The cover photograph is an electron micrograph magnification of woven cotton fabric. The computer-enhanced image was printed using a multi-color process, including silver ink.
THE COTTON FOUNDATION PROVIDES AGRIBUSINESS ANOTHER VALUABLE WAY TO SUPPORT THE U.S. COTTON INDUSTRY. IN ADDITION TO THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES SUPPLIED TO THE INDUSTRY, THESE FIRMS CAN BE MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDATION, WHICH CHANNELS THEIR DUES EXCLUSIVELY TO COTTON RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

CREATED AS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION IN 1955, THE FOUNDATION PROVIDES VISION AND LEADERSHIP TO THE U.S. COTTON INDUSTRY. TO ACHIEVE THIS MISSION, THE FOUNDATION IS PURSUING THESE 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 IMPACT THE COTTON INDUSTRY; AND
- IDENTIFY IN A TIMELY MANNER AND ASSESS THE IMPACT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS.
President’s Message

Even with the availability of transgenic cottons and other modern tools, the U.S. cotton industry’s need for cotton research and education has never been greater.

Yields were stagnant in the 1990s and fiber quality losses began trending up in the latter part of that decade. Prices have been chronically low, pressuring cotton producers’ marketing skills.

Solutions must be found. The Cotton Foundation – founded as a problem-solving institution - has established priorities and is contributing vigorously to finding answers.

I am pleased to report that the Foundation is now backed by the solid support of 79 firms – a record membership level. Combined with various endowments, U.S. cotton’s agribusiness alliance is fiscally sound.

Many foundations use up to 30 percent of all dues and grants to cover expenses. However, every dime of Cotton Foundation member dues goes to support its general research and education projects, and the Foundation retains only 10 percent of special project grants. This minimal retention for administration is due, in part, to the Foundation’s access to National Cotton Council (NCC) resources and other in-kind services. Foundation-supported work also benefits from investments and rent monies from its Washington, DC, building. With these resources, it is estimated that the general projects enjoy a return of $3 for every dollar invested.

During the 2000-2001 year, the Foundation provided $469,500 to 31 general cotton research and education projects. The projects covered work ranging from identifying drought-tolerant cotton lines to improving air particulate emission measurement.

These investigations are addressing fundamental needs such as surveying cotton’s losses to pests. They also are supporting the development of practical applications of leading edge technology such as ion mobility spectrometry for eliminating contaminants during ginning and hyperspectral remote sensing for keying on emerging pest populations in cotton fields.
Despite continued agribusiness consolidation, the Foundation’s special projects remain strongly endowed by member grants over and above regular dues. These endeavors also contribute significantly to helping the NCC carry out its mission of ensuring the U.S. cotton industry competes effectively and profitably.

For example, the Congressional Staff Education and Orientation Program is helping U.S. cotton strengthen another important alliance with the federal government. By giving key congressional staffers a firsthand look at the industry’s infrastructure and interaction with its leadership, government research agencies and agribusiness, the project is enhancing the NCC’s efforts in seeking direct economic assistance for its members and indirect help in the form of additional research and market development funds.

This annual report provides updates on these and the other Foundation-supported activities. We should all be encouraged with the membership level, which makes possible the excellent work targeted at improving the U.S. cotton industry’s health.

Talmage Crihfield, President
The Cotton Foundation
GENERAL PROJECTS

Market Development

Pelleting Characteristics of Cottonseed Meal in Corn and Soy-Based Rations

The better the feed pellet, the better the performance by chickens, pigs and beef and dairy cows.

A study at Kansas State University is evaluating improvements in pelleting characteristics due to dietary fiber in cottonseed meal. Formulations containing up to 10 percent cottonseed meal are being studied for pellet quality and processing efficiency. Positive findings in this study will significantly broaden markets for cottonseed meal. Researchers believe a corn and soybean meal formulation containing 5 to 10 percent cottonseed meal may improve pellet quality because cottonseed meal is considered higher in fiber. Feed processing efficiency is being measured as well.

Cottonseed Quality Improvement

This project’s goal is to improve the quantity and quality of oil and protein in cottonseed – so producers and processors can realize greater economic benefits.

Under the oversight of cotton breeder John Gannaway, 129 breeding lines have been screened at the Texas A&M Agricultural Experiment Station in Lubbock. Research will continue on determining oil and protein quantity, fatty acid and amino acid profiles, and Vitamin E and gossypol content to determine the relationship of these traits to agronomic properties and lint yield. The objective is to selectively breed for these traits, release germplasm and develop enhanced cultivars.

Other project contributors include: the Southern Cotton Ginners Foundation (SCGF), the Texas Food and Fibers Commission and Cotton Incorporated.

Detection of Seed Cotton Contamination by Ion Mobility Spectrometry

Seed cotton contaminants cost the U.S. cotton industry as much as $5 million annually. More than half of the contamination is from plastic fiber, mechanically similar to cotton fiber, making separation at the textile mill virtually impossible.

The goal is to develop an ion mobility spectrometer (IMS) device that is economically practical and rugged enough for use in a cotton gin. During the past year, advances made in IMS detection limits have improved the success probability of sensing chemicals emitted by even small amounts of contaminating plastics in a gin drying system.

The next step is to modify and test a miniature IMS in a cotton gin and establish a software library of important compounds and a response strategy.

The investigation is at USDA-ARS Southwestern Cotton Ginning Laboratory in Mesilla Park, NM, in collaboration with New Mexico State University scientists. The SCGF is contributing.
Profitability

A Look at Row Spacing to Reduce Cotton Production Costs

University of California and University of Arizona researchers have studied several approaches to ultra-narrow-row (UNR) production. In 2000, two alternative UNR systems holding the most promise of reducing production costs in the arid West were studied. Included were: 1) double rows of cotton planted on beds and spindle picked and 2) flat-planted (10-15 inch row spacings), stripper picked.

Some of these systems have produced a 50 percent savings in water along with increased yields and preservation of equivalent or superior grades and fiber quality. In Arizona, lower growing costs were most often associated with minimum or no-till systems in fields that were late-planted after grain.

Data being collected and analyzed include plant mapping to determine differences in earliness and boll distribution between UNR and conventional systems, differences in inputs and differences between picker and stripper harvested. Seed cotton samples also were tested to determine lint percent, gin turnout and quality.

Beltwide Cotton Production Conference Planning

As a result of planning that included producers from each Cotton Belt state (representatives from such key organizations as the American Cotton Producers and leading cotton specialists), the 2001 Cotton Production Conference program featured the largest number of cotton producers ever addressing the needs and desires of their peers.
Detection of Cotton Smoke by Ion Mobility Spectrometry

The goal is to determine if the ion mobility spectrometer (IMS) can be used: 1) to detect “fire-packed” bales arriving at the warehouse and 2) in a smoke detection system inside the warehouse.

Smoke sources have been sampled using a mini IMS, which has shown the capability to differentiate cotton smoke from other combustion products. Because the spectrometers can recognize the unique chemical fingerprint of burning cotton, early warning systems could be activated by a smoke detector while the fire is still smoldering inside the bale and before flames occur – a situation that leads to bales burning more rapidly. A workable detection system could prevent costly warehouse fires, preventing damage and higher insurance premiums.

This work also is being done at the USDA-ARS Southwestern Cotton Ginning Laboratory in Mesilla Park, NM, in collaboration with New Mexico State University scientists. The SCGF is contributing.

Cotton Engineering, Ginning and Mechanization Endowed Chair

Funds continue to be raised to endow the Texas A&M University Chair in Cotton Engineering, Ginning and Mechanization. As of March 2001, more than $660,000 had been pledged and nearly $400,000 received by the university. It is anticipated that the $500,000 minimum “cash-in-hand” – that needed to equal the matching funds program of the Texas A&M Foundation - will be received by the end of 2001 or early 2002.

The goal is to provide for: the continuation of leading-edge research programs in cotton engineering, including producing, harvesting, processing, storing and manufacturing of cotton and cotton products; technology transfer; strengthening the university Agricultural Engineering Department’s undergraduate and graduate programs; student internships in all segments of the U.S. cotton industry; and professional development for students, industry personnel and the general public.

Electronically Publishing the Journal of Cotton Science

The quarterly, on-line Journal of Cotton Science (JCS), available at www.jcotsci.org, strives to improve the competitive position and profitability of the U.S. cotton industry by showcasing documented research from many disciplines, stretching researchers’ thinking beyond horizons of their individual expertise, stimulating multidisciplinary projects and providing timely, easy-to-use research results.

By doing so, JCS gives producers, researchers, Extension personnel, crop consultants and others a central, easily accessible base of proven research findings in disciplines ranging from agronomy to textile processing. To date, JCS has received 212 manuscripts for peer review. Of those, 107 have been accepted, published online and archived on CD-ROM.
Cotton Insect Hotline

Entomologist cooperators in Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and California operated telephone hotlines in 2000. They recorded timely updates on cotton insect situations and made them available on toll-free 800 numbers 24 hours a day.

This information allowed producers, consultants, Extension personnel, county agents and others access to information that helped with crucial pest management decisions.

Development of an Economic Model for Cotton Insect Management after First Flower

Researchers at the University of Arkansas and Arkansas State University are collaborating on this multi-year effort to help producers reduce their insect control costs, better manage pest resistance and increase public awareness of producers’ environmental stewardship.

An economic injury level model for insect control rules for the period “after first flower” is being developed. The plant’s stress resistance is being measured and used to assess the dynamic, boll-loading shifts associated with insects, photosynthesis and boll competition for resources. The ultimate goal is to incorporate the economic injury level model after first flower into the COTMAN computer software, which already contains a model for insect control rules before first flower.

Evaluation of Advanced Hyperspectral Remote Sensing for Early Detection of Crop Damage

Hyperspectral remote sensing is a technology that has the potential to detect early stages of crop damage.

University of California-Davis researchers conducted large-scale field tests again in 2000 on cotton producer Ted Sheely’s San Joaquin Valley farm in order to refine methods of accurately measuring spatially explicit canopy conditions such as chlorophyll and water content. Repeated measurements were analyzed and displayed as color-coded maps showing changes in the spectral signatures that correlate to changes in the crop’s condition. The 2000 field measurements will be compared to field measurements of crop conditions taken by USDA collaborators at the University of California, Shafter Field Station.

Cotton Incorporated and NASA provide funding for this project.
Evaluation of the Cotton Genotypes for Tolerance or Resistance to Early Season Thrips Injury

This University of Arkansas project is screening more than 100 cotton cultivars to determine whether any have genetic tolerance or thrips resistance. Such cultivars would improve seedling vigor and potentially improve the plant’s ability to survive disease attack. At the least, cotton plant resistance to thrips injury potentially would reduce or eliminate the need for early season insecticide use and increase the probability that the beneficial arthropod population would survive to combat secondary pest outbreaks.

Gin Management & Technology Program Enhancements

The addition of a micro-gin at Mississippi State University’s Pace Seed Technology Laboratory is helping extend the learning opportunities for students in the university’s Gin Management & Technology program.

Professional modification of the existing feed control unit and installation of the unit, piping and burner will begin in the summer of 2001. A bale press will be obtained later.

Founded in 1995, the program has a goal of providing competent professionals for an ever-changing ginning industry. The SCGF has contributed.

Enhancing Cotton Production Research and Education Programs in Kansas

After a slow start in the early 1990s, Kansas cotton acreage has increased steadily.

This project is helping Kansas State University meet the subsequent demands for cotton-related research and information dissemination. In 2000, date of planting, seed applied insecticide, weed control, chemical defoliation and dates of harvest studies were conducted along with variety testing at six locations. In addition, a research gin was purchased – a move that has reduced the amount of time and expenses associated with processing research and demonstration samples and getting the data into Kansas producers’ hands.

Implementation of Profitability Initiative

The NCC is identifying new, start-up or existing programs to improve the unit cost of production.

The efforts are being carried out in four action steps: 1) continued support for precision agriculture initiatives, 2) public support for crop genetic programs, 3) an accountability system for determining cotton research priorities and 4) Internet initiatives that include coordination of information to help speed adoption of emerging technology and to ensure industry members gain more value from those data and tools.
Management of Ultra-Narrow-Row Cotton Production

A Texas A&M University Ph.D. student is trying to determine the best way to manage the fertility and varietal interactions in an ultra-narrow-row cotton production system.

Responses of cotton in 7.5-inch row spacings are being compared with those of two other narrow row spacings, 15 and 30 inches, under varying nitrogen rates. Photosynthetic rates are being compared among the treatments to determine if differences exist. Data are being collected on seed cotton yield, percent gin turnout and fiber quality properties.

Enhancing Cotton Industry Education and Information through the Development of a Cotton Web Portal

The NCC/Foundation web site at www.cotton.org continued to grow in 2000. Visitor traffic increased 43 percent, with more than 12,000 unique users visiting the site in January 2001.

Items added to the site were: broadcast quality versions of the AgDay Cotton’s Week television production; Cotton Newsline; the Cotton Risk Management Network; redesigned Cotton Foundation and Beltwide Cotton Conferences sites using new content management software; bale packaging and quality preservation publications; and National Boll Weevil Eradication Program information.

This project also assumed duties related to the NCC’s weather site.

The newly redesigned NCC site was scheduled for launch in spring 2001. New content management software already is streamlining site updates, which includes incorporation of the NCC’s EconCentral site.

In addition to enhancing NCC web site management, the software has enabled the site to accommodate other features such as educational materials ordering, Beltwide Cotton Conferences’ pre-registration and a searchable database of cotton physiologists.

Surveys of Cotton’s Losses to Pests

Annual estimates of cotton losses due to specific disease, insect and weed pests are made available to both the public and private sectors. The information is published in the Beltwide Cotton Conferences’ proceedings and in professional and farm trade publications.

The Cotton Belt data, which are gathered at the Coordination Center at Mississippi State University, are useful for analyzing the market potential for new plant protection products, in establishing the importance of currently registered products that are threatened by cancellation or use restrictions and for setting research and educational priorities.
Solar Sterilization of Gin Trash

This project, being conducted out of the University of Arkansas Northeast Research and Extension Center, is aimed at determining the proper storage method for gin by-products that may provide enough internal heat to reduce weed seed germination and disease incidence.

Researchers are comparing the effects of: 1) untreated/uncovered check, 2) covering with clear plastic and 3) covering with black plastic.

Quantifying the Value of Cotton Gin By-Products as a Soil Amendment for Low-Yielding Soils

Disposal of gin by-products (trash), which often amount to 200 pounds per ginned cotton bale, is an inconvenience and expense for ginners.

University of Arkansas research is determining the soil application rates of gin by-products that will provide an organic supplement equal to proven materials. First-year data from tests on rice indicate that cotton gin by-products can provide similar results – increased yields - as poultry litter. Additional tests will be conducted in 2001 to validate those results before specific recommendations can be made.

Engineering Chemical and Enzymatic Pre-Treatment of Cotton Gin Trash for Enhanced Ruminant Feeding Value

The highest value usage of cotton gin trash is for feeding to ruminant animals.

Researchers at the University of Tennessee are using hydrogen peroxide in combination with sodium hydroxide as a treatment to improve the digestibility and nutritive value of gin trash. Specifically, the scientists are evaluating the process variables of this chemical treatment. They also will investigate the potential of blending gin trash with aqueous ammonia and poultry manure to increase protein content.

Screening Converted Race Stocks for Cotton Seedling Drought Tolerance

Drought and high temperature stress can reduce crop plants’ yields by as much as 71 percent.

Texas A&M University researchers have identified five heat-stress tolerant converted cotton race stocks and are investigating whether any of these possess drought tolerance. Researchers also will determine the drought stress tolerance of the other 74 converted race stock lines. A short-term project goal is to initiate a hybridization program to incorporate any identified drought tolerance into commercially competitive phenotypes.

Long-term goals are to identify: 1) the molecular and biochemical basis for drought stress tolerance in cotton and 2) genetic constructs for map-based gene transfer and/or marker assisted incorporation of genes into adapted types.
Regulatory

Development and Commercial Evaluation of the Use of Atoxigenic Strains to Prevent Aflatoxin Contamination

USDA Agricultural Research Service scientist Dr. Peter Cotty continues his research in Arizona to control or eliminate aflatoxin contamination of cottonseed. Fields are seeded with atoxigenic (natural varieties of *Aspergillus flavus* that do not produce aflatoxin) *A. flavus* strains colonized on wheat seed in order to reduce the aflatoxin-producing potential of resident fungal populations.

Work continues on getting full EPA registration for AF36 – the atoxigenic aflatoxin strain that is being successfully used to reduce aflatoxin levels in cottonseed. Work also continues on using wheat seed as a colonized medium. Improving processing as well as efficiency in colonization itself are being emphasized. Crop assessments on almost 20,000 acres in Arizona in 2000 continued to demonstrate the ability of atoxigenic strain applications to reduce the aflatoxin-producing potential of fungal communities residing in agricultural fields. Cotty is defining environmental conditions under which atoxigenic strains performed best and developed an assay to assess product survival in non-sterile soil.

In 2001, Cotty continued assessing the long-term efficacy of areawide treatments on 20,000-30,000 acres and identifying agronomic practices favoring atoxigenic strains. He also will complete accumulation of ecological data on the distribution and quantity of *A. flavus* in natural habitats for submitting to EPA. The USDA Multi-Crop Aflatoxin Working Group and IR-4 Biopesticide Research Program and Cotton Incorporated support this work and a similar South Texas effort.

Preliminary Assessment to Establish Parameters for Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in South Texas

South Texas has experienced devastating aflatoxin contamination of corn and cottonseed in recent years. USDA Agricultural Research Service scientist Dr. Peter Cotty, in a manner similar to Arizona research, is evaluating the use of atoxigenic strain technology for management of aflatoxin contamination in this region. This includes evaluating the use of soil applied wheat seed colonized by an atoxigenic strain of *A. flavus* that is native to South Texas. Incidence of atoxigenic strains in the soil prior to application and one year after application will be determined.
Evaluation of PM2.5 Samplers Using the Coulter Counter Multisizer

Texas A&M University researchers continue to evaluate the various EPA-approved, particulate matter PM2.5 Federal Reference Method samplers. They found that the Air Pollution Regulatory Process does not distinguish between different sources of PM. The goal is to develop a high volume PM2.5 sampler that can be used to measure PM2.5 concentrations more accurately. This effort is needed as a PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard has been approved. This will result in a significant increase in the number of non-attainment areas, including many where cotton is grown and ginned. The SCGF contributes to this effort.

Use of Particle Size Distributions for Measurement and Modeling of Emissions from Agricultural Operations

In their research to develop a more accurate means to predict downwind concentrations of PM2.5, engineers have determined that the standard by which EPA determines the accuracy of a subject sampling method needs to be modified. Researchers at Texas A&M University are trying to size accurately particulate matter (PM) sampled downwind from an agricultural source, such as a cotton gin. These sizing data are necessary for the analysis of the particle size distributions (PSD) of cotton gin dust samples, which are obtained using both the Coulter Counter Multisizer and Cascade Impactor.

The objective is to obtain EPA approval of the Coulter Counter Multisizer method for the determinations of PSDs of agricultural emissions of PM. The ultimate goal is to ensure that sources are regulated fairly. This work is also supported by the SCGF.

Implementation of the Fritze/Zwicke Dispersion Model for Agricultural Operations

Texas A&M University scientists are testing the performance of a dispersion model that predicts downwind concentrations of pollutants from gins and other agricultural operations. The aim is to improve the model's accuracy and get EPA approval of it for use as a predictor. Research thus far has shown that current dispersion models over-predict downwind concentrations of particulate by 3 to 10 times when applied to low level point sources, such as cotton gins, feed mills or grain elevators. As part of this ongoing research, a new, more accurate model has been developed – one that accounts for short-term changes in wind direction. The major hurdle to be overcome is to adapt the model to employ one-hour weather data while still accounting for wind direction variation. The SCGF also supports this research.

Cyclone Testing

Extensive work has been completed to determine how a cyclone's dimensions and its operating conditions affect its performance. However, because the engineering data associated with air and particle flow patterns in the cyclone are difficult to measure accurately, engineers are developing a sound science description of the cyclone's operation that can be used to facilitate engineering design.

Texas A&M University engineers will continue to test various cyclone configurations and Barrel cyclones with different inlet loadings of high and low lint trash plus fine dust. The results will be used to determine the best cyclone systems – the most efficient pollution abatement systems. The SCGF contributes to this effort.
Survey and Research on Potential Consumer, Environmental and Workplace Hazards

The Foundation is cooperating with several associations in generating and compiling various data. These data are useful in helping the U.S. cotton industry respond to rulemakings by various regulatory agencies to avoid unreasonable regulation and to carry out information/education programs.

For example, burn incidence data added to a national database was helpful to retention of the Children’s Sleepwear Flammability Standard; hexane emissions data helped get more reasonable emission limits for large and small cottonseed oil mills.

The project also supported the gathering of information on: 1) hexane, dioxin, lead and oilseed processing products; 2) crystalline silica, ergonomics and other workplace health risks; and 3) particulate matter emissions from gins and textile processing. These data have been useful in preventing unnecessary regulations for hexane, OSHA standards and other potential regulations.

Support also allowed for cotton industry participation in a multi-organization study supporting the industry’s position to standards being proposed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The study allows comprehensive analysis of the true costs of proposed open-flame flammability regulations.

Worker Protection Standard Education

NCC continued to distribute newsletters and information sheets as part of an educational package on compliance with the Worker Protection Standard on the cotton farm. The materials are sent to 10,000 producers, consultants, Extension personnel and others.

EPA staff assisted with the newsletter content, including help with liberal interpretation of WPS implementation strategies.

Assessing the Demand for Cottonseed and Cottonseed Products

In an average year, cottonseed accounts for approximately 20 percent of the total revenue generated from a cotton acre.

NCC and National Cottonseed Products Association staff are assessing the market demand for cottonseed and cottonseed products and developing a predictive model of the oilseed crushing industry to: 1) estimate the price/demand impacts of proposed regulations and 2) assess the cottonseed industry’s vulnerability to an increased regulatory burden. A third objective is to assess the economic impact of regulations affecting the cottonseed crushing industry on U.S. cotton farmers and ginners.

Emergency Funds

Some funds are kept available as emergency support for high priority projects that may not be anticipated during the normal cycle of project planning. In 2000, efforts supported by contingency included providing seed money for initiating investigations into pathological causes of bronze wilt. Support allowed researchers at the University of Arkansas, Clemson University and the USDA/ARS Cotton Pathology Laboratory to begin work for “Clarification of the Role of Agrobacterium species in Bronze Wilt of Cotton.”

A new method for open flame testing of mattresses is being developed by the National Institute of Science and Technology.
Agdia develops and distributes Hel-ID, the diagnostic test kit that identifies both the bollworm and the budworm in the egg stage. Agdia also markets GMO tests, including CryT1Ac (Bollgard), Cry2AC (Stark), Cry2A and Cry1Ab, which detect Bt-endotoxins in transformed cotton and other plants for U.S. cotton producers. Agdia also develops test kits and lab testing services to detect pathogens in plants.

**COTTON FOUNDATION MEMBERS**

**AgriPro Seeds** is a leading marketer of one of the most complete lines of high quality cotton, hybrid corn, soybean, grain sorghum, sorghum-sudan, wheat and alfalfa products in the industry - making AgriPro your one source for your seed needs.

**AMVAC** Chemical corporation develops and markets the following crop protection products for cotton growers in the United States: Insecticides, BIDRIN® and DIBROM® 8 EMULSIVE; Fungicides, BLOCKER®, Dacthal® PCNB 2-1, PCNB 10% granules, PCNB 75 WP and WP-FLOR®, and Soil Fumigant, VAPAM®. The plant is located at 4100 E. Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles CA, 90023-4406. Customer Service Tel No. 888-462-6822 (GO-AMVAC).

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**Cotton Net Limited** is the unique global internet trading floor for raw cotton at www.cotton.co.uk. The system has been developed so that producers, cooperatives and spinners and other users are connected directly with each other. CottonNet operates 365/24. Our system is fast, secure and all bids and offers are guaranteed anonymity.

**DirectAg.com** is a comprehensive business-to-business Internet site providing agriculture producers with a broad reach of information and a growing number of agriculture products and services. DirectAg.com offers current markets and agriculture news, gives farmers free access to experts and makes name brand, high-quality products available any time of day or night.
The Dixie Wick Company manufactures the only row Wick applicator which can be calibrated for applying mepiquat chloride to the growing cotton plant. This process facilitates earliness of flowering and harvest and uniformity without reducing canopy fill-in. The applicator is convenient to piggyback with other operations and eliminates spot spraying. Check our website: www.skantech.net/dixiewick/index.html.

FMC Supporting cotton growers by providing these cotton protection products - Ammonium Labeled, Mustang<sup>®</sup>, Pounce<sup>®</sup>, Thiodan<sup>®</sup>-Cottonseed Oil, and Methyl Parathion-Thiodan insecticides; Capture insecticide/miticides; Command<sup>®</sup> herbicide; Furadan<sup>®</sup> insecticide/miticide.

Griffin Griffin Agricultural Chemicals Group provides Cotton Producers with quality cotton products including CottonQuik, Cotton-Pro<sup>®</sup>, Cy-Pro4L, Cy-Pro4DF, Direx 4Lb, Direx<sup>®</sup>880 DF, Early Harvest<sup>®</sup> PGR, Mapex<sup>®</sup>, Maturon<sup>®</sup>180, Super Bal<sup>®</sup>, Trilin<sup>®</sup> and Trilin<sup>®</sup>85. For more information, contact Griffin Corporation, PO. 1847, Valdosta, GA 31601, 912/242-8635.

Gustafson LLC is North America’s leading developer and supplier of proprietary seed amendment and seedling protection products. For cotton, these products include Gaucho<sup>®</sup> insecticide; Baytan<sup>®</sup>, Vitavax<sup>®</sup>, Thiram<sup>®</sup> and Allegiance<sup>®</sup> fungicides; and Kodial<sup>®</sup> biological fungicide. The Gustafson product line also includes seed coatings, seed treatment equipment, treatment applicators, automatic sampling equipment and stored grain protectants.

The most trusted, innovative and respected distributor of agricultural inputs in the Cotton Belt, Helena offers cotton producers a complete line of production inputs and services. Our expanding line of useful specialty products include high quality inputs in many categories: Spray Adjuvants: Seed Treatments, Nutritional, BioScience and Value-Added Products.

EDEN® Bioscience Corporation develops new protein-based crop protection products for cotton and other crops. Messenger<sup>®</sup> and Envirobiotics<sup>®</sup> reduce loss from nematodes, both root and hard locks; and improves yield potential. For information, call 1-888-879-2420 or visit us at edenbio.com.

Farm Journal Farm Journal, the nation’s largest circulation magazine for farmers, has been a voice for American agriculture since its founding in 1877. In its COTTON TODAY section and throughout the magazine, award-winning editors analyze crop production, agricultural policy and marketing. The Farm Journal Corporation publishes TOP PRODUCER, BEEF TODAY and DAIRY TODAY magazines and PRO FARMER, AGTRADER and LANDOWNERS newsletters. Its monthly publication program is seen on 175 stations and Farm Journal Radio Network is broadcast on 400 stations. Farm Journal’s content is found online at www.AgWeb.com. For information, call 800-523-1538.

FarmSaver.com LLC was founded by agricultural veterans dedicated to providing US growers high quality agricultural inputs at considerable savings. From manufacturer to farm, FarmSaver.com provides the cotton industry with Acalphate 75/90 S and Mepiquat Chloride. Check us out and save at farmsaver.com.

Industrial Laboratory Equipment Company, Inc., manufactures physical testing equipment that measures fiber properties and textiles to help mills and gins calibrate their equipment. The equipment also tests textile finishing and processing chemicals and dyes.

Industrial Laboratory Equipment

EnvironLogix

EnviroLogix develops rapid test kits for detecting and measuring GE (genetically enhanced) traits in genetically modified varieties of cotton and other crops. Two test formats: lateral flow QuickStix<sup>™</sup> strips for rapid yes/no results in 5 to 10 minutes and the microwell plate format for quantitative results within 2 hours. Tests for Bt cotton seed and plant tissue (Cry2A) are currently available, others are under development and coming soon.

Farming - providing US growers high quality agricultural inputs at considerable savings. From manufacturer to farm, FarmSaver.com provides the cotton industry with Acalphate 75/90 S and Mepiquat Chloride. Check us out and save at farmsaver.com.

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The great cotton industry is well-served by a host of Meister Publishing Company specialized agricultural offerings, including the internationally-circulation vertical, COTTON GROWER, and its sister publication, COTTON GROWER PLUS, targeted to the business needs of 250+ acre growers. Meister is the world’s largest publisher of cotton information, yearly producing COTTON INTERNATIONAL, the world’s foremost annual publication summarizing global cotton production and marketing, as well as COTTON INTERNATIONAL’s “Global Meeting Preview,” a mid-year edition covering issues facing the important international cotton gatherings. Other Meister offerings involved heavily in the production of cotton include AG CONSULTANT, FARM CHEMICALS, FARM CHEMICALS HANDBOOK, WEED CONTROL MANUAL, and the INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL GUIDE.

OmniSTAR. The Global Positioning System. Differential GPS correction services over most of the World’s major latitudes, including Northern, Central and South America. OmniSTAR capability is now built into a growing number of DGPS receivers designed specifically for agricultural applications. OmniSTAR is recommended for critical operations, such as equipment guidance and chemical application operations, where maximum accuracy and reliability are required.

Plato Industries Ltd. supplies the Boll Weevil Eradication Programs and Cotton Producers with Boll Weevil Traps, their corresponding pheromones and insecticide dispensers and Boll Weevil Attract and Control Tubes.

PROGRESSIVE FARMER concentrates its editorial focus on the South and Midwest regions. Subject matter is localized to geographic states and regional and state editions. More than 90% of editorial content is devoted to farm production, farm management, machinery, crops, livestock and other information applicable to Southern and Midwest agriculture. The PROGRESSIVE FARMER COTTON REPORT is a news-formatted publication emphasizing marketing, policy, economics and production. It is mailed to 100+ acre cotton producers. www.progressivefarmer.com

Rain and Hall L.L.C. provides cotton growers with insurance products to manage their downside production and quality risks. The same products can be used to backstop forward pricing and hedging that can result in improved prices and profits. We currently service more than 200,000 policyholders throughout the U.S.

Monsanto develops and brings exciting new plant technologies to the cotton market. Now commercial available are the Bollgard gene for season-long in plant budworm and bollworm protection, and Roundup Ready cotton which allows in-crop management treatments of Roundup Ultra herbicide which is dependable, broad spectrum weed control in any cotton production system and all soil types. Both technologies are available in leading cotton varieties from multiple seed company partners.

The New York Board of Trade (NYBOT) is the parent company of the Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange, Inc. (CSCE) and the New York Cotton Exchange (NYCE). Through its two exchanges and their subsidiaries and divisions, including the New York Futures Exchange (NYFE), FINEX and Citrus Associates, NYBOT offers a wide variety of agricultural, currency and index products. The New York Cotton Exchange, the world’s largest cotton futures market, is committed to the development of electronic monitoring and control systems that help promote economic growth while preserving environmental quality. Products include acre counters, flow monitors, sprayer monitors and automatic rate controllers for liquid, dry and anhydrous. Also included are “On-The-Go” yield monitors for grain and cotton, DGPS receivers and guidance/lightbars.

The National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants is a national organization representing more than 500 crop consultants and contract researchers across the country. Members are experts in crop care, integrated pest management, integrated crop management and contract research as well as applications in biotechnological and sustainable agriculture. Membership requirements include: 1-800-359-9222.

National Bank of Commerce, Memphis: Financing cotton requires a lender with knowledge and experience. NBC has proven capability in providing the financial needs of companies involved in all phases of agribusiness from producer to mill.

Cotton is an annual crop; as such, it is necessary to plant a new crop each year. Nitrogen is an essential element, since it is a component of those vital proteins that are involved in the growth and development of the plant. Nitrogen is used in large amounts in the production of cotton. Many different forms of nitrogen fertilizer are available for cotton producers. Some of the most commonly used nitrogen fertilizers include urea, ammonium nitrate, urea ammonium nitrate (UAN), and urea-ammonium-sulfate (UAS). The proper application of nitrogen fertilizer is essential to achieve optimal cotton yield.
The Southern Cotton Ginners Foundation is a non-profit organization composed primarily of Southern Cotton Ginners Association members in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Missouri, and all other individuals interested in funding scientific development and charitable endeavors for the advancement and betterment of the cotton ginning industry.

**STOCKHAUSEN**

Degussa-Nids Groupe has its U.S. operations based in Greensboro, North Carolina. It serves the agricultural market with two lines of polymers. Super-absorbent polymers, which trap water and water-soluble nutrients and make them available for plant uptake, and linear co-polymers, which increase efficiency of irrigation systems and reduce water and soil erosion.

**Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Company** is recognized as a leader in the U.S. cotton industry for the development and marketing of improved varieties of cotton planting seed. Stoneville breeders constantly strive to improve the yield, fiber quality and agronomic performance of each and every variety we release through the combination of a strong program of traditional plant breeding and the integration of value-added traits from biotechnology. At Stoneville, we’re all about ... Perfec...ing the Seeds of Technology.

**STOVER EQUIPMENT CO., INC.** Products offered include the "Stover Cotton Module Truck," the "Stover Chain Bed Module Feeder" and the "Stover Moving Floor Feeder," for both cotton gins and textile mills. Our website is www.stover-equipment.com and email is info@stover-equipment.com.

**Syngenta** is the world’s leading agribusiness. The company ranks first in crop protection sales and is a major player in the high-value commercial seeds market. Cotton products include Karate™ Z, Curazion™, Zeppyth™, Caparol™, Gramoxone™ Extra, Fusion™, Cottonaz™, Ridomil™ Golds, Ridomil PC, Cyclone™ and Starfire™. Pre forma sales in 2000 were approximately US $6.9 billion. Syngenta employs more than 20,000 people in over 200 locations. The company is committed to sustainable agriculture through innovative products. From planting to harvest, Univar has the process and may have been acknowledged by the Foundation’s 2000-2001 fiscal year, The Southern Cotton Ginners Foundation as of the end of the Foundation’s 2000-2001 fiscal year, June 30, 2001. Some mergers were in the process and may have been accomplished after this booklet’s publication.
SPECIAL PROJECTS 2000-2001

Special projects are funded by Foundation members over and above their regular dues. Grant amounts listed for the special projects are per-year amounts. Some projects have been funded for a specific length of time while others are ongoing.

- Cotton Physiology Education Program
- Cotton Leadership Program
- Congressional Staff Education and Orientation Program
- Grown and Made in the USA Campaign
- Producer Information Exchange
- Policy Education Program
- Uniform Harvest Aid Performance Evaluation
- Cotton Foundation Reference Book Series
- Nematode Survey and Education Program
- Cotton Seedling Disease Survey and Education Program
- Journal of Cotton Science
- Cotton Coalition
- Cotton Risk Management Network
- CCI Cotton Education Program
- Cotton USA Newsletter
- Technology Transfer through News Media
- Worker Protection Standard Education Program
- World of Cotton
- Internet Center at the Beltwide Cotton Conferences
- Beltwide Cotton Conferences Exhibitors’ Center
- Funding for the Future
- High Cotton Award
- Cotton Millennium Scholarship

Cotton Physiology Education Program (CPEP)

BASF Corporation Grant: $175,000

This program’s mission is to discover and communicate more profitable methods of producing cotton. A key program element is Cotton Physiology Today, a newsletter that provides in-depth discussion of technical and production issues as the cotton growing season progresses. The newsletters are produced by the NCC in collaboration with veteran cotton physiologists. The newsletters contain proven strategies to help growers manage practices ranging from fertilization to harvest timing.

The Cotton Physiology Today newsletter shares leading physiologists’ insights on topics ranging from variety selection to defoliation timing.
Cotton Leadership Program

DuPont Agricultural Products Grant: $150,000

Each year 10 U.S. cotton industry members are chosen to participate in this rigorous program, which provides training to accelerate their leadership development.

During six week-long sessions, class members are exposed to all U.S. Cotton Belt regions and to all industry sectors. They have policy and issues discussions with industry leaders; observe innovative production, processing and research; visit with key lawmakers and government and regulatory officials; and receive communications training.

Chosen by an industrywide selection committee, the class is comprised of a producer from each of the four major U.S. cotton regions and one member of the other six industry sectors. Class members’ experience in this unique program enables them to better address challenges and opportunities in their operations and communities and take on additional responsibilities in state, regional and national interest organizations, including the National Cotton Council (NCC).

Congressional Staff Education/Orientation Program

Monsanto Grant: $110,000

This project is helping the NCC increase Congressional staffers’ awareness of the U.S. cotton industry and the need to restore profitability to its seven sectors.

More than 100 key House, Senate and committee staffers have been given a firsthand look at industry operations – from seed to shirt. They have heard how the industry is trying to improve efficiencies, preserve the environment and build demand for this nation’s No. 1 food and fiber crop. They also have seen production, merchandising and processing operations and toured public and private research and product development centers.

Congressional staffers visiting NCC headquarters (from left) front row: Tim Peters (Rep. Robin Hayes, R-NC); Adam Shepherd (Rep. Charlie Taylor, R-NC); Lanier Avant (Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-MS); Catherine Gabrysh (Rep. Bob Barr, R-GA); Kevin Berents (Rep. Bob Riley, R-AL); and John Riley and Pam Scott (House Ag Committee); second row: West Higginbothom (Sen. Zell Miller, D-FL); Robert Hollifield, (Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-AR); Monty Carlton (Rep. Sanford Bishop, D-GA); and Anne Simmons and Andy Johnson (House Ag Committee); back row: Andy Johnson and Dave Ebersole (House Ag Committee); Steven Meeks (Rep. Saxby Chambliss, R-GA); Michael Galloway (Rep. Sonny Callahan, R-AL); and Charla Penn (Rep. Allen Boyd, D-FL).
Grown and Made in the U.S.A. – It Matters

**Aventis CropScience Grant: $100,000**

Cotton textile imports now account for more than two-thirds of all U.S. retail cotton textile sales. This project is enhancing National Cotton Women’s Committee members’ communications with Americans, who are being reminded to shop for products containing U.S. cotton components.

NCWC members actively take their message to schools, including promotion of the three new $1,500 “Grown and Made in the U.S.A. Grow Smart” scholarships, which are aimed at assisting college-bound children of U.S. cotton producers.

**Producer Information Exchange**

**FMC Corporation Grant: $95,000**

This project is providing innovative American cotton producers the opportunity to become more inventive and efficient by speeding their adoption of proven technology and farming methods.

Participants from one region of the Cotton Belt travel to another region to interact with their peers with the purpose of gaining information for improving their yields and fiber quality. On-farm visits and one-on-one communication enable participants to get new ideas and perspectives in such areas as land preparation, planting, fertilization, pest control, irrigation and harvesting.

**Policy Education Program**

**Syngenta Grant: $60,000**

Policy development is integral to the NCC’s mission, and this project already has helped more than 50 key NCC producer members better understand the organization’s policy development and implementation process.

Up to four producers from each major Cotton Belt region are chosen each year by the Chairman of the NCC in consultation with NCC staff. Their orientation includes participation at the NCC’s annual meeting and a look at the NCC’s Washington, DC, operations.

**Uniform Harvest Aid Performance Evaluation**

**Bayer, FMC, Griffin LLC, Uniroyal Grant: $66,000**

Standard defoliation and desiccation treatments and newer practices and/or products are being evaluated. The results will be used to develop effective, contemporary harvest aid recommendations that contribute to harvest efficiency. Results to date were included in *COTTON HARVEST MANAGEMENT: Use and Influence of Harvest Aids*. 
COTTON HARVEST MANAGEMENT: Use and Influence of Harvest Aids is aimed at helping producers make the proper choice of harvest aid materials and the proper application methods in order to boost the crop’s economic potential and maintain fiber quality.


James R. Supak, Ph.D., Texas A&M University, and Charles E. Snipes, Ph.D., Mississippi State University, served as editors.

Cotton Nematode Research Project

Aventis CropScience Grant: $50,000

This project has led to greater awareness among producers, consultants, Extension personnel and others about nematode infestations and losses. The infestation/loss reporting and the sampling/handling processes have been improved. State nematologists are updating the nematode databases, which contain information from annual nematode population surveys by species and county. The information can be found at www.cotton.org/cf/nematodes. Also being updated is the Cotton Nematodes: Your Hidden Enemies booklet.

The seedling disease and nematode web sites were promoted to producers and others at the 2001 Beltwide Cotton Conferences’ Technical Exhibits.

Cotton Seedling Disease Survey/Education Program

Aventis CropScience Grant: $50,000

Under this effort, cotton producers, consultants and others determine: 1) losses to the seedling disease complex, 2) the basic disease spectrum in each locale and 3) fungicide use and application method in each state. A standard protocol for research and trials has been adopted to ensure consistency across the Cotton Belt. This and other information and photos of the seedling disease complex are located at www.cotton.org/cf/seedlings.

Plans call for seedling disease fact sheets to be generated and distributed to producers, consultants, Extension personnel and others.
Journal of Cotton Science

Bayer Grant: $50,000

This grant is helping the NCC manage the Journal of Cotton Science (JCS) so that it becomes the premier, readily accessible and archived database of research findings for all cotton industry disciplines. JCS also is supported as a Foundation general project.

JCS articles are written for the scientific community, but contain an interpretive summary that explains the research’s value in layman’s terms. To date, JCS has received more than 200 manuscripts for peer review and published more than 100.

Cotton Risk Management Network

Syngenta Grant: $50,000

NCC launched its Cotton Risk Management Network II, an Internet-based tool that provides NCC members with one-stop delivery of a complete range of market data, news and analytical tools necessary to compete in today’s agricultural marketing environment. The upgraded, user-friendly CRMN II requires no software installation or daily downloads. All that is needed is access to the members only area of NCC’s web site, www.cotton.org.

CRMN II data are updated continuously and, with this new web delivery, forthcoming components such as farm management tools and market wizards can be introduced without inconvenience to users. Among CRMN II’s features are: futures market activity for all contracts of cotton, corn, soybeans and wheat; trading contracts for the past five years; contract charting capability; and market news and activity.

Cotton Coalition

BASF Corporation Grant: $40,000

The Cotton Coalition has provided more than 100 cotton producers with professional training in government affairs, media relations and presentation skills. The program’s goal is to help these potential leaders effectively communicate to lawmakers, consumers, the media and others about constantly changing issues, policies and regulations that affect cotton industry profitability. Coalition members’ names are placed on the NCC Action Request list, and they are frequently called on to communicate with legislators on behalf of the cotton industry.

Participants also gain a better understanding of the regional, national and international implications of complex economic, environmental and trade issues.

2001 Cotton Coalition producer members from left: David Bush, Schlater, MS; Dale Murden, Monte Alto, TX; Chris Frierson, Shreveport, LA; Dow Brantley, England, AR; Tom Isom, Casa Grande, AZ; Phil Bohl, Chattanooga, OK; Stoney Hargett, Alamo, TN; Ronnie Lee, Bronwood, GA; Bill Stone, Stratford, CA; and Doyle Schniers, San Angelo, TX.
Cotton Council International (CCI) Educational Program

**Dow AgroSciences Grant: $40,000**

This grant helps CCI leverage funds from USDA through the Market Access Program and from other global partners.

This enables CCI to develop markets for U.S. cotton fiber and manufactured cotton products – a critical activity to improving the U.S. cotton industry’s competitiveness. Exports of U.S. cotton and cotton products help retain U.S. jobs on and off the farm, maintain the U.S. farm and textile sector’s profitability and improve the U.S. trade balance.

**COTTON USA Newsletter**

**Dow AgroSciences Grant: $25,000**

The quarterly COTTON USA Newsletter updates industry members on CCI’s COTTON USA global programs to promote U.S. cotton exports.

The four-color publication, distributed to more than 11,000 NCC members, includes highlights of programs carried out under CCI’s supply-push/demand-pull strategy. These include retail promotions, advertising campaigns and trade servicing activities.

**Worker Protection Standard Education Program**

**Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Company Grant: $30,000**

Seasonal newsletters and information sheets containing timely information on Worker Protection Standard topics are distributed to more than 10,000 producers, consultants, Extension personnel and others. The newsletters cover topics ranging from product labels to recordkeeping.

This program also receives funding from the Foundation’s general fund.

**World of Cotton**

**Syngenta Grant: $15,000**

Using a Cotton Belt map as a framework, a database is being developed for the NCC’s website, www.cotton.org, that will assist NCC in its government relations efforts.

Some of the information to be included will be: Congressional contacts both in Washington and the district; NCC member businesses and NCC leadership; cotton acreage and production by state, county and Congressional district; and the value of both the crop and the industry to each state, county and district.
Technology Transfer through News Media

**Monsanto Grant: $15,000**

A working Beltwide Cotton Conferences’ newsroom facilitates the dissemination of written and electronic reports by the huge number of journalists covering this unique information event. Through their articles and broadcasts, the news media also play a large role in speeding the delivery of information on proven and emerging technology to those who cannot attend the conferences.

**Beltwide Cotton Conferences Internet Center**

**Syngenta Grant: $7,750**

At the 2001 Beltwide Cotton Conferences’ Internet Center, cotton industry members and others were guided by cotton producers to Internet sites these producers find useful. NCC staff also helped answer questions about the abundance of information that can be found on the World Wide Web.

This project also enabled the NCC to erect Internet kiosks for conferees to access the World Wide Web and check email.

**Funding For The Future**

**Vance Publications Grant: Varies**

More than $17,000 has been raised to benefit Cotton Foundation general projects through this special auction at the Beltwide Cotton Conferences. Fifteen companies contributed items to the 2001 auction, which raised $6,500 during the conferences.

**Beltwide Cotton Conferences Exhibitor’s Center**

**Farm Progress Company Grant: $6,000**

A room with refreshments and phones was provided to Cotton Foundation Technical Exhibitors at the 2001 Beltwide Cotton Conferences.

**Miscellaneous Projects**

A number of other Foundation activities are considered special projects and supported by specific member firms. For example, in the Chemical Evaluation Project, USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists at the Southern Insect Management Lab in Stoneville, MS, are analyzing insecticides and application methods with the goal of helping producers lower their insect control costs.

Other special project efforts include the Technical Education Exhibits at the Beltwide Cotton Conferences, the Ginning Lab Fiber Analysis and the periodic development and distribution of various NCC-produced videotapes.
AWARDS AND ENDOWMENTS

Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award For Cotton

Jimmy Sanford, a Prattville, AL, cotton producer and dedicated industry leader, received the 2001 Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award for Cotton. He received the honor at the NCC’s 2001 Annual Meeting.

Known for his ability to take charge of opportunities and produce results, Sanford served as the NCC’s 44th president and as its Board chairman, treasurer, vice chairman of the Research and Education Committee and chairman of the Industry/Government Research Committee. Additionally, he served as president of The Cotton Foundation and has participated in several industry trade missions to Europe and the Far East for Cotton Council International and USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service.

The award, named for the late California industry leader and NCC President Harry S. Baker, is presented annually to a U.S. cotton industry member who has provided extraordinary service, leadership and dedication to the industry.

Oscar Johnston Lifetime Achievement Award

The late Roger Malkin, a pioneering Mississippi agribusinessman who served as long-time chairman and CEO of Delta and Pine Land Co. received the 2001 Oscar Johnston Lifetime Achievement Award.

Malkin was an agribusiness pioneer who fused biotechnology and farming to help the company become the world’s largest cotton breeder with business in the U.S. and 18 other countries. Under his 22-year watch, Delta and Pine Land breakthroughs included early maturing varieties, smooth leaf cotton, the first transgenic row crop seed and the first Roundup Ready cotton seed.

The New York native also was a force for advancing education and the quality of life in the Delta.

The annual award, established in 1997, is named for Oscar Johnston, whose vision, genius and tireless efforts were foremost in the organization and shaping of the NCC more than 60 years ago. The award is presented to an individual, now deceased, who served the cotton industry, through the NCC, over a significant period of his or her active business career. Recognizing more than office or position held, the award honors someone who, like Johnston, exerted a positive influence on the industry and who demonstrated character and integrity as well as perseverance and maturation during that service.
High Cotton Awards

Farm Press Publications Grant: $15,000

Four cotton producers, real environmentalists striving to take care of their land while ensuring that their families can continue to enjoy a way of life, are the recipients of the 2001 Cotton Foundation/Farm Press publications High Cotton awards. The winners: Thomas Waller, Trenton, NC; David Wildy, Manila, AR; Doc and Danny Davis, Elk City, OK; and Richard “Dick” Newton, Stratford, CA.

The awards program recognizes producers who are making significant contributions to preserving and protecting the environment. Recipients are selected by a special judging panel comprised of representatives from industry, government and conservation agencies.

2000 High Cotton Award winners are from left: Thomas Waller, Trenton, NC; David Wildy, Manila, AR; Doc and Danny Davis, Elk City, OK; and Richard “Dick” Newton, Stratford, CA.

C. Everette Salyer Cotton Research Fellowship

Endowment: $300,000

This fellowship was inaugurated to honor the late California producer-ginner and former Cotton Foundation president, C. Everette Salyer. Students at the doctorate or post-doctorate level are able to study and conduct research geared to the sciences of producing and marketing cotton.

Ernest Clawson is completing his Ph.D. program in agronomy at Texas A&M University. His research interests are in crop physiology, specifically the use of ultra-narrow-row (UNR) cotton technologies and the study of fertility and variety performance of UNR cotton.

Paul Ragsdale is pursuing a Ph.D. in cotton breeding at Texas A&M. His study areas involve classical breeding with quantitative genetic analyses to research heat tolerance in cotton and improving fiber quality in an elite line.
**Cottonseed Oil Clinic**

**Endowment: $60,000**

Proceeds from a Mississippi Valley Oilseed Processors Association endowment support the Annual Conference of the Oilseed Processing Clinic. The clinic is jointly sponsored with the USDA Agricultural Research Service’s Southern Regional Research Center and the National Cottonseed Products Association.

**Robert and Lois Coker Trustees Chair in Molecular Genetics**

**Endowment: $1,000,000**

This endowment supplements support provided by Clemson University’s Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources for molecular genetics research. The University’s Robert and Lois Coker Endowed Chair of Plant Molecular Genetics is held by Dr. Rod A. Wing. Since Dr. Wing’s arrival in 1996, the Clemson University Genomics Institute (CUGI), a state-of-the-art research facility focusing on structural and functional genomics of crop plants and their pests, was formed (www.genome.clemson.edu). CUGI, composed of five research centers, has raised more than $22,000,000 in federal and industrial grant support and employs more than 70 scientists ranging from undergraduate students to postdoctoral fellows.

A major research thrust in Dr. Wing’s lab is plant abscission. Abscission is an extremely important process whereby plants shed their organs such as fruit, flowers and leaves. Using a tomato model system, Wing’s lab recently cloned the first plant gene that controls the development of fruit and flower abscission zones. The gene is being studied to see how it controls the development of abscission zones and to determine if it could be used in other crop plants such as cotton and soybean (e.g. a jointless cotton plant). Such an advance could help to improve methods in mechanical harvesting and lead to higher yields and quality. The long-term vision of CUGI is to be in a position to be competitive for a National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center designation.

Dr. Rod A. Wing, Coker chair and director, loads DNA samples for the Rice Genome Sequencing Project onto a DNA sequencer.
George A. Slater Memorial Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund at Texas A&M University-Kingsville supports a student in a cotton-focused discipline. The fund was created from memorial scholarship funds commemorating the service of the late Foundation executive director, George Slater.

Cotton Millennium Scholarship

Meister Publications
Grant: $2,500

Meghan Lynn Hedgepeth, a junior agriculture business management major at North Carolina State University, was awarded the second annual Cotton Grower Millennium Grant. The $2,500 scholarship goes to a college student majoring in agriculture and planning a career in the cotton industry.
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