



C&T Staffing Updates:

Chuck Dubose, Florence Classing Office Area Director, Retires



Chuck Dubose, Area Director of C&T's Florence, SC Classing Office retired Dec. 30, 2023. Chuck began his career with the USDA in 1983 as a co-op meat grader with the Livestock, Meat Grain & Seed Division. He transferred to the Cotton Division in 1985 in Altus, OK. He was also stationed in the Birmingham, AL, Abilene, TX, Greenwood, MS, and Dumas, AR Classing Offices before becoming the Area Director of the Macon, GA Classing Office in 1999. He served as the Assistant Grading Branch Chief for a few years before moving to Florence in 2016. After retirement, Chuck's plans include volunteer work for his church, spending more time with family and grandkids, and traveling.

Maria Townsend Named as C&T Market News Division Deputy Director



Maria Townsend has been selected as the Deputy Director for C&T's Market News Division. As Deputy Division Director, Maria provides direct day-to-day oversight and supervision of all aspects of Market News reporting activities, including spot cotton quotations.

Maria began her career with C&T as an Agricultural Marketing Specialist (Field Representative) in 1988 in the Bakersfield, CA classing office. She has worked as a Cotton Classer, and Classing Supervisor in the Bakersfield and Visalia, CA classing offices, and Program Appraisal Auditor in Washington, D.C. before joining the Market News staff as the Far West Reporter in 2004. Since joining the Market News Division, Maria has not only developed extensive knowledge of the U.S. cotton industry and how cotton is marketed but has led many efforts to improve Market News services.

C&T Announces New Florence, SC Classing Office Area Director



Reginald "Reggie" Higgins has been selected as the new Area Director of C&T's Florence, SC Classing Office. He is a Mississippi native and graduate of Alcorn State University with a major in Agricultural Economics. Reggie began his career with C&T in 2016 in the Memphis, TN Classing Office and became a supervisor in the Dumas, AR Classing Office in 2020. He returned to Memphis and was promoted to the Assistant Area Director position.

Reggie has experience working in many positions of the classing office but has extensive experience in our automation systems. His ability to understand this new classing concept has been a key reason for the success of these systems.

Reggie and his family are excited about moving to South Carolina and he is looking forward to this new chapter in his career.

C&T Announces New Corpus Christi, TX Classing Office Area Director



Donna Purvis has been selected as the new Area Director of C&T's Corpus Christi, TX Classing Office. She is a native Texan and has many years' experience working in the cotton industry and in the Cotton & Tobacco Program. Donna began working for C&T in 1977 as a seasonal employee and then went to Plains Cotton Cooperative Association in 1992. She returned to the program in 2006 as a supervisor and was promoted to the Assistant Area Director position in 2019.

Donna has a wealth of experience in cotton grading and in operating a classing laboratory. Her skills in laboratory operations have been a huge success in C&T's mission of servicing our customers.

Donna will continue being an asset to the Corpus Christi office in servicing the south Texas region.