The Cotton Foundation was created in 1955 as a 501(c)3 organization to give U.S. cotton's agribusiness allies opportunities to support the U.S. cotton industry over and above the products and services these firms provide. Membership includes banks, seed companies, chemical and equipment manufacturers, publishers and others whose success depends at least in part on U.S. cotton and who share a common concern for a healthy U.S. cotton industry.

Agribusiness members’ dues support general research and education projects while some members’ grants over and above their dues fund special projects. The combination of these general and special projects enables the Foundation to more effectively carry out its overall mission of strengthening U.S. cotton’s position in the highly competitive fiber market. In fact, these general and special projects are chosen specifically to help the Foundation achieve its mission through the following major goals:

- support present Foundation leadership and member education programs;
- provide educational programs that improve safety, productivity and environmental stewardship of the industry work force;
- identify short and longer term issues facing the cotton industry and then develop and implement projects to address issues or needs;
- develop and provide funding for programs to help influence industry and government research;
- identify long-term, industrywide strategic issues that will affect the cotton industry; and
- identify and assess in a timely manner the impact of proposed regulations.
Officers and Trustees 2014-2015

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Allied Industry Trustee
Project Support

The U.S. cotton industry is enjoying a healthy return on investment from Foundation member support of general projects and special projects. National Cotton Council staff estimates that taking into account cash and in-kind services, the Foundation’s general projects, for example, enjoy a return of about $3 for every dollar devoted to these projects. By supporting these projects, the Foundation is truly fostering innovative: 1) research to find solutions to cotton problems; 2) technology to implement those solutions; 3) education to speed new research application and 4) communication to spread information throughout cotton’s production and marketing chain.

General Projects 2014-2015

- Journal of Cotton Science
- Cotton Losses
- Enhancing Cotton Industry Education and Information through the National Cotton Council Web Site
- China Cotton Leadership Exchange
- EPA Residual Risk and Technology Reviews (RTR) for the "Vegetable Oil Production" Source Category (MACT Standards Review)
- Evaluation of Low Volume TSP Sampler for Use in Measuring Agricultural PM10 and PM2.5
- Sustainability of Cotton Production
- Developing an Industry-wide Standard for Cotton Variety Leaf Hairiness
- Pollinator Protection
- Bi-Lingual Support for the Pink Bollworm & Boll Weevil Eradication Program Annual Meeting
- Sustainability of US Cotton: Field to Market Fieldprint Calculator Pilot
- Enhancement of Cotton Acres Enrolled into the Fieldprint Calculator and Validation of the Cotton Industry’s Field Print Calculator Express Survey
- Relationship of irrigation factors, fungal microsclerotia density, soil moisture and soil temperature to severity of Verticillium wilt and yield
- Information and Research on Potential Consumer, Environmental and Workplace Risks
- Improvement of biological control of aflatoxin contamination with atoxigenic strains of Aspergillus flavus on Cotton, Corn, and Pistachios
- Impact of Weed and Insect Management on Population Dynamics and Insecticide Resistance of Tarnished Plant Bug (Lygus lineolaris)
- On Farm Validation of the Fieldprint Calculator for Cotton
- Test Protocols for Determination of Combustible Dust Designation
- Documentation of the Pink Bollworm Eradication Program
- Mapping Software for Educational Material
- Application of the Field Print Calculator for Cotton Production in the Texas High Plains

Pollinator protection is the focus of an ongoing Foundation-supported general project.
Research Screening Committee*

