

## 8/02/2004 Moran to Highlight Importance of Kansas Cotton

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Cotton Tour and Discussion Planned for August in Southwest Kansas

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that he will take part in a tour and discussion to highlight the importance of cotton to the Kansas economy. Moran will join Steve Baccus, president of the Kansas Farm Bureau and Tom Lahey, president of the Northwest Cotton Growers Co-Op on August 10. The tour will focus on the growing presence of cotton in Kansas. In 2003, Kansas cotton producers produced over \$30 million worth of cotton.

"Kansas farmers know how to adapt to the times and the evolution of cotton production in the state is evidence of this evolution," Moran said. "Cotton is going to play an important role in the future of the Kansas agriculture economy. The tour will provide a forum to learn about how Kansans can benefit from cotton."

Participants will tour a mixed cotton/corn field that will provide an opportunity to compare and contrast cotton versus more traditional Kansas crops like corn. Following the field tour, participants will be taken to the Northwest Cotton Growers gin and will observe the ginning process once the cotton is harvested. The day will conclude with a panel discussion with producers in Moscow, addressing the benefits of cotton as an emerging crop within the state and the positive benefits that growers find such as lower production costs, up to one-third less water usage and less chemicals and fertilizers.

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