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#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

#### **Agricultural Outlook Forum 2005**

**February 25, 2005** 

ZHENGZHOU COTTON FUTURES: A CHINESE SUCCESS STORY

Ed Jernigan, CEO Globecot, Inc.





## ZHENGZHOU Cotton Futures: A Chinese Success Story

Presented by:
Ed Jernigan, CEO
Globecot, Inc.





### China & Futures: A Natural Interest

The first futures trading began in Asia -- Rice in Japan





#### China & Futures: The Beginning

- October 1990: first grain wholesale spot market opens
- September 1991: aluminum futures begin trading on Shenzhen
- 1992: first futures brokerage firm opens
- 1993: Zhengzhou commodity exchange transfers business to futures
- 1994: government approves 11 futures contracts on a trail basis





#### China & Futures: The Beginning

- April 1994: government bans futures in steel, sugar, coal
- September 1994: government bans futures in rice and rapeseed
- 1998: 14 futures exchanges consolidated into 3:
  - Shanghai Futures Exchange
  - Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange
  - Dalian Commodity Exchange





#### China & Futures: The Beginning

• Today's futures trade occurs on those 3 exchanges

• June 1, 2004: Cotton Futures opened on Zhengzhou commodity exchange





### Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange: Background

- Established 1990, evolved from Zhengzhou grain wholesale market.
- 1993: Launched futures: wheat, corn, soybeans, green beans, sesame
- 1993-1999: green beans most active contract.
- 1999: wheat took over top position.





### Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange: Background

- 2003: 2<sup>nd</sup> wheat contract added
- 2000: Computer trading introduced
- 2003: daily volume in wheat futures reached a record 887,446 contracts
- 2003: open interest in wheat reached 716,316 contracts





#### Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange: Today

• Non-profit organization

• 218 member firms

Electronic trading





# ZCE: Cotton Futures – A Success from Opening Day

- Most successful new cotton futures contract ever introduced.
- Enjoyed liquidity from opening day.
- By November 1, open interest reached over 70,000 contracts.
- Daily volume averages over 50,000 contracts.





#### ZCE Open Interest June 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004







#### ZCE Open Interest December 1, 2005 – February 18, 2005







- Base quality mirrors domestic cotton use and production.
- Strong physical delivery mechanism.
- Active movement in underlying cash commodity.
- Strong regulatory procedure.
- Widespread familiarity of futures and their use.





- Base quality mirrors domestic cotton use and production:
  - Over 80-percent of all Chinese cotton produced is M 1-3/32" or better quality
  - Over 75-percent of all domestic cotton consumption is M 1-3/32" or better quality





- Base quality: T328, equivalent to U.S. Grade M 1-3/32."
- Other features: deliverable quality range, mike 3.5 to 4.9.
- Quality T129 to T429 tenderable, with premium and discount.





- Strong physical delivery mechanism:
  - All cotton is re-graded by FIB when placed in a certified warehouse.
  - All cotton is again classed by FIB when delivery takes place.
- Created strong integrity in the quality of cotton received by buyer, no dumping by seller.
- ZCE futures trade at a premium to general physical prices for that reason.





- Strong physical delivery mechanism
  - All delivery in 20 ton lots.
  - 13 approved delivery warehouses in East China.





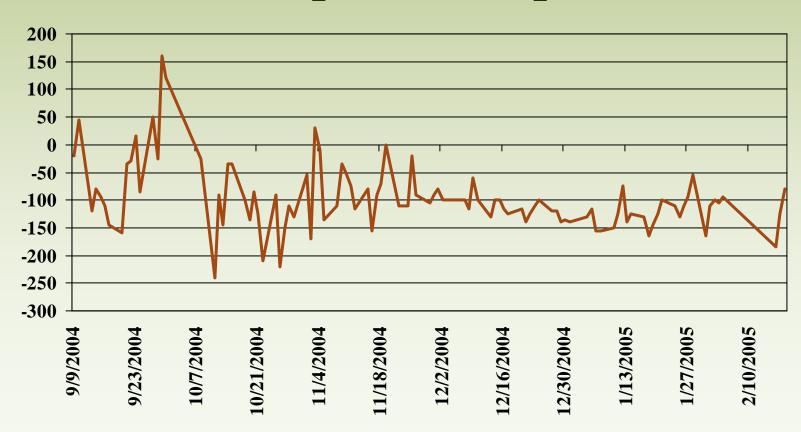
#### ZCE Cotton Futures November/December 2004 Spread







#### ZCE Cotton Futures March/April 2005 Spread







- Active movement in underlying cash commodity.
- China physical price movement is now a free market:
  - Significant volatility.
  - Prices less influenced by government than in the United States.





- Strong regulation procedure:
  - Delivery integrity.
  - Position limits.
  - Daily price limits.
  - Strict margin rules.





- Widespread familiarity of futures and their uses.
  - Domestic futures volume has soared since introduced.
  - Volume in many of the grain contracts exceeds CBOT.
  - Poor performance of domestic equity and bond market make futures attractive alternative.





#### **ZCE March 2005 Contract**







# Today: ZCE Cotton Futures Are A Big Success

- Daily volume average two to three times that of NYBOT.
- Reflects domestic cotton price movement in China.
- Open interest is averaging above NYBOT after less than one year.