

NATIONAL COTTON GINNERS ASSOCIATION
Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting
Marriott Rivercenter Hotel – San Antonio, Texas
1:00 p.m. – February 10, 2026

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AGENDA
National Cotton Ginners Association
Board of Directors
Marriott Rivercenter Hotel – San Antonio, Texas
1:00 p.m. – February 10, 2026

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS	Larry Black
ROLL CALL	Harrison Ashley
REVIEW OF MINUTES	Larry Black
• Board of Directors 2-14-2025 Meeting	
EPA REPORT	Turner Bridgforth Senior Agriculture Advisor to EPA
COMMITTEE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS	Larry Black
• Executive Committee	Larry Black
• Technology Committee	Tom Pires
• Safety and Labor Committee	Brad Williams
• Budget Committee	Brad Williams
NCC RESOLUTION REVIEW	Larry Black Harrison Ashley
AWARDS	Larry Black
Charles C. Owen Distinguished Service Award	
Horace Hayden Ginner of the Year	
OTHER BUSINESS	
ADJOURN	

MINUTES
NCGA Board of Directors
2-14-2025 Page 1

Minutes
National Cotton Ginners Association
Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Dallas, Texas
February 14, 2025

National Cotton Ginners President, Richard Lindsey called the 88th meeting of the board to order at 1:00 p.m.

The following directors and officers were in attendance:

Len Alphin	Windsor, VA
Jantz Bain	Altus, OK
Larry Black	Roscoe, TX
David Blakemore	White Oak, MO
Tommy Calloway	Rayville, LA
Melissa Campbell	Coolidge, AZ
Adriane Carbonel	Buttonwillow, CA
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA
Gary Evans	Hazelhurst, GA
Gary Feist	Anthony, KS
Rex Ford	Stamford, TX
Kirk Gilkey	Corcoran, CA
Nathan Goldman	Casa Grande, AZ
Phillip Kidd	Lockney, TX
Richard Lindsey	Centre, AL
Drake Perrow	Cameron, SC
Thomas Pires	Riverdale, CA
Billy Sickler	Athens, AL
John Steelhammer	Mathis, TX
Mike Thompson (alt. Chris Berry)	Bishop, TX
Todd Waters	Pantego, NC
Brad Williams	Burlison, TN

A quorum was present.

Member association representative executives who attended the meeting and were not board members included: Tim Price, Memphis, TN; Kelley Green, Round Rock, TX; and Dusty Findley, Dawsonville, GA.

Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary.

After the chairman's opening comments and roll call, the board reviewed the minutes from the February 14, 2025 Board of Directors meeting held in Dallas, TX. Following the review, Kirk Gilkey made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Tom Calloway, and the motion was adopted.

Chairman Lindsey stated that it was customary for Gary Adams, the NCC President and CEO, to meet with the gingers annually in a formal session. After his introduction, Gary Adams updated the gingers on various cotton issues including ag appropriations, the farm bill, the recent elections, and congressional actions.

Chairman Lindsey reviewed the Executive Committee recommendations that included a brief summary of each recommendation.

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March 27, 2024

At the Direction of the Chairman regarding selection of Peary Wilemon Scholarship recipients:

1. Selected the following individuals to receive Peary Wilemon scholarships in the amounts listed:

Luke Fuhrer	\$1,750
Josiah Keck	\$1,750
Jake Price	\$1,750

May 23, 2024

Regarding the Best Practices for Processing Suspect Fire Bales:

1. Recommends that the document be adopted.

Regarding the proposed Farm Bill:

2. Recommends that the National Cotton Ginners Association support the House version of the proposed farm bill.

August 13, 2024

Regarding the Cotton Warehouse Associations of America's (CWAA) request to the Cotton Flow Committee:

3. Recommends that the three CWAA recommendations be discussed in detail at the NCGA Technology Committee Meeting and that a representative from CWAA be asked to clarify as to the needs of each of the recommendations.

January 14, 2025

Regarding committee recommendations:

5. Recommends that the Safety and Labor and Technology Committee's recommendations be forwarded to the board as presented.

Regarding the Budget and Dues Rate Proposal for 2025/2026

6. Recommends the following budget and dues rate for 2025/2026.

Operations:

Office	\$ 3,000
Meeting	14,000
President's Travel	12,000
Publications	600
Special Projects	4,000
Insurance/Dues	5,500
Miscellaneous	<u>250</u>
Total	39,350

Activities:

Gin School	45,500
NCGA Web Page	1,300
Receptions	<u>20,000</u>
Total	66,800
TOTAL	<u>\$ 106,150</u>

Proposed Dues Rate: \$.002

Regarding the nomination for the 2025-2026 3rd Vice President:

7. Recommends that Ben Evans from Douglas, Georgia serve as the NCGA 3rd Vice President.

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That included the Executive Committee's report, and Chairman Lindsey called for a motion to adopt the recommendations. Phillip Kidd made a motion to adopt the Executive Committee recommendations which was seconded by Nathan Goldman and the motion was approved.

Brad Williams served as the Ginning Technology Committee chairman and reviewed the activities of that committee that had met on January 15th in Dallas, TX. His report included a summary of the Gin School, Cottonseed and Air Quality subcommittees.

Chairman Williams offered the following Ginning Technology Committee recommendations for Board consideration:

Regarding 2025 gin schools and course levels:

1. Recommends the following dates and class levels for the 2025 gin schools:
 Lubbock School – March 31-April 2 Mon. – Wed. (Levels I, II, III, CE)
 Western School – May 6-8 Tues. – Thurs. (Levels I, II, III, CE)
 Stoneville School – June 3-5 Tues. – Thurs. (Levels I, II, III, CE)

Regarding the course curriculum:

2. Recommends that the curriculum be developed by the Research Leaders and the school coordinators.

Regarding allowing Australian Ginners to attend the gin schools

3. Recommends that with the Memorandum of Understanding in place between the Australian Ginners and the National Cotton Ginners Association that the Australians be allowed to attend the gin schools with the understanding that the Australians may be called upon to reciprocate by assisting in instruction at the schools.

Regarding the Certified Ginner First Aid and CPR requirement:

4. Recommends that the first aid and CPR requirements can be met only by an OSHA-recognized program that includes in-person training and demonstrations.

Regarding the New Council policy to phase out woven polypropylene and wire ties:

5. Recommends that the marketplace be the driver of packaging changes rather than the banning of woven polypropylene and wire ties.

Executive Committee Chairman Richard Lindsey asked that a motion be made to adopt the 5 recommendations from the Technology Committee. It was noted by the Chairman that Recommendation 5 would be offered as alternative language in the Packaging & Distribution Program Committee. With no further discussion, David Blakemore made the motion to adopt, which was seconded by Gary Evans. The motion was approved by the board.

The chairman called on Larry Black, the Safety and Labor Committee Chairman, to provide a report from that committee. Chairman Black reported that the committee met in Fort Worth on January 14, and the committee heard a report from Aaron Nelsen on the Safety Specialist Forum that had meet earlier that morning. The Committee also heard a report from Mark Martens, with Agri Placements International, updated the committee on recent rule changes that effect the H-2A program, and impacts of the new methodology used in calculating the Adverse Effect Wage Rate.

In addition, committee members heard a report from Kelley Green and Duncan McCook on the proposed Indoor Heat Illness Standard. State and regional reports were given by Priscilla Rodriguez, Chris McGlothlin, Kelley Green, Duncan McCook, Dusty Findley, and William Lindamood.

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NCGA Board of Directors
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Regarding the NCGA safety videos:

1. Recommends that the committee should begin the review and development of questions for specific segments of the National Cotton Ginners Association safety videos, and the videos should include time for questions and answers and include a practical review of the equipment being covered in the questions.

Chairman Lindsey requested that motion be made to adopt the Safety and Labor Committee's recommendation.

Rex Ford made the motion to accept the report and was seconded by John Steelhammer and the motion was passed.

Larry Black the Budget Committee Chairman presented the proposed 2025/2026 budget:

Operations:

Office	\$ 3,000
Meeting	14,000
President's Travel	12,000
Publications	600
Special Projects	4,000
Insurance/Dues	5,500
Miscellaneous	250
Total	39,350

Activities:

Gin School	45,500
NCGA Web Page	1,300
Receptions	20,000
Total	66,800
TOTAL	\$ 106,150

Budget Committee Chairman Black reported that the budget is divided into an Operations Budget and Activities Budget. Chairman Black explained that generally the NCGA funds the Operations Budget with our membership dues, and the Activities Budget is supported by sponsorships, donations, and fees. However, for the last few years the Activities Budget has been supplementing the Operations Budget. He said there were several reasons for this including inflation, and the increase cost of doing business, and short crops used in calculating association dues. The committee has increased the Meeting and Insurance and Dues line items to reflect the last several years of expenditures. Having made those adjustments, the committee believes the operations budget will increase by \$4,300, for a total operations budget of \$39,350. The Activities Budget is based on projected expenditures 2 with the gin school budget is based on the last few years' actual expenditures. The chairman said that gin school expenses have increased, and the committee is proposing a \$5,500 increase in that line item for the 2025-2026 budget. This would increase the Activities Budget from \$61,300 to \$66,800. It was noted that in next year's budget, the Reception Budget line item would likely increase. Chairman Black stated that the estimated dues income and the income from our activities cover the proposed combined Operational and Activities Budgets total \$98,850. The projected budget of \$106,150 would indicate a budget shortfall of \$4,7460. He concluded that fortunately, we have funds to cover this shortfall, and Harrison will do everything that he can to come in under budget on several of the line items, and the dues rate would remain at the 2 tenths of a cent level.

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Chairman Lindsey asked if there was any discussion, and in hearing none, he requested that a motion be made to accept the proposed budget. Tom Pires made the motion, which Billy Sickler seconded. The motion to adopt the budget passed unanimously.

Chairman Lindsey stated that the By-laws of the National Cotton Ginners Association require that each of the four geographic production regions of the Cottonbelt has representation on the Executive Committee. To comply with that by-law provision, the Eastern Region had nominated Ben Evans, Douglas, Georgia to serve as the 3rd Vice President position for 2025 and 2026. The following were the Nominations Committee recommendations:

President – Larry Black, Roscoe, TX
 1st Vice President - Brad Williams, Burlison, TN
 2nd Vice President - Tom Pires, Riverdale, CA,
 3rd Vice President – Ben Evans, Douglas, Georgia
 Chairman – Richard Lindsey, Centre, AL

The Chairman asked that a motion be made to accept the committee’s slate of nominees. John Steelhammer made the motion which was seconded by Gary Fiest. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Lindsey called for a review of the resolutions that would be presented to the various NCC Program Committees. He requested Harrison Ashley lead the discussion on NCC policy recommendations. Harrison reviewed the following proposed changes to NCC resolutions:

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AND PROMOTION FUNDING

(NEW) Support research to determine and, if appropriate, support public outreach and education concerning the human health and environmental impacts of micro- and nanoplastics resulting from the textile industry; (Staff recommendation based on new research reporting association of micro-and nanoplastic to heart disease, lung cancer, colon cancer, lower sperm count, and accumulation of plastic in human placenta)

VARIETY, GENETICS AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

7. Work with USDA, state universities and other groups in identifying and addressing factors affecting yields and quality; **including publication of independent objective data and analysis** (AMCOT proposal to ensure producers have better access to data to make variety selection decisions) advocate deployment of technology protection system technologies for transgenic cotton planting seed only in order to minimize abuse of intellectual property and to encourage future investments in research and development of new cotton varieties with assurances that sufficient research, including field testing, will be conducted on the system and the results can be independently verified; work to preserve within the Plant Variety Protection Act producers' exemption to utilize non-patented seed from their own production for planting on their total operation; and work to enhance variety choices by ensuring a diversity in cotton’s genetic base, maintaining funding for federal and state breeding and genetic research programs and supporting actions that foster competition among cottonseed suppliers, **recognizing that U.S. yields need to improve significantly to compete globally;** (AMCOT proposal to acknowledge producer profitability pressures and international competition)

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COTTON CLASSING AND UNIVERSAL STANDARDS

(NEW) Urge adoption of module averaging as the only classing method; work with Cotton Incorporated and USDA-AMS to make continual improvements to module averaging classing; support efforts to improve the USDA cotton classification system through instruments proven to be reliable and feasible through comprehensive testing and to enhance cotton flow; urge all segments of the cotton industry to work for a reliable instrument-based classing system so that USDA classing measurements are used throughout the entire cotton marketing chain; (Staff addition based on direction from the Strategic Task Force August 2024 meeting)

ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND SOCIETAL TRENDS

(NEW) Support efforts to include cotton farms and cotton gins, as an extension of the cotton harvest, in any Department of Energy and/or Department of Agriculture Climate Solutions programs or initiatives that promote the use of agrivoltaics, bioenergy, or other sustainable means of producing electrical or other forms of energy; ensure and promote that sustainable energy produced from cotton farming and ginning be eligible as offsets for energy consumed and as carbon insets throughout the supply chain; and support research by land grant universities and the three USDA-ARS cotton ginning laboratories to address harvesting as a component of Agriculture Climate Solutions and to develop and/or find sustainable energy solutions for cotton producers and ginners while preserving both productive farmland and private property rights. (Staff proposed recommendation to address the need to included production, harvesting and ginning in DOE initiatives and USDA Climate Solutions programs.)

PACKAGING AND DISTRIBUTION

BALE PACKAGING

(New) The cotton industry, through the JCIBPC, should work to remove woven polypropylene and wire ties as an approved bale packaging material and develop a reasonable phase out period for this material. The industry should investigate options for a more durable polyethylene bag and a lighter-weight cotton bag; (This policy was approved during Mid-Year Board Meeting)

It was agreed that ginners on the committee would offer the substitute language that was passed by the Technology Committee and the NCGA Board.

FLOW-SHIPMENT

(New) Work with the Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee to add a quick-response code in addition to the bar code, giving “space” for future traceability and sustainability information (ACSA recommendation)

(New) Urge enhancement of the current minimum shipping standard, such that if a warehouse is unable to offer a date within 6 weeks, then beginning on the 7th week and all subsequent weeks the warehouse will have to schedule at a rate of 5.25% and continue to schedule at 5.25% until they are able to offer dates within 6 weeks again; provided further,

a. a week that has been established at 5.25% cannot revert to 4.5%, but once the warehouse resumes scheduling shipments less than 6 weeks in the future, its shipping standard will return to 4.5% per week; and

b. ready dates offered no more than 3 days prior to requested shipping dates are considered compliant; and further urge the industry to commit to developing a report which identifies the weeks for which a warehouse has an increased shipping standard to 5.25%. (Staff proposed change to reflect recommendation from December 11, 2024, Cotton Flow Committee Meeting)

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(New) Urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture to initiate a non-complaint-driven auditing system to audit compliance of warehouses and shippers regarding the Minimum Shipping Standard and related regulatory policies; (ACSA recommendation)

FARM PROGRAM AND ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
 FARM PROGRAM LEGISLATION

- (1.) maintains inclusion of cotton in farm legislation for the ARC/PLC programs in the form of a combination of lint and cottonseed income support (Seed Cotton) **at an economically relevant level as determined through market data and production cost analysis from USDA and university extension programs;** (AMCOT proposal to ensure programs remain economically significant and beneficial; Staff amended for clarity)
- 2.) complements existing crop insurance programs that addresses shallow revenue losses on a county-wide basis (or area-wide where necessary) with producer premiums offset to the maximum extent possible using available cotton program spending authority;
- b. an effective, **market-relevant** (AMCOT proposