1-888-712-4134 to request inspection for compliance.

Listed below are the steps necessary for you to meet compliance.

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.

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

4. If any cotton fields in a producer's farm are not in compliance by the tillage deadline for the respective cultural zone, the owner/producer will receive a written Notice of Non-Compliance by the ACRPC inspectors explaining why the fields did not meet compliance. **Acres not in compliance at the deadline are subject to a \$100 per acre penalty, (A.R.S. § 3-1086 D.).**
5. 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 up to 150% of the tillage costs. 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 per cent 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."**
6. 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 Plover 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 Plover Program tab.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leighton Liesner".

Leighton Liesner
Director

Generalized Cultural Zones*	ZONE	New Tillage Date	Host Free Period in days	New Planting Date
<i>YUMA CO except Dateland and Aztec</i>	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
<i>MOHAVE CO, LAPAZ CO Except Aguila, Vicksburg, Wenden & Salome area</i>	C	15-Feb	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct
<i>PIMA CO, plus Winkleman in Pinal Co & Aguila in La Paz Co</i>	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 La Paz Co)	E	15-Feb	15	No less than 15 Days after tillage Date AND Crop Destruct