

News of Interest to COTTON GROWERS



Cotton Cannot Properly Ginned About Lint Damage

Marketing Specialist Gives Hints On Grading Of Crop

By GLENN E. SMITH
Marketing Specialist, N. C. Experiment Station

Green or damp cotton cannot be ginned without damaging the lint. More lint will also be lost from the seed if the cotton contains excessive moisture. The early part of the crop will be of a high grade if the proper picking, handling and ginning practices are followed. The length of staple is determined by seed planted or variety grown, but the grade is determined by harvesting and ginning practices.

The grade of cotton is determined by its color, amount of foreign matter and quality of ginning. The higher grades are a bright creamy or white color, free from discoloration, and relatively free from leaf fragments, trash, dirt, etc., with good preparation or free from being "gin cut" or damaged.

Early in the season the plant and seed contain a high percentage of water, and too often cotton is carried to the gin when it is not in the proper condition for ginning. Records for the past two years show that this is especially true if there is very much rain. Over 50 per cent of the cotton ginned in September, 1934, and about 8 per cent of that ginned in September, 1933, was damaged one or more grades because of roughness or being "damaged". In October these percentages fell to 11 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. After October the per cent gin damaged fell to less than 2 per cent both years.

The increase in percentage of gin damaged in 1934 over 1933 was due to the increase of rainy weather in 1934. In the cotton producing territory of the State the average rainfall in August was approximately the same both years, but in September, 1934, it was 8.11 inches, while in September, 1933, it was only 2.94 inches. After October the relationship between per cent of cotton gin damaged and rainfall was not so close because much of the cotton picked after October was cotton that had been picked for some time. The cotton also dried out, after a rain much more readily late in the season.

Although cotton should not be picked too green, it should be picked promptly after opening. If allowed to hang in the field for some time it will lose its luster or become dull in color. The longer cotton hangs in the field the more it is subjected to weather damage. If picked green or damp, however, it should be spread out so that it will dry quickly. In other words, cotton must be picked within a few days after opening, must be kept free from trash, dirt, and other foreign matter, and must be carried to the gin in proper condition, and be ginned promptly. A high grade bale can be made from green cotton, however, approximately 50 per cent of the next year's crop will be damaged and the ginners claim that it will be almost entirely to damp cotton. A comparison of rainfall and other data indicate that their conclusion is true.

Production of high grade produces a stronger demand which results in the higher price goods. Higher grades also have less waste. Consequently more pounds of yarn as well as a greater yarn can be made from a bale of high grade cotton. Farmers who take pride in producing a high grade will ordinarily produce a bale of cotton less than middling. Strict middling ordinarily sells for about 3 points more than middling, and 70 points more than strict low middling. If cotton is seriously damaged it will be sold at a great discount. Therefore, the farmer should attempt to produce the best grade possible. Having cotton ginned as early as it can be sold while it "weighs in" has more for more losses than gains.

Cotton Loan Policy Will Boost Prices

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The farmer shows his cotton and does not receive the advance August 1—the final date for the advance organization payments—then the government will take the average of the 16 months from September 1, 1935, to August 1, 1936, and mail to this farmer a check for the difference between this average and the advance pound, providing he has been cooperating in the adjustment program.

On One Year Basis
The 10-cent government loan is available to any grower, Mr. Criswell said, but only those farmers who have been cooperating in the adjustment program will receive the adjustment payments which may run as high as two cents a pound. The government who secure loans this year will be eligible to cooperate with the government in its advance reduction program for next year. No rules or regulations have as yet been announced for next year, but it is generally expected that the government will adjust the advance from 10 cents to 15 cents a pound. Criswell said that cotton adjustment

Cotton Prospects Over The South Indicate No Increase In Estimate

By COLONEL L. BROWN

Weather has been generally hot throughout the cotton belt during the month of August. In the western part of the cotton belt it has been too dry for best growth and this has interfered with growth in some states. The Eastern states have had a greater amount of rainfall which has helped in some ways.

Progress of cotton has been generally good recently in North Carolina. Some improvement has been reported in the Piedmont district but in parts of the Coastal plain shedding has been heavy.

Excessive rainfall in parts of South Carolina has damaged the staple but where rainfall has not been too heavy the crop has progressed favorably. Shedding has been rather heavy of late and this is causing some concern. Picking and ginning operations have extended well into the northern sections of the state.

Weather was too dry in Georgia until after the middle of the month when there were some good rains throughout the state. These were especially helpful in the northern sections of the state where drought had been severe. Weevil is making headway in some sections

The Louisiana crop has made fair progress in some sections and poor in others during the last two or three weeks. Reports of shedding are quite general and weevil has done some damage. The crop appears to be maturing rapidly.

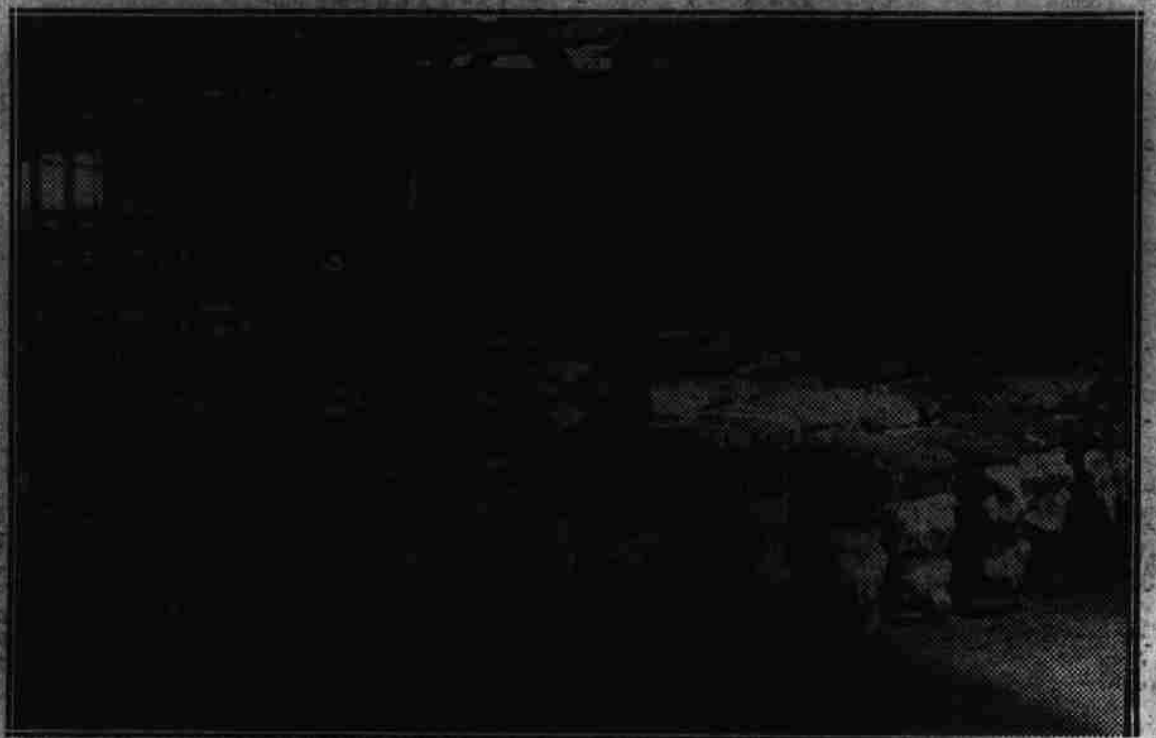
Texas and Oklahoma

South Texas is getting well along with harvesting activities but other sections of the state are not so far advanced. Some showers have fallen over scattered areas and have helped to relieve drought conditions. Weather has averaged hot which has brought the crop along quite rapidly. On the whole the crop has held up well recently. The northeastern section of the state has made the poorest progress and some deterioration has resulted there.

Western Oklahoma has developed drought conditions during the past two weeks and the crop is badly in need of rain. Deterioration of the crop has been quite rapid and unless there are showers very soon it will have an adverse effect upon yields.

In the Central and South Central portions of the state conditions have been excellent and the crop has made excellent progress recently.

Scene In Cotton Warehouse In South Carolina



Weather favored weevil activity. In the southern part of the state where picking is in progress heavy rains have held up harvesting operations to some extent. However, reports from the Savannah market indicate that the quality of the new crop arriving there is very good.

In parts of Alabama where it was too dry during early August the crop went back some but otherwise the progress was satisfactory. In the Southern part of the state the crop is mostly matured and picking is well under way. Light to heavy showers have delayed picking somewhat but have not been damaging except to localized areas.

In Mississippi the early planted cotton has come along rapidly and harvesting of the crop is becoming general in the Southern sections of the state. Showers have caused some damage in the southern part and weevil has been increasing in activity. In central and northern parts of the state the crop has been opening along fairly well.

Weevil infestation has been extremely light and the plants have developed rapidly. In the eastern part of the state the condition of the crop rates about fair although the southeast is in good shape. Weather has been hot all over the state.

Arkansas has had fairly favorable weather and the crop has made about average progress or better although some sections are too dry. Weather has been hot for the most part. Weevil has been checked by the hot, dry weather but some trouble with army worms reported.

Tennessee had had a fair amount of rainfall which has been checked by the hot, dry drought conditions. The crop has made good progress recently and is coming along at a normal rate.

Taking the country over the cotton crop has about held its own or possibly deteriorated a little during the past month. It seems rather unlikely that the next estimate will show any increase from the previous one unless weather proves exceptionally favorable during the last few days of the month.

Purchase Of Cloth By Government Announced

Announcement by Harry Hopkins, Administrator of the Works Progress Administration, that 150,000,000 yards of cotton textiles would be purchased during the next six or eight months, is expected to have a good effect on the cotton market.

The purchase will be for use in sewing room projects and the cloth will be made into clothing for the needy. The materials will in turn be charged against each state's allotment.

The first lot of 10,000,000 yards will be purchased during the first half of October and subsequent purchases will be made from time to time within six or eight months.

Program will be continued on a one-year basis for the next four years, or through 1939. This will be done regardless of what action may be taken on the constitutionality of the Bankhead Act.