Mr. Robert A. Haygood, Chairman, Dow Agrosciences, Indianapolis, IN
Dr. Alan Ayers, Bayer CropScience LP, Research Triangle Park, NC
Mr. Kirk Gilkey, Cross Creek II Gin, LLC, Corcoran, CA
Mr. David M. Grant, Gaston Cooperative, Inc., Garysburg, NC
Mr. Paul Kennedy, Helena Chemical Company, Memphis, TN
Dr. Jeffrey S. Mink, Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., Greensboro, NC
Dr. Henry Russ Mitchell, FMC Corporation, Washington, DC
Dr. Bill Norman, National Cotton Council, Cordova, TN
Dr. Douglas W. Rushing, Monsanto Ag Products Company, Saint Louis, MO
Mr. Joe W. Thomas, Lummus Corporation, Pooler, GA
Mr. Paul D. Vaculin, AMVAC, Newport Beach, CA

Advisors

Dr. Kater Hake, Cotton Incorporated, Cary, NC
Dr. Thomas D. Valco, USDA, ARS, Stoneville, MS

* Each year, the Foundation's Research Screening Committee reviews and prioritizes general project proposals before submitting their recommended project list for approval by the Foundation's trustees at the Foundation annual meeting.
Special Projects 2014-2015

Emerging Leaders Program
Monsanto

Cotton Ginning Symposium (Textile Manufacturing Symposium)
Bayer CropScience, Monsanto

Producer Information Exchange (P.I.E.)
Bayer CropScience

Multi-Commodity Education Program
Deere & Company, Monsanto

Policy Education Program
Syngenta Crop Protection

Cotton Nematode Research and Education Program
Bayer CropScience

Cotton Seedling Disease Research and Education Program
Bayer CropScience

Weed Resistance Learning Module
Dow AgroSciences, Monsanto, Syngenta

Advancing Cotton Education (ACE)
Bayer CropScience

Cotton LEADS™
Cotton Australia, Cotton Incorporated, National Cotton Council and Cotton Council International

Cotton producers from the Carolinas to California looked at a diverse range of agricultural production and processing operations in Montana as part of the 2014 Multi-Commodity Education Program.

Cotton producers from the Southeast were able to see cotton and other agricultural operations in the Texas’ High Plains and Coastal Bend regions as part of the 2014 Producer Information Exchange Program.
Ongoing Special Project Contributions

Several Foundation members support the NCC-coordinated Beltwide Cotton Conferences -- helping the NCC produce a high quality conference with modest attendee registration fees. Among support given is for the registration desk, wireless Internet connectivity, coffee break, Internet Quickstop kiosks, Welcome Reception, the Confex Podium system and the Consultant's Conference.

The Foundation continues to distribute volumes in its Cotton Reference Book Series, which can be ordered online. The series includes Weeds of Cotton, Cotton Harvest Management, Cotton Insects and Mites, Vegetable Oil and Agrichemicals, and Boll Weevil Eradication in the United States Through 1999. The Cotton Foundation series reference books can be purchased from the Foundation by visiting http://www.cotton.org/cf/reference-books.cfm.

Some other efforts helpful to cotton's overall research and education effort include the periodic development and distribution of various NCC-produced educational videotapes. The Gin Lab Symposium, sponsored by Delta and Pine Land, Syngenta, and Bayer CropScience, aids in familiarizing state land grants extension specialists with post harvest processes of ginning and textiles to improve appreciation of end user needs.

Awards and Endowments 2014-2015

High Cotton Awards
Farm Press Publications

Robert and Lois Coker Trustees Chair in Molecular Genetics
Endowment: $1,000,000

The C. Everette Salyer Fellowship in Cotton Research is administered by Texas A&M University's Entomology Department which provides more details and a list of previous winners on its website. Endowment: $300,000

Cottonseed Oil Clinic
Endowment: $60,000
Members 2014-2015

The Cotton Foundation’s contributions to cotton research and education are possible because of its faithful members. As of June 30, 2014, the end of the 2013-2014 Foundation fiscal year, there were 45 Foundation members. Their voluntary membership dues are enabling the Foundation in 2014-15 to direct $319,500 in support of 20 general research projects that are focusing on such priorities as pest management, sustainability, pollinator protection, fiber quality, agronomic practices and education.

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Contact the Foundation

For more information about the Cotton Foundation, please contact:

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