



COTTON FOUNDATION 2003-2004

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



U.S. cotton industry members' struggles continued into 2003 but amid signs of a global cotton economy turnaround.

An anchor during these turbulent times is The Cotton Foundation, which vigorously carries out its mission of encouraging, facilitating and conducting cotton research and education. The Foundation yields its support to projects that can help the National Cotton Council (NCC) carry out its mission of providing U.S. cotton industry members a world marketplace advantage. That edge is new technology - in the form of new products, systems or techniques. All Foundation-supported projects are aimed at developing these tools to help industry members reduce their fiber production, processing and handling costs – and affect bottom lines positively.

For 2002-2003, the Foundation was able to provide more than \$425,500 in support of 36 general research and education efforts. The projects, categorized as market development, profitability and regulatory, ranged from finding additional cottonseed product value-added uses to using

precision farming for meeting the federal government's total maximum daily load requirements on streams and watersheds.

Precision farming projects, logically, are receiving a sizeable focus. The Foundation had a small, but important role in the blossoming of that technology. Seed money was provided in cooperation with NASA and the Department of Energy in the late 1990s to ensure that hyperspectral remote sensing technology could be adapted for agriculture use.

Aflatoxin control has been another focus. The Foundation welcomed EPA's June 2003 approval for use of the biopesticide *Aspergillus flavus* AF36 in Arizona and Texas. Since the mid-1990s, the Foundation has supported USDA Agricultural Research Service-led field trials and commercialization of AF36 in these states to combat this natural carcinogen that greatly reduces cottonseed market value.

Non-dues grants from some of the 69 member firms enabled the Foundation to sustain 12 special projects during 2002-2003.

That included the Cotton Leadership Program, the longest running special project. The program, which graduated its 20th class in 2003, now has prepared 200 industry members for service, and many have assumed leadership roles locally, regionally and nationally. That includes the 2003 NCC Chairman, Bobby Greene, an Alabama ginner and graduate of the program's 1984-85 class, and Cotton Council International President Bobby Carson, a Mississippi producer and 1983-84 graduate.

This past year, the Foundation continued to expand its role of facilitating alliances between member firms and the NCC - for underwriting key NCC activities.

For example, multiple-member financial support was gained for two major NCC initiatives launched in 2003. The Cotton Biotechnology Registration and Communication project seeks to strengthen the cotton industry's position for supporting continued registration of and permits for biotechnology products. The Cotton Pesticide Registration and Education project provides a vehicle for plant protection and plant health product registrants to work with the NCC to strengthen the association's ability to ensure access to a safe and effective spectrum of new and existing cotton plant protection products.

In addition, individual Foundation member firms now are backing core NCC communications vehicles: the *Cotton's Week* newsletter, AgDay *Cotton's Week* program and Cotton eNews.

Such partnerships are invaluable and can benefit the NCC immeasurably in sustaining its mission and propelling U.S. cotton's success in the world marketplace.

Don Cameron, 2003-04 Chairman

The Cotton Foundation

(Cameron served as 2002-03 Foundation president.)

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AWARDS & ENDOWMENTS

Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award For Cotton

Rep. Larry Combest, who has given freely of his time, and through uncommon leadership, has provided invaluable assistance to the U.S. cotton industry, was honored as the recipient of the 2003 Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award for Cotton.

The award, named for the late California industry leader and National Cotton Council (NCC) President Harry S. Baker, is presented annually to a deserving individual who has provided extraordinary service, leadership and dedication to the U.S. cotton industry.

Combest took the title, "Representative," to heart in seeing after the needs of his 400 mile-long 19th Congressional district in Texas. Throughout his tenure, including the House Agriculture Committee chairmanship, "he applied his agriculture background to his job and took a proactive approach to shaping sound policies."



Rep. Larry Combest (R-TX), right, who chaired the House Agriculture Committee during the crafting of the 2002 farm bill, receives the 2003 Harry S. Baker Award from NCC Chairman Kenneth Hood.

Oscar Johnston Lifetime Achievement Award

The late Louisiana cotton producer, ginner and warehouseman Jack Hamilton, who was a determined U.S. cotton industry leader, is the 2003 Oscar Johnston Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

The award is presented to an individual, now deceased, who served the industry through the NCC, and who demonstrated character and integrity as well as perseverance and maturation during that service.

Hamilton served the NCC continuously from 1969 until his death in December 2001. That service included seven years as a delegate, two years as a member of its Board, chairman of the Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee, president of The Cotton Foundation, NCC treasurer, NCC president in 1998 and its Board chairman in 1999. In addition to being an innovative producer and ginner, Hamilton was a leading advocate for improvements in cotton processing and in the classing system.

High Cotton Awards

Farm Press Publications Grant: \$15,000

Four cotton producers who have not let economic adversity stand in the way of their love and concern for the land were the recipients of the 2003 High Cotton awards.

The recipients were : L.C. Conway, Cove City, NC, Southeast Region; Marty White, Jonesboro, AR, Delta Region; Dale Swinburn, Tulia, TX, Southwest Region; and Paul "Paco" Ollerton, Coolidge, AZ, Western Region.

Each recipient meets the criteria that have dictated the selection of the High Cotton awards since the program's beginning in 1995; that is, they are full-time growers who produce a profitable, high quality crop while meeting the best standards of environmental stewardship.



The 2003 High Cotton Award producer recipients were from left: L.C. Conway, Cove City, NC; Marty White, Jonesboro, AR; Dale Swinburn, Tulia, TX; and Paul "Paco" Ollerton, Coolidge, AZ

Robert and Lois Coker Trustees Chair in Molecular Genetics

Endowment: \$1,000,000

The Clemson University Genomics Institute (CUGI), founded by Dr. Rod Wing in 1996, continues under the direction of principal scientist, Dr. Jeff Tomkins, a faculty member in the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry. Dr. Tomkins' research program has a strong emphasis in cotton genomics, which is supported by several large grants from Cotton Incorporated.

A new Cotton Center also has been established at CUGI (www.genome.clemson.edu) under the direction of Dr. Tomkins. The Center is designed to provide genomic resources and data to cotton breeders and geneticists across the United States. CUGI's scientists and other researchers are now operating in a new Biotechnology Research Center on the university's campus. CUGI's intention is to be an international resource for the structural and functional genomics of cotton.

Dr. Tomkins has assumed the official directorship of CUGI and Clemson's cotton genomics program. The faculty position of the Lois Coker Endowed Chair of Plant Molecular Genetics formerly held by Dr. Wing, though, is still open and a search is anticipated in the near future. While not guaranteed, it is hoped the new Coker Chair will have a cotton research emphasis.



Clemson University Genomics Institute scientists and other researchers are now operating in a new Biotechnology Research Center on the university's campus.

The C. Everette Salyer Fellowship in Cotton Research

Endowment: \$300,000

This fellowship was inaugurated to honor the late California producer-ginner and former Cotton Foundation president, C. Everette Salyer. Doctoral and post-doctoral level students are able to study and conduct research geared to the sciences of producing and marketing cotton. It also provides funding for recipients to attend the annual Beltwide Cotton Conferences, where they are able to share their results with industry leaders.

The current fellowship recipient is Randy Clouse, a graduate student in Texas A&M University's department of biological and agricultural engineering. He is developing and evaluating management strategies for a site-specific irrigation system for cotton crops. His research is aimed at optimizing water application to cotton, based on water availability and the cotton's physiological status. Clouse's fellowship will end in August 2005.

The most recent endowment recipients were Ernest Clawson, who completed his Ph.D in agronomy at Texas A&M in May 2003, and Paul Ragsdale, who was scheduled to complete his Ph.D. in cotton breeding at Texas A&M in the summer of 2003.

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.

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

Samuel Walton, a North Carolina State University student who was raised on a cotton farm in southeastern North Carolina, was the recipient of the 2003 *Cotton Grower* Millennium Grant. The agricultural business management major plans to combine his education and farming skills learned from his father and return to the family farm.

The \$2,500 scholarship goes to a college student majoring in agriculture and planning a career in the cotton industry.

PROJECT SUPPORT

The following projects received Cotton Foundation support in 2003-04. Other 2003-04 projects that received ongoing support are described in the [2004-05 project support section](#).

Expanding Kansas Cotton Production Research and Education Programs

The escalation in Kansas cotton production mandates the establishment of a quality research and education program that will provide useful, timely and profit generating information to cotton growers in this new cotton growing region.

Kansas State University researchers continue to train educators and expand their research and demonstration programs, including cotton seminars held at four sites in January of 2004. The Kansas State University Research & Extension Cotton program for 2004 also included a series of county variety, growth regulator and harvest preparation demonstrations, on-farm replicated population and insect control studies, and one replicated double-cropping study.

Their long-term objectives are to: 1) develop a base of cotton production oriented results applicable to the higher elevation cotton growing regions of Kansas and 2) develop and grow an infrastructure of information disseminators.

Management Impacts on Seed Quality, Crop Microclimate and Arthropod Populations in Arid/Semi-Arid Environments

Scientists at New Mexico State University are seeking to understand the relative impact of different management practices on insect populations. Their work in 2003-04 specifically focused on determining the impact of plant node and position on seed quality; relating characterizations of egg damage to specific predators, determining the effect of irrigation timing and plant population on insect pest egg hatch rates, and determining the effect of temperature and relative humidity on development of beet armyworm and cotton bollworm.

Among their findings in this project was that mortality is extremely high for bollworms exposed to desert-like conditions with both low relative humidity and high temperatures. However bollworms exposed to only high temperatures or low humidity had relatively high survival.

Emissions From a Multi-fueled Burner for the Cotton Industry

The vendor that had originally agreed to provide a burner has not had one available since the funding was in place for this project – which aims to collect data on emissions from burning cottonseed oil.

Once a burner is secured, engineers at the USDA-ARS Southwestern Cotton Ginning Research Laboratory in Mesilla Park, NM, hope to be able to collect data in about three months.

Other Projects

Progress reports are pending for the following 2003-04 Foundation-supported projects:

- Use of Cotton Fibers as Support Media for Akaganeite Filters
- Conversion of Allis Chalmers 860TXB Cotton Harvester for Plot Research
- Module Management Education Program: Building, Covering, Transporting and Tracking
- Screening Converted Race Stocks (CRS) for Cotton Seedling Drought-Tolerance
- Determination of Actual Boundary Line Gin Particulate Emission Concentration Levels
- Evaluation of Acetone as an Extraction Solvent for Cottonseed
- Cyclone Study

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