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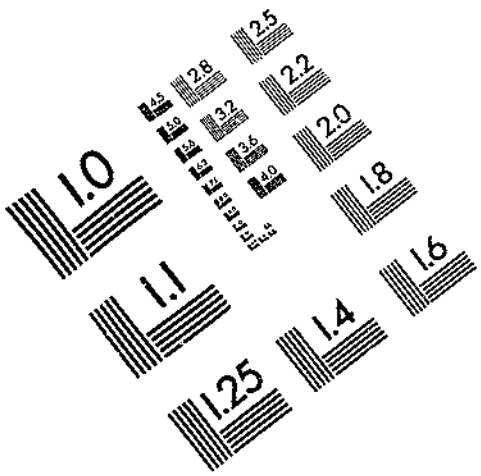
PB95-209185 USDA/SB-918 COTTON GINNING CHARGES, HARVESTING PRACTICES, AND SELECTED MARKETING COSTS, 1993/94 SEASON. (STATISTICAL BULLETIN.) / E. H. GLADE, ET AL. ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC. MAR 95 6P 01/01



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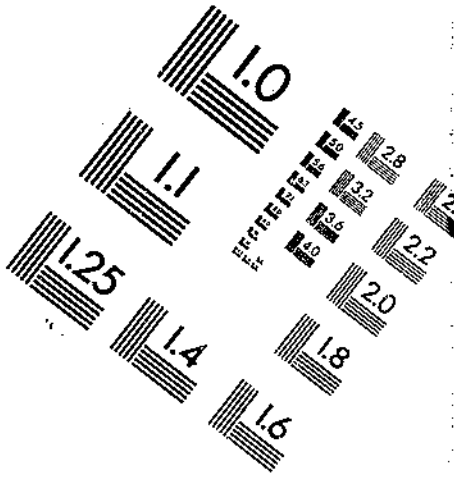

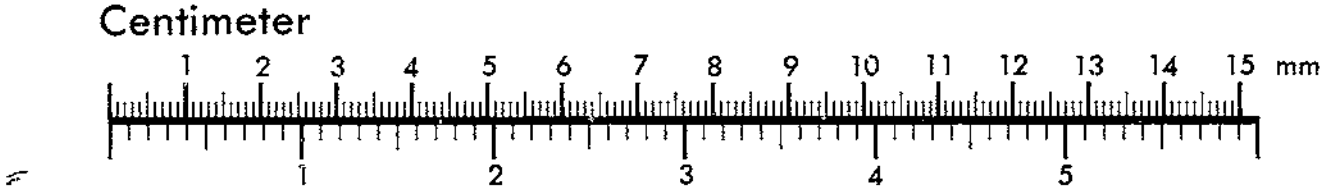

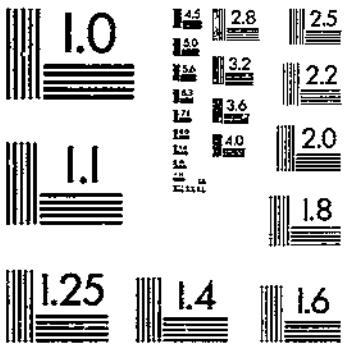

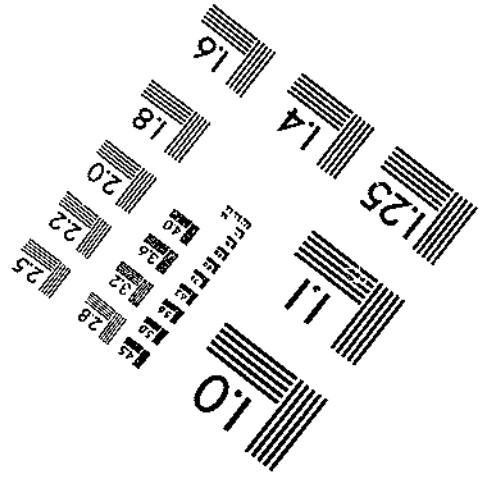

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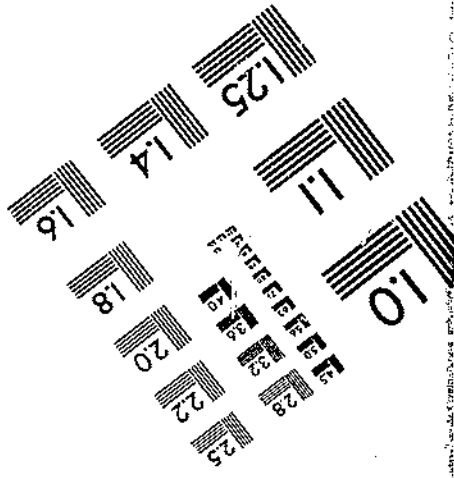

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COTTON GINNING CHARGES, HARVESTING PRACTICES, AND SELECTED MARKETING COSTS 1993/94 SEASON

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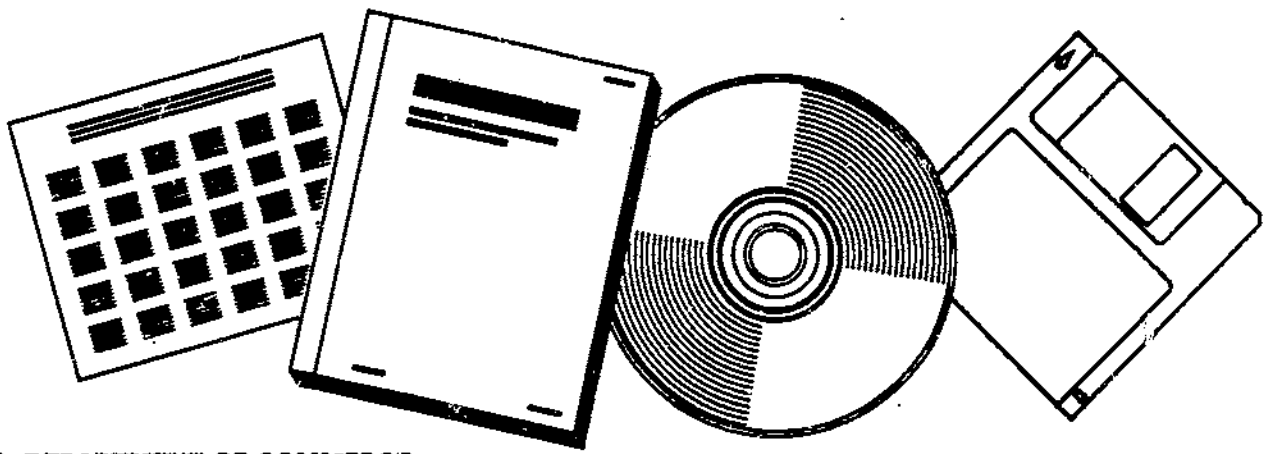

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Cotton Ginning Charges, Harvesting Practices, and Selected Marketing Costs, 1993/94 Season

Edward H. Glade, Jr., Mae Dean Johnson, and Leslie A. Meyer

Ginning Charges

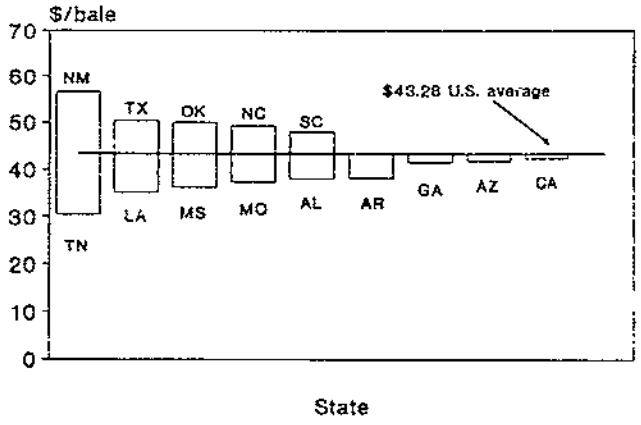
The average charge for saw-ginning and wrapping a 480-pound net-weight bale of cotton in the United States was $43.28 per bale during the 1993/94 season, compared with $42.50 in 1992/93. This increase reverses a 5-year decline in the U.S. average ginning charge. However, charges in most States actually declined slightly from year-earlier levels because of relatively larger 1993/94 cotton production in a number of States where ginning charges are traditionally above the U.S. average charge (fig. 1).

Average charges declined in 10 States and increased in only 4. The largest drop in ginning charges occurred in California, where average charges fell by $4.00 per bale, while South Carolina experienced the largest increase, with average charges up by $1.49 per bale. For most of the other cotton-producing States, 1993/94 ginning charges remained about the same as for the 1992/93 season.

Active Gins

There were a total of 1,357 active cotton gins operating in the 14 major cotton-producing States during 1993/94, compared with 1,383 the previous season. The small drop in gin numbers reflects little change in U.S. production and prospects for a much larger 1994/95 cotton crop. The number of gins increased in Arkansas, Georgia, South Carolina, and Texas, and decreased in each of the other cotton-growing States. The largest increase in gin numbers was in Texas, where an additional 18 gins operated to process the very large 1993 Texas crop. The greatest drop in numbers occurred in Mississippi, where 163 gins operated during 1993/94 compared with 181 a year earlier. The average volume processed per gin was 11,483 bales in 1993/94, an average increase of 143 bales per gin over 1992/93 volume. Gin volumes varied from an average high of 25,966 bales in California, to a low of only 4,262 bales in Oklahoma.

Figure 1
Cotton Ginning Charges, 1993/94 Season



Methods of Harvesting

The proportion of the 1993/94 cotton crop harvested by the machine-picked method averaged 76 percent—down from 84 percent the previous season. Machine-stripping, used primarily in Texas and Oklahoma, accounted for 24 percent of the total harvested volume in 1993/94, an increase of 8 percentage points over 1992/93. Sharply higher 1993/94 production in these States, combined with lower production in most States using the machine-picked method of harvest, was responsible for the increase in the machine-stripping share during 1993/94. Machine-scrapping (gleaning from the ground) continues to account for less than 0.5 percent of the harvested volume.

The use of modules as a method of temporary field or gin yard storage of seed cotton continues to grow across the Cotton Belt. A record 74 percent of the 1993/94 cotton crop was ginned from modules, with module use accounting for over 50 percent of ginnings in all but three of the major cotton-growing States (fig. 2). By State, use of modules ranged from 87 percent of the crop in Arizona, to 33 percent in New Mexico and South Carolina.

Pounds of Seed Cotton Required for a 480-Pound Net-Weight Bale

The average volume of seed cotton that must be harvested to yield a 480-pound net-weight bale changed

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Average charges for saw-ginned upland cotton, average charges for selected marketing services, and

Item	Unit	U.S.	AL	AZ	AR	CA
Bales ginned (running bales) 1/	Thou.	15,582	453	853	1,081	3,038
Active gins 1/	No.	1,357	61	69	127	117
Average volume per gin	No.	11,483	7,426	12,362	8,512	25,966
Ginning and wrapping charges:						
Total charge per 480-lb. net-weight bale 2/	Dol.	43.28	38.08	41.85	38.13	42.42
Method of harvesting:						
Machine-picked	Pct.	76	100	98	100	100
Machine-stripped	Pct.	24	---	---	---	---
Machine-scrapped	Pct.	3/	---	2	3/	---
Weight of seed cotton per 480-lb. net-weight bale:						
Machine-picked	Lbs.	1,447	4/	1,467	1,470	1,409
Machine-stripped	Lbs.	2,080	---	---	---	---
Machine-scrapped	Lbs.	1,766	---	1,801	1,750	---
Cotton ginned from:						
Trailers	Pct.	26	23	13	42	18
Modules	Pct.	74	77	87	58	82
Charges for warehousing and related services: 6/						
Charge per bale for receiving	Dol.	2.97	3.10	---	3.12	---
Charge per bale per month for insured storage	Dol.	1.86	1.74	2.01	1.99	1.92
Charge per bale for compressing to universal density	Dol.	7.93	7.00	6.60	8.10	6.60
Charge per bale for outhandling	Dol.	5.88	5.24	5.27	8.43	5.11

--- = Zero.

1/ Based on report of May 1994, by National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA, and includes 4 active gins in Florida, 1 in Kansas, and 2 in Virginia. 2/ Includes bagging and ties, drying of transportation to warehouses, industry organization dues, or cotton classing fees. 3/ Less than 0

elated information, by State, 1993/94 season

GA	LA	MS	MO	NM	NC	OK	SC	TN	TX
710	1,085	1,509	371	94	420	260	197	537	4,974
61	75	163	41	19	41	61	46	53	423
11,639	14,467	9,258	9,049	4,947	10,244	4,262	4,283	10,132	11,759
41.55	35.17	36.33	37.42	56.62	49.12	50.04	47.89	30.40	50.34
100	100	98	100	88	100	28	100	100	29
---	---	---	---	12	---	72	---	3/	71
---	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
4/	1,427	4/	1,468	1,482	4/	1,550	4/	1,490	1,483
---	---	---	---	5/	---	2,187	---	5/	2,074
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
29	43	36	27	67	45	43	67	54	15
71	57	64	73	33	55	57	33	46	85
3.01	4.10	3.72	1.50	2.32	3.36	2.25	2.76	3.44	2.52
1.66	2.10	2.08	1.95	1.76	1.49	1.82	1.54	2.00	1.72
---	7.80	8.60	8.00	7.50	---	7.80	---	8.30	8.80
4.68	8.18	8.99	8.53	4.59	3.16	4.17	3.79	8.54	4.64

h American-Pima and upland cotton. Excludes bales ginned in Florida and Virginia, also excludes ed cotton, lint cleaning, and insurance, but does not reflect any patronage dividends, rebates, percent. 4/ Seed cotton usually not weighed. 5/ No data available. 6/ Based on published tariffs.

Figure 2
Module Use Varies by State

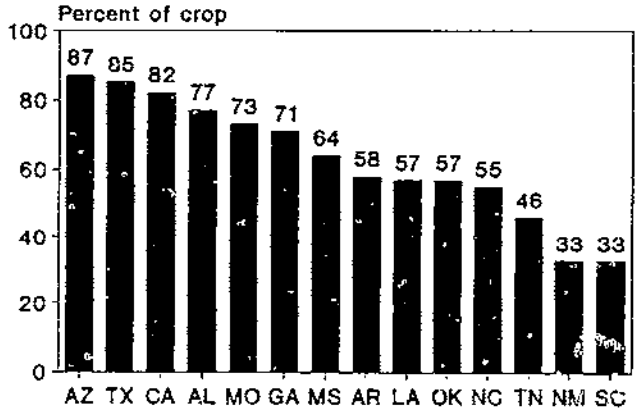
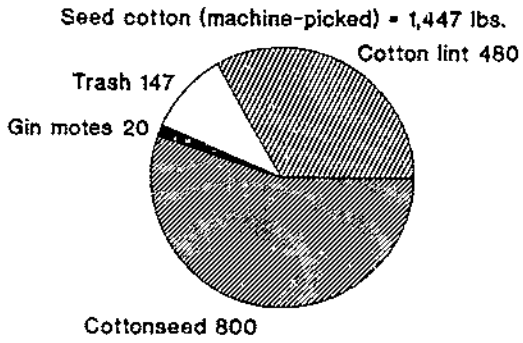


Figure 3
Distribution of Harvested Seed Cotton, in Pounds



only slightly for both the machine-picked and machine-scrapped harvesting technologies during 1993/94, compared with the previous season. However, for the machine-stripped method, the average seed cotton requirement fell by 153 pounds due to much improved growing and harvesting conditions, primarily in Texas.

Under the machine-picked method of harvest, an average of 1,447 pounds of seed cotton were required in 1993/94, compared with 1,452 pounds a year earlier. Cotton harvested by machine-stripping required only 2,080 pounds of seed cotton to produce a 480-pound net-weight bale—153 pounds less than in 1992/93. Machine-scrappping required that 1,766 pounds of seed cotton be gleaned per bale ginned, compared with 1,739 pounds during 1992/93. The product distribution of harvested seed cotton is shown in figure 3.

Selected Marketing Services

After ginning, most cotton bales are moved to local warehouses for storage and other services necessary for marketing. With universal density compression now performed at most gins, however, some bales are shipped directly to textile mills and ports from gin points. This practice can result in considerable savings if the final destination is known at time of ginning.

Charges for each of the four primary warehousing services changed modestly for the 1993/94 season. Warehouse receiving charges averaged $2.97 per bale in 1993/94, compared with $3.11 in 1992/93. Storage charges averaged $1.86 per bale per month, up only 1 cent from the 1992/93 season average. Charges for compressing cotton to universal density increased 13 cents per bale to an average of $7.93 in 1993/94. Warehouse charges for outhandling or shipping services averaged $5.88 per bale during 1993/94, compared with $6.24 per bale a year earlier.

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For more information, call Edward H. Glade, Jr., (202) 501-8551, or write: Commercial Agriculture Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1034, 1301 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4788.

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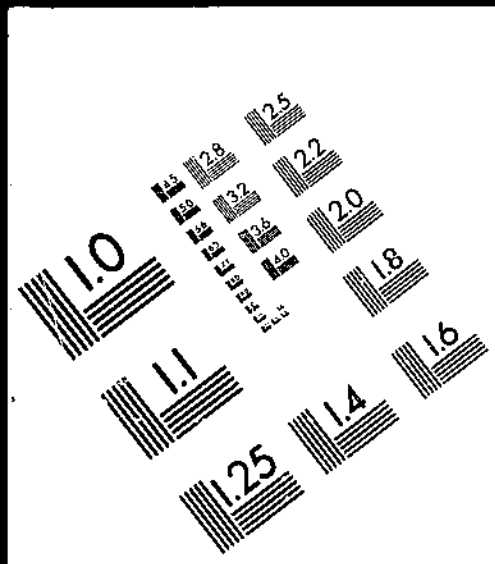

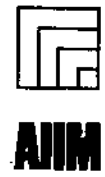

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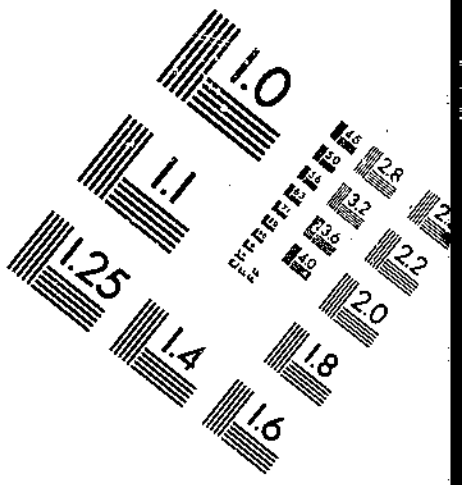

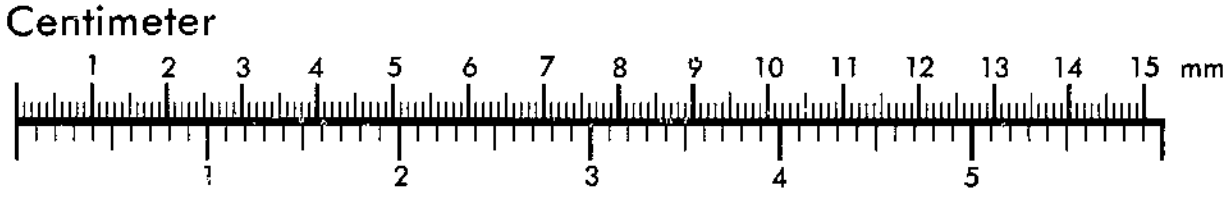

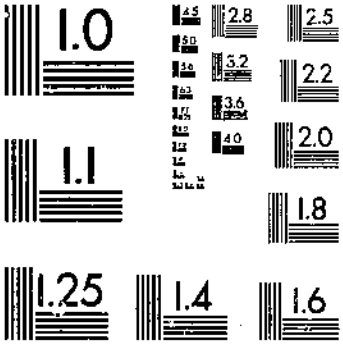

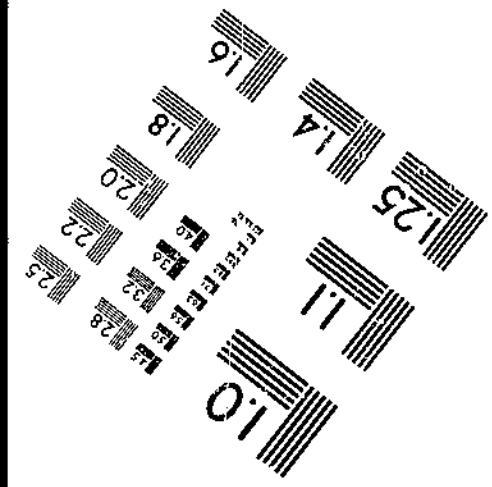
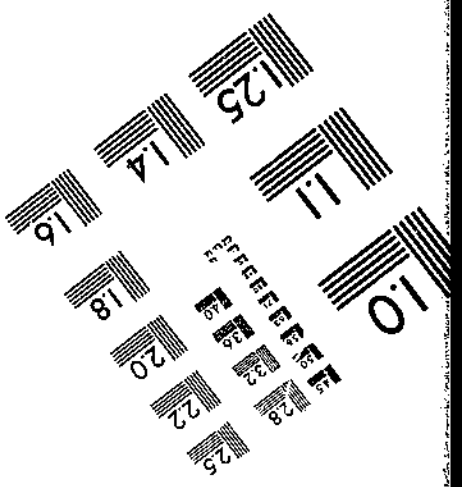
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