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## **Dr. Thomas Brooks Joins Americot, Inc. as Director of Quality Assurance and Assistant Breeder**

LUBBOCK, TX, July 25, 2007 – Americot, Inc. is pleased to announce that Dr. Thomas Brooks has joined Americot as Director of Quality Assurance and Assistant Breeder at Americot’s Seminole, Texas Research and Breeding Facility. In his new role, Brooks is responsible for testing the quality of Americot cotton seed and he will be heavily involved with the cotton breeding program.

According to Americot cotton breeder Dr. David Bush, Brooks' experience in molecular biology will make a huge impact on their cotton breeding program. Bush says, “Brooks is going to shift our cotton breeding efforts into high gear. We are going to be able to look at marker-assisted selection, which is something we have never been able to do in the past.

“Additionally, he will act as laboratory director in our Quality Assurance program. Brooks will supervise all technicians testing the quality and genetic purity of bulk and bagged seed.”

Brooks previously worked for the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, where as Research Geneticist he managed a molecular breeding program for the past six years. Brooks says, "I am looking forward to directly serving cotton producers and seeing the impact of what we accomplish. We want to continue to improve results from the lab and make our product reliable for the producers. It is exciting to be part of Americot, particularly in light of its recent germplasm acquisitions and licensing agreements, including NexGen and GENETEX.

"NexGen, for example, is a great breeding program and I believe the acquisition is a great marriage with the current Americot varieties. We will maintain the quality that is coming from the lab and expect big things for the future."

This native of Bells, Tennessee, earned a B.S. in Crop Science /Agronomy and a M.S. in Plant Breeding from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. in Genetics from Texas A&M University. He and his wife, Janet, now reside in Seminole, Texas, and have three children.

Americot, Inc. headquartered in Lubbock, Texas provides Southwest, Midsouth and Southeast cotton growers with quality planting seed of varieties that offer high yield potential and excellent fiber quality with the technologies that growers want and need. For more information on Americot cotton products, call 888.678.7333 or go to [www.americot.com](http://www.americot.com).

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