

**ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 3/7/2017

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ARKANSAS BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION FOUNDATION LOWERS ASSESSMENTS FOR COTTON GROWERS

Little Rock, Ark. – The Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (ABWEF) has once again lowered assessment dues, from \$4 to \$3 per acre for the 2017 season. Arkansas cotton growers all pay assessments to this foundation and will benefit from lowered production costs. This cut is part of the ABWEF commitment to lower assessments after the debt to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) was paid off three years early in 2015.

ABWEF borrowed millions from FSA to finance the boll weevil eradication program, as did other southern states and programs. The ABWEF in turn rid the Arkansas cotton industry of the devastating boll weevil pest. It has been completely eradicated from Arkansas since 2006.

“Arkansas is a leader among cotton producing states in the U.S., and we are committed to protecting our cotton crop and cotton farmers from historic pests like the boll weevil,” says Arkansas State Plant Board (ASPB) Director Terry Walker.

“By lowering assessments in 2016 from \$8 to \$4 and this year from \$4 to \$3, it demonstrates that the ABWEF Board is following through on our promise to continuously do what is best for Arkansas growers,” said ABWEF Chairman Randy Reynolds.

ABWEF conducted Arkansas boll weevil eradication operations in coordination with the USDA and other cotton producing states across the south. ABWEF is an Arkansas nonprofit corporation designated by the ASPB to operate the Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Program. ABWEF and the boll weevil eradication operations are regulated by the ASPB.

The mission of the ASPB is to protect and serve the citizens of Arkansas and the agricultural and business communities by providing information and unbiased enforcement of laws and regulations thus ensuring quality products and services. Learn more about the ASPB at: www.plantboard.arkansas.gov, or call 501-225-1598

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