Here is how the plan works:
If a farmer who has been cooperating in adjustment program has ten bales of cotton and on the day he offers five bales for sale the average price on the spot market is ten cents a pound, he would receive a subsidy of two cents a pound from the government. He would receive this two cents regardless of how much he received through sale of his cotton.

Should the average price on the spot market go up to 11 cents on the day he offers his next five bales for sale, he would receive a government subsidy of one cent a pound.

But supposing the price dropped to eight cents a pound. In that case, the farmer would be expected to apply for a loan of 10 cents from the government and hold his cotton off the market until the market price at least rose to 10 cents a pound.

Little Advantage In Exporting Of Cotton

"A bale of cotton should buy for its producer what it is worth to him—not what it is worth to a Brazilian peon, a Sundanese sheik, or a Chinese coolie."

These are the strong words of J. F. Criswell, of State College, director of the cotton adjustment program in North Carolina, who says there is "no advantage to exporting cotton unless it can be sold for a price that will give a fair return to the American farmer who produces it."

"I do not mean," he added, "that our export business is not worth anything, but I do say that it is not worth maintaining, merely for its own sake. Its value lies primarily in what return it may bring to the cotton grower."

Mr. Criswell's statement is considered by many as a reply to charges from various factions that the export markets are being lost through AAA efforts to raise the price of cotton to the point where the farmer can make a living from its production.

Our farmers are realizing as never before the true value of the AAA program. You can hear farmers say in any section of the country that our people are beginning to live at home more and more, there is more food and grain being produced than previously; that although the cotton crop has been limited it has been fertilized and worked better and comes nearer being a close money crop than before. Henry D. Green, Washington, D. C.

Twenty-six farmers in Stanly County, N. C., are raising cotton as a part of the county-wide program of producing workstock at home.

The Carolina Co-operator

What Organized Farmers In North Carolina Are Doing This Month

By ROY H. PARK

It's a jam-up good program that the State Grange has worked up for its seventh annual session which will be held in North Wilkesboro from September 25 to 27, inclusive.

Headliner of the session will be L. J. Taber, Master of the National Grange, who will come down from Grange headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, to address the North Carolina patrons and fraternize with the brethren. Master Taber has been spending a great deal of time in Washington of late in the interest of favorable farm legislation. He is well posted on national events pertaining to agriculture and can always be counted on to tell any audience some startling things that should be known.

There'll also be fun aplenty at the meeting, such as the State Grange baseball championship finals and the contest to select J. J. Taber the most representative Grange girl.

All in all it's a peppy program—a lot of speakers but short speeches—and any farmer will do well to spend three days in North Wilkesboro with his fellow brethren in the Grange.

And here's an interesting sidelight: The North Wilkesboro school board has declared a three-day holiday in order that the facilities of the school building may be used for the convention. It's our unofficial guess that the school kids in the city of North Wilkesboro will now join their country cousins who are juvenile members in thinking that the Grange is one great organization.

Fastest growing cooperative in North Carolina is the Farmers Co-operative Exchange, more commonly referred to by farmers as "The FCX."

When the FCX was organized a little over a year ago officials announced that the goal for the first year was a total business of one million dollars. "They'll never do it," a lot of doubters said. At the end of the year a check-up revealed that the

FCX had exceeded its own goal and done a cooperative business of \$1,103,168.58. On this business it took a margin of only 4.7 per cent and made a net profit of \$24,618.56, approximately half of which will be paid back to farmers in the form of patronage dividends and the other half used to build

E. W. Haigh working capital. And what, you ask, did farmers buy through the FCX? Here's the answer: 26,239,818 pounds of feed; 16,331.02 tons of fertilizer; 1,477,607 1-4 pounds of seed; 2,706 barrels of flour and 83,576 units of miscellaneous items.

FCX officials have announced that their goal for next year is a two million dollar business—and those who have followed the cooperative carefully during its first year believe they'll make it.

"Much rain wears the marble," wrote Shakespeare years ago.

And that quotation from the works of the famous bard must have made an indelible impression upon a country boy by the name of Layton Falt who loves nothing better than to cogitate upon the works of Shakespeare and other great writers.

Four years ago Falt, then a freshman in high school, entered the annual essay contest sponsored by the State Cotton Association. He won no prize but did show promise.

He came back the next year and the next and the next, doing a little better each time. He entered again this year and won the State championship and first prize of a one-year college scholarship.

Falt lives just four miles from Bladenboro and in addition to going to school every day and averaging at least 95 on all his studies, he has also found time to read a great deal of the heavier books. His essay showed mature thought—in fact none other than Col. J. W. Harrelson, president of the State College, said the essay Falt had written would do credit to any college graduate.

And in addition to all this, Falt has also found time to cultivate at least five acres of cotton for himself every year, as well as help out on his father's farm.

100.00 In Cash Outlay

Everybody who is in the cotton business knows that it is not enough to have a year class of high school graduates. You must have a year class of college graduates. The State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts is now offering a special program for the cotton growers. The program is to give a year class of high school graduates a year's tuition and board at the State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts. The program is to be held in the State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts. The program is to be held in the State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts.