

## **Title: Cotton Breeding – Preserving Production & Preparing for the Future**

**Abstract:** This seminar will be an introduction to cotton as a crop and a commodity. We will discuss how the production side and the marketing side influence cotton research and breeding objectives and make for unique collaborative opportunities. There will be an overview of a conventional cotton breeding program and the role it plays in supporting the future of this precious fiber crop.

**Biography:** Dr. Carol Kelly is the newly appointed Assistant Professor of Cotton Breeding at Texas A&M AgriLife Research in Lubbock, TX. She obtained her PhD in Agronomy from Texas Tech University as a Cotton Incorporated Fellow. Her major research focus has been the understanding of individual fiber properties, how they relate to one another and to yarn quality, then determining how to best apply this knowledge within a conventional breeding program. Her breeding program aims to develop germplasm and cultivars that address regional production challenges while identifying novel traits and innovative breeding strategies that are universally impactful and applicable.

