Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of Cotton Incorporated. The cotton industry has changed significantly over the past five decades; from the way we grow cotton to its ability to perform in a range of apparel and home textiles. Speaking as a cotton grower as well as the current Chairman of Cotton Incorporated, I rest a little easier knowing that there is a company out there looking out for my business interests and those of my fellow U.S. cotton growers.

Cotton growers are part farmer and part businessman. Either role is a fulltime job unto itself. Fortunately, Cotton Incorporated exists to lighten the burden in both areas. Agricultural research and other activities conducted by Cotton Incorporated continue to help growers across the seventeen states of the Cotton Belt produce a successful harvest of saleable fiber.

Depending on the season, getting a crop of quality Upland fiber from planting to harvest can be a battle. But, it is only half the battle, because that cotton still has to be sold; and preferably at a rate that is better than break-even. Selling our product is dependent on the demand for it; and Cotton Incorporated has that covered.

There was a time when cotton’s primary competition was polyester. Today cotton faces considerably more challenges: international trade issues; economic volatility; an increasing number of competitive fibers vying for market share; negative and false perceptions of cotton’s sustainability; and ever-changing consumer preferences.

As you will see from this report, Cotton Incorporated is actively analyzing these situations and taking actions to improve our prospects.

Cotton Incorporated maintains an eagle’s view of the global supply chain, monitoring threats and identifying opportunities for cotton. On the manufacturing side, the company has a reputation across the global textile industry as a resource, an educator, and a troubleshooter. This keen understanding of all aspects of cotton’s journey from the field to consumer closets helps the company help the industry, including all of us that earn our living growing cotton.

Because of Cotton Incorporated, there are textile technologies that expand cotton’s ability to compete in the athletic and outdoor apparel categories; categories that have been dominated by synthetics.

Because of Cotton Incorporated, we have scientific proof that synthetic microfibers pose a significantly greater threat to the environment than cotton microfibers. Because of Cotton Incorporated, U.S. cotton is a player on the global sustainability stage, where the true environmental impact of cotton can be proclaimed and defended, when necessary.

Because of Cotton Incorporated, consumers across the country and across all demographic categories are consistently reminded of cotton’s benefits and desirability. And because of Cotton Incorporated, U.S. Upland has more opportunities for success.

As you read through this summary of the year’s activities, consider the totality of Cotton Incorporated activities and how they work together to improve your business, my business, and to secure the future of cotton for the next generation of growers.
Cotton Incorporated developed and executed programs to address the economic, marketing and agronomic challenges that face the U.S. and world cotton market. The year started with expectations that world economic growth would be relatively strong, but the year ended with world growth significantly below average. The various global trade disputes were negative factors that contributed to the subpar economic performance worldwide, which in turn resulted in slower than expected world cotton demand and weakening textile fiber prices.

On the positive side, cotton’s share in the U.S. stabilized and rose in some key markets, and prior to the trade disputes, global cotton demand was on pace to hit record levels. This despite cotton’s significant price disadvantage to competing fibers.

The following narrative will highlight just some of the key programs in 2019 which include both marketing and research activities.

The major overarching initiatives for Cotton Incorporated in 2019 were:
- maintaining a strong global presence for cotton;
- sustainability;
- technology development and implementation for cotton; and
- programs that more directly improve farm profitability for U.S. producers.

Maintaining a Strong Global Presence for Cotton

The value of cotton is determined by world market factors, many of which are out of our control such as global economic conditions, alternative fiber prices, exchange rates, and various fashion cycles. Within these constraints, it remains imperative to maximize the use of cotton worldwide to help mitigate inventory buildup which is a key driver of price. Cotton Incorporated and Cotton Council International are the only two organizations worldwide with critical resources to promote cotton and U.S. cotton. The U.S. market remains the world’s largest consumer market for cotton.

In 2019, digital and television promotions reached 89% of our target audience an average of 10.3 times. Key themes included the importance of knowing what is in your clothes, the role of cotton in health and wellness, and a focus on denim which has been a key market for cotton apparel.

With fewer resources than in past years, we have focused on leveraging our messaging by also targeting fashion influencers, many of whom, have large followings on social media. Cotton Incorporated’s brand collaborations with companies like Amazon, Revolve, and Zappos are also instrumental in leveraging our marketing resources.

Fashion drives the apparel business, and the Fashion Marketing team at Cotton Incorporated is instrumental in identifying key global trends and connecting cotton fabrics and products to those emerging trends. In addition to industry and company presentations, the staff has leveraged its resources through Cotton Incorporated’s COTTONWORKS™ platform, where 2,807 users viewed the fashion presentations in 2019.

Workshops have been a critical means of promoting cotton technologies as well as educating brands/retailers on new possibilities in cotton. Themes such as sweater manufacturing, denim, sustainability, performance products as well as other relevant topics were used in 44 separate workshops in 2019, reaching 1,300 industry decision makers.

Nonwovens is an important market for textile products but an end market where cotton represents a small share, as it is dominated by synthetic fibers and to a lesser extent, other cellulosic fibers. Environmental concerns like the lack of degradation of synthetic fibers is creating potential opportunities for cotton. Our nonwovens department continues to work with personal care and medical manufacturers and brands, and educates this sector through webinars hosted on CottonWorks™.
The foundation of improving sustainability for cotton is to shrink the environmental footprint of raw cotton production. Agricultural research efforts at Cotton Incorporated are largely geared to the continued improvement of these metrics such as improving input efficiencies, better and earlier pest control measures, efforts to protect yields from diseases such as FOV4, among others.

Each year Cotton Incorporated executes more than 350 agricultural research contracts and virtually all have a connection to sustainability. U.S. cotton sustainability has exhibited significant improvement based on forty years of independent data. However, there is increasing industry pressure globally for additional verified improvements going forward and long-term research in areas such as robotics, data management, integrated pest management strategies, energy, water, and other input efficiencies is critical for the U.S. industry to meet those requirements.

Like any manufacturing process, the conversion of raw cotton into yarns, fabrics and finished products has an environmental footprint. Cotton Incorporated continues to develop fabrics and finishes that are less impactful to the environment while meeting the performance and fashion needs of the marketplace. Examples include more sustainable moisture-management technologies and wrinkle-resistant finishes that are critical for cotton to compete with synthetic fibers.

Communication of cotton’s progress to both industry and consumers has been a cornerstone of our sustainability strategy. In 2019, Cotton Incorporated targeted numerous consumer and B-to-B outlets to communicate the sustainability improvements of U.S. cotton, and the advantages of cotton versus synthetic fibers. A key event in 2019 was the Cotton Sustainability Summit, where Cotton Incorporated staff, other cotton industry experts, and external scientists provided facts on cotton, synthetic fibers, as well as providing a roadmap for U.S. cotton’s plan for future progress.

Approximately 100 sustainability executives from around the world attended the two-day event. One of the highlights of the event was Cotton Incorporated’s sponsored research on the degradation of textile fibers in water. In roughly one month’s time, cotton was shown to bio-degrade in fresh water, sea water, and wastewater; whereas polyester showed little or no degradation. Microplastic pollution from plastic-derived products such as polyester has become a major environmental concern worldwide.

Sustainability continued to be an increasingly high priority for brands and retailers. It spans the fiber production process all the way through to disposal or repurposing, and it covers virtually all industries not just textiles and apparel. For cotton, and especially for U.S. cotton, this could be a significant longer-term advantage over other fibers, notably polyester. As such, sustainability a major company-wide and industry-wide issue which is supported with numerous research and marketing activities.

Sustainability to develop fabrics and finishes that are less impactful to the environment while meeting the performance and fashion needs of the marketplace. Examples include more sustainable moisture-management technologies and wrinkle-resistant finishes that are critical for cotton to compete with synthetic fibers.

An increasing number of brands and retailers are demanding independent verification in sustainability programs. Cotton Incorporated has provided staff support as well as financial support to the National Cotton Council in helping to create and implement the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol. This program will be critical for U.S. cotton to more effectively compete in the world market as sustainability requirements intensify.

The company also remains actively engaged with leading sustainability organizations such as Field to Market, Sustainable Apparel Coalition, Textile Exchange and others. Sustainability organizations have significant influence over brands and retailers worldwide.

Technology Development & Implementation

Cotton competes primarily with polyester and rayon, two fibers that are often engineered to meet the specific needs of the final product. In the past decade, an increased percentage of textile products require one or more performance attributes such as moisture management, stretch, UV protection, water resistance, abrasion resistance etc. At the same time, consumers have gravitated towards lighter-weight fabrics which is an additional challenge for cotton. The research and marketing teams at Cotton Incorporated continue to work to develop fabrics and finishes that will help cotton meet these.
challenges. Technologies such as TransDRY™, WICKING WINDOWS™, STORM COTTON™, and TOUGH COTTON™ are helping cotton compete in performance-based markets. In 2019, there were 170 suppliers of these technologies worldwide.

In 2019, 7,000 swatches of innovative fabrics developed by Cotton Incorporated through FABRICAST™ were delivered to more than 300 mills, brands, and retailers globally—many containing performance technologies. Trade shows, meetings with individual companies, Cotton Incorporated workshops, as well as our digital marketing platform COTTONWORKS™ are key vehicles for showcasing new ideas in cotton.

Engineered Fiber Selection® (EFS®) is a cotton management system developed by Cotton Incorporated in the 1980s for mills processing U.S. cotton. Today this system is utilized throughout the Americas and Asia and is a critical tool for securing a stronger bond between U.S. cotton and spinners around the world. In 2019, our staff worked with 79 actual or potential EFS® licensees with over 3,000 engagements. There were 55 licensees of the EFS® management system in 2019.

Improving Farm Profitability

U.S. growers are competing against persistently cheaper manmade fibers on a global stage. Furthermore, soft overall economic conditions typically suppress both demand and prices. Cotton Incorporated recognizes the profitability challenges that this poses for U.S. growers and is a key reason for the company’s continued investment in agricultural research based programs that have the potential for maximizing the plant’s yield potential while controlling to the extent possible the cost of producing cotton. This includes known issues such as weed resistance, key pest controls as well as being responsive to new threats such as FOV4.

In 2019, key program areas included research into a range of weed management solutions, such as herbicide alternatives and field robots; and nutrient management research to optimize nitrogen performance while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.

An emerging issue in recent years for U.S. cotton is plastic contamination. This has been a multi-divisional priority and 2019 efforts included evaluations of plastic contamination removal systems, machinery for removal at the mill stage as well as farm level strategies. The historically low contamination level of U.S. cotton, and the premium garnered for U.S. cotton, is under threat from this issue, especially in periods of high overall availability of cottons from other key exporters such as Brazil and India. This will be a multi-year effort and progress will be important in securing a premium for U.S. cotton.

Continued improvements in fiber quality characteristics are vital for U.S. cotton to compete with other cottons and other fibers. Fiber of the Future is a long-term project designed to help the U.S. industry match the future fiber characteristics for U.S. cotton to the needs of future machinery and end products that ultimately drive demand. Improving length uniformity is a key objective within this initiative. Sales of cottonseed represent about 15 percent of U.S. producers market revenues from the cotton plant. Lower soybean prices, a weak dairy market, and somewhat higher levels of U.S. cottonseed supply have suppressed prices in the last several years, although prices recovered somewhat in 2019. In 2019, the company augmented resources for both cottonseed marketing and cottonseed research. New ads were featured at World Dairy Expo as well as in trade publications targeted to the dairy industry. Additionally, Cotton Incorporated began advancing a program to promote the merits of cottonseed oil to trade and consumers, including outreach to nutritionists and the development of a web destination to appeal to both target audiences.

Research continued on the potential health benefits of cottonseed oil. Earlier sponsored research showed promise in the ability of cottonseed oil to reduce “bad” cholesterol and increase “good” cholesterol, as compared to olive oil. Additional research with rats identified a component of cottonseed oil (DHSA) that aids the metabolism of cholesterol. The next step will be to explore the potential benefits of DHSA on human subjects.

Summary

This summary is just a partial view of Cotton Incorporated’s activities in 2019. While 2019 was a tough year in terms of external factors that influence the overall global market for textiles, our research and marketing activities continued to tackle threats and look for opportunities that provide benefits to both producers and importers.

We greatly appreciate the support of our stakeholders.
2019 Highlights: Agricultural & Environmental Research

Diseases

- FOV4: verification of Upland varieties with tolerance and understanding of pathogen and disease
- Target Spot: management guidelines developed
- Cotton Leaf Roll Dwarf Virus: detection methods, survey, alternate hosts, vector & breeding
- Reniform: treated varieties released using GB713

Cottonseed

- FDA deregulation of ULGCS and a Stoneville 474 ULGCS seed increase block completed
- Cottonseed oil feeding study with “at risk” humans showing heart health benefits
- Launch of cottonseed oil and protein testing service for public breeders

Agricultural Engineering

- Demonstration of Robot Harvester in the field
- Demonstration of plastic removal systems in commercial gins
- Release of Open Source Software to facilitate use of RFID tags for traceability

Weed and Insect Control

- Applied weed control research program developed
- Evaluated yield impact of insecticides in 2 and 3-gene Bt cotton
- Novel plant-based insect control strategies launched
- Demonstration of a novel herbicide mode of action in the lab

Variety Improvement

- Publicly released all five reference grade cotton genomes, including Upland and Pima
- Commercial adoption of University of Arkansas and University of Georgia cotton varieties
- Expanded delivery of public varieties to private seed companies
- Gene Editing now widely adopted by cooperators for yield, quality and pest control

Sustainability

- Launched U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol Pilot and developed key program areas for 2020 program launch
- Developed U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol producer enrollment communication strategy
- Led key research in microfiber degradation and micro-plastics emissions
- Improved sustainability reputation of cotton through increased engagement with industry sustainability groups
- Expanded support to Sustainability, Consumer Marketing and Global Supply Chain Marketing Divisions
2019 Highlights: Consumer Marketing

Advertising
- Consumer advertising campaigns reached 872 million consumers
- Campaign themes included: Life is Uncomfortable; Health & Wellness; Youth Marketing; and Check the Label
- Surveys reveal that consumers exposed to 2019 advertising were 3.1% more likely to purchase items made from cotton
- TheFabricOfOurLives.com received more than 1.2 million views

Brand Partnerships
- Department collaboration with Amazon for second year to promote cotton through curated apparel collections
- The Amazon program resulted in more than 979 million consumers being exposed to cotton messaging
- The Blue Jeans Go Green™ program continued to gain visibility
- Retailers and brands that participated in the 2019 BJGG programs include: American Eagle Outfitters; Levi’s & Zappos

Public Relations
- 2019 efforts garnered more than 2,000 items of media coverage
- Media and sponsorships combined reached an estimated audience of more than 1.5 billion consumers
- Among department sponsorships was the inaugural World Cotton Day event, which reached an audience of 7,500

Consumer Marketing & Program Metrics
- The department conducted 20 market research projects
- The department created and distributed 268 publications
- The department made or provided 118 global presentations to more than 2,100 supply chain decision makers
2019 Highlights: Global Supply Chain Marketing

Technology Adoptions
• The division secured 14 new production adoptions and launches by brands and retailers in the U.S., Asia, and Mexico

CottonWorks™
• The educational resource subscriber base neared 30,000
• The site conducted 44 online workshops attended by more than 1,300 industry participants
• The site presented four webinars viewed by more than 750 companies

Great Ideas In Cotton Conference
• 350 attendees
• 170 companies from 11 countries represented

Mexican Retailer Workshop
• 67 buyers from 15 different retailers attended
• Program stressed versatility of cotton
• A successful retailer case study was shared

3D Cotton Project
• Division engaged consultants to better understand digital design opportunities for cotton fabrics
• 20 companies consulted
• Work commenced to digitize a selection of FABRICAST™ constructions

CottonLEADS℠
• Division efforts brought the total number of partner companies to nearly 600
2019 Highlights: Research & Development

FIBER COMPETITION

Elongation Research
• Fiber Competition began the practical application of elongation calibration research into routine testing

Length Uniformity Research
• Ongoing research in this area has led to a published study
• Software to extract fibrogram was developed
• Test to compare fibrogram and AFIS data to calculate fiber elongation commenced

Contamination Research
• Gin apron camera/ejection contamination systems installed at two beta gin sites
• Modifications to the GoldenLion system improved removal of the three testing contaminants

Engineered Fiber Selection™ (EFS™) Program
• Three new licensees signed, representing 488,000 bales
• The department converted 29 companies in 12 countries to Generation 5 software
• Updates for MILLNet™ and USCROP® software applications were reviewed

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

Fiber Processing
• Research on the development of novel yarns utilized new winder machinery and were included in select FABRICAST™ constructions
• Research conducted on ways to improve yarn spun on vortex spinners
• Staff conducted meetings with machine vendors to address contamination concerns
• Trials were implemented to quantify plastic contamination

Textile Chemistry Research
• Microfiber degradation research continued with a focus on the impacts of dyes and finishes on cotton fiber’s ability to degrade in aquatic environments
• Sweat Hiding™ technology launched
• Dual-technology finishes were introduced at Outdoor Retailer Show:
  • TransDRY™ & TOUGH COTTON™
  • STORM COTTON™ & TOUGH COTTON™
• Interest in PUREPRESS™ technology was high with 13 separate trials and one supplier expand-ing its trials to 34 styles

Product Development
• Fabric constructions focused on the activewear category
• A strong emphasis on sustainability included the use of selvedge denim, cationic dyes, and mechanical finishing
• Cotton-rich fabrics with conductive yarns for e-textiles
• A new fine-gauge circular knitting machine and a Jacquard weaving machine were installed at the Cary, NC facility

Product Integrity
• Staff authored a paper on proper implementation of life cycle assessments
• Staff represented cotton’s interest in a range of industry meetings and conferences
• Staff contributed to an international standards conference on GMO screening for textiles
Additional information about Cotton Incorporated 2019 Programs are available through the links below:

- **2019 Committee Activity Tables**
  - Agricultural Research Committee
  - Consumer Marketing Committee
  - Global Supply Chain Marketing Committee
  - Research & Development Committee

- **2019 USDA Annual Report**
- **2019 Actual to Budget Report**
COTTON INCORPORATED

PROGRAMS EXPENDITURES
2015 - 2019
($000)

Chart Title

- Consumer Marketing
- Agricultural Research & Sustainability
- Global Supply Chain Marketing
- Product Development & Implementation
- Fiber Competition
- Administration

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Consumer Marketing</th>
<th>Agricultural Research &amp; Sustainability</th>
<th>Global Supply Chain Marketing</th>
<th>Product Development &amp; Implementation</th>
<th>Fiber Competition</th>
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## Cotton Incorporated Operations Expenditures 2015 - 2019

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<th>Total Operations</th>
<th>Salaries</th>
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<th>Staff Travel</th>
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## Cotton Incorporated 2019 Board Officers, Directors & Alternates

### Board Officers
- **Bernie Jordan**
  - Chairman
- **Van Murphy**
  - Vice Chair
- **James Johnson**
  - Secretary
- **Marvin Beyer**
  - Treasurer

### Corporate Officers
- **J. Berrye Worsham**
  - President & CEO
- **David N. Byrd**
  - Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
- **John Morgans**
  - Vice President, Administration & Assistant to the President

### Senior Staff
- **Kimberly Kitchings**
  - Senior Vice President, Consumer Marketing
- **Mark Messura**
  - Senior Vice President, Global Supply Chain Marketing
- **John Chiavacci**
  - Vice President, Information Technology & Chief Technology Officer
- **Jesse Daystar**
  - Vice President, Sustainability & Chief Sustainability Officer
- **Kater Hake**
  - Vice President, Agricultural & Environmental Research

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- **Jesse Daystar**
  - Vice President, Sustainability & Chief Sustainability Officer
- **Kater Hake**
  - Vice President, Agricultural & Environmental Research
# SOUTHEAST REGION

## Alabama
- **Dir. Shane Isbell**
  Muscle Shoals, AL
- **Alt. Tommy Thompson**
  Andalusia, AL
- **Dir. Charlie Speake**
  Eufaula, AL
- **Alt. Andy Wendland**
  Autaugaiville, AL
- **Dir. Phil Vandiver**
  Madison, AL
- **Alt. John Newby**
  Athens, AL

## Florida
- **Dir. Jerry Davis**
  Jay, FL
- **Alt. Lewie Joe Smith**
  Jay, FL

## Georgia
- **Dir. Hugh Dollar**
  Bainbridge, GA
- **Alt. Chad Mathis**
  Arlington, GA
- **Dir. Darren Hembree**
  Doerun, GA
- **Alt. Phil Murray**
  Axon, GA
- **Dir. Ronnie Lee**
  Bronwood, GA
- **Alt. Jeremy Gay**
  Matthews, GA
- **Dir. Van Murphy**
  Quitman, GA
- **Alt. Preston Jimmerson**
  Doerun, GA
- **Dir. John Ruark**
  Bishop, GA
- **Alt. Bart Davis**
  Doerun, GA
- **Dir. Wendell Sumner**
  Omega, GA
- **Alt. Johnny Crawford**
  Chula, GA
- **Dir. Clint Webb**
  Boston, GA
- **Alt. Ryne Brannen**
  Statesboro, GA

## North Carolina
- **Dir. Andrew Burleson**
  Richfield, NC
- **Alt. Vacant**
  _____, NC
- **Dir. Donny Lassier**
  Conway, NC
- **Alt. Rob Fleming**
  Zebulon, NC
- **Dir. Allen McLaurin**
  Laurel Hill, NC
- **Alt. Marshall Newton**
  Raeford, NC

## South Carolina
- **Dir. Davis Calhoun**
  Clio, SC
- **Alt. Doug Jarrell**
  Estill, SC
- **Dir. Kent Wannamaker**
  St. Matthews, SC
- **Alt. Jonathan Berrye**
  Branchville, SC

## Virginia
- **Dir. Philip Edwards**
  Smithfield, VA
- **Alt. Jim Ferguson**
  Emporia, VA
# MID-SOUTH REGION

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### SOUTHWEST REGION

**Texas**

- **Dir. Albert Andel**  
  Edna, TX  
  - **Alt. Danny May**  
    Port Lavaca, TX

- **Dir. Lloyd Arthur**  
  Ralls, TX  
  - **Alt. Jonathan James**  
    Floydada, TX

- **Dir. Marvin Beyer**  
  Taft, TX  
  - **Alt. Jim Massey**  
    Robstown, TX

- **Dir. Robert Englert**  
  Norton, TX  
  - **Alt. Ralph Kellermeier**  
    Miles, TX

- **Dir. Jacob Gerik**  
  Waco, TX  
  - **Alt. Josh Birdwell**  
    Malone, TX

- **Dir. Dahlen Hancock**  
  Ropesville, TX  
  - **Alt. Stacy Smith**  
    Wilson, TX

- **Dir. Craig Heinrich**  
  Lubbock, TX  
  - **Alt. Brent Coker**  
    Springlake, TX

- **Dir. Vacant**  
  _____, TX  
  - **Alt. Mike Patschke**  
    Lubbock, TX

- **Dir. Travis Mires**  
  O’Donnell, TX  
  - **Alt. Jeremy Brown**  
    Lubbock-, TX

- **Dir. Brady Mimms**  
  Lorenzo, TX  
  - **Alt. Mark Howard**  
    Dehart, TX

- **Dir. Brent Nelson**  
  Sudan, TX  
  - **Alt. Frankie Beznier**  
    Hereford, TX

- **Dir. Sutton Page**  
  Avoca, TX  
  - **Alt. John McDowell**  
    Shamrock, TX

- **Dir. Glen Phipps**  
  Wolfforth, TX  
  - **Alt. Johnie Reed**  
    Kress, TX

- **Dir. Eric Seidenberger**  
  Garden City, TX  
  - **Alt. Allan Fuchs**  
    Garden City, TX

- **Dir. Mark Wright**  
  Roscoe, TX  
  - **Alt. Spence Pennington**  
    Raymondville, TX

- **Dir. Martin Stoerner**  
  Lockney, TX  
  - **Alt. David Carter**  
    Levelland, TX

- **Dir. Lacy Vardeman**  
  Slaton, TX  
  - **Alt. Rex Kennedy**  
    Lubbock, TX

- **Dir. Mark Wright**  
  Roscoe, TX  
  - **Alt. Justin Corzine**  
    Stamford, TX
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