



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

## ERADICATION OF PINK BOLLWORM

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By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

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### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** cotton production is vital to the U.S. economy, accounting for nearly \$27 billion in products and services annually according to industry estimates, providing hundreds of thousands of jobs across many sectors, and supplying nearly one-third of the raw cotton that is traded globally; and

**WHEREAS** for more than 100 years the United States has been battling the pink bollworm, one of the most destructive cotton pests in the world, which has cost U.S. growers tens of millions of dollars annually in control costs and yield losses; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture has worked in close cooperation with state departments of agriculture in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas; industry; and cotton growers over the last 18 years to find ways to finally eliminate pink bollworm from all cotton-producing areas in the continental United States; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture; state departments of agriculture in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas; industry; and cotton growers banded together to carry out a coordinated multi-state program, which included using insect pheromones to disrupt mating, planting transgenic cotton, and releasing sterile insects to prevent reproduction; and

**WHEREAS** after 5 years of extensive survey, the United States Department of Agriculture finds all areas of commercial cotton production in the continental United States free of this costly pest;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim that the pink bollworm is officially eradicated from cotton-producing areas of the continental United States and remove all remaining restrictions on the movement of cotton.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of October 2018, the two-hundred forty-third year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue".

SONNY PERDUE  
Secretary