

Fact Sheet: Cotton



- Alabama ranks in the top 10 cotton producing states each year.
 - Cotton is grown in 59 of Alabama's 67 counties.
 - Alabama's top 10 cotton-producing counties are Cherokee, Covington, Dale, Escambia, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lauderdale, Madison and Monroe.
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- A large green cotton harvester is shown in a field of white cotton plants. The harvester is moving through the field, and the cotton plants are in full bloom. The sky is blue with some light clouds.
- A bale of cotton weighs 480 pounds.
 - One bale produces enough oil to cook nearly 6,000 snack-size bags of potato chips.
 - One bale of cotton can make 215 pairs of jeans; 249 bed sheets; 313,600 \$100 bills; 690 bath towels; or 1,217 T-shirts.
 - Approximately 10-15 percent of a cotton producer's income is derived from cottonseed.
 - Cottonseed oil is used in snack foods, mayonnaise, margarine, baking or frying oils, explosives, cosmetics, rubber, soap and insecticides.
- The cotton industry provides more than 340,000 jobs and generates over \$60 billion in the U.S.
 - A typical gin, where cotton is separated into lint and seed, processes about 12 bales per hour, while more modern gins may process up to 60 bales an hour.
 - Round bale cotton pickers have increased farmer productivity in the last decade due to a decrease in labor required to run module builders and other equipment.
 - The cotton plant flowers before bolls form. Flowers are first white, then turn pink after pollination and fall off the plant, leaving a tiny boll that grows and opens to produce white cotton fibers.
 - In 1995, bollworm damage reduced Alabama cotton yields by 29 percent despite growers applying the highest applications of insecticide in the U.S.
 - Thanks to cotton genetically engineered with Bt technology (derived from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*), which is harmless to animals, people and insects other than the bollworm, the threat is reduced.
 - One dollar per bale of cotton goes to the state cotton checkoff for research, education and promotion.

Sources:
bt.ucsd.edu
Cotton.org
USDA.gov



COTTON PRODUCERS

A DIVISION OF ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION