

Extension Cotton Agronomy

Creating and Communicating Agronomic Solutions for West Texas Cotton

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION
CENTER AT LUBBOCK



Empowering Texas cotton growers through research, outreach, and innovation

Cotton is the world's leading fiber crop, and the Texas High Plains produces over 60% of the state's cotton and 30% of the U.S. crop. Despite its importance, growers face challenges from drought, volatile weather, rising input costs, and stagnant prices.

Dr. Ken Lege's Extension and research programs deliver practical, science-based solutions to support grower success. Central to this effort is the Replicated Agronomic Cotton Evaluation (RACE) trial network, which spans the Panhandle, Southern High Plains, and Rolling Plains. These large-plot, on-farm trials provide unbiased variety and systems comparisons under real-world conditions and serve as training platforms for county Extension agents.

With an annual economic impact of over \$285 million across 4 million acres, the program combines hands-on engagement with broad outreach—including farm meetings, field days, and media—to connect with growers across generations. Collaborations extend across 13 cotton-producing states, amplifying the program's reach and relevance.

To ensure long-term sustainability, Dr. Lege's program also mentors graduate and undergraduate students who will carry forward its mission.

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BIO

Dr. Lege is a native of Winnie, Texas, and holds degrees from Sam Houston State University and Texas A&M University. He joined Texas A&M AgriLife in January 2024 following a distinguished three-decade career in the cottonseed and biotechnology industries.

His Extension and research programs focus on enhancing agronomic and economic viability for growers across the Texas High Plains. Through a comprehensive on-farm testing network—Replicated Agronomic Cotton Evaluations (RACE)—his work spans the Panhandle, Southern High Plains, and Rolling Plains regions, delivering practical, data-driven insights to support cotton production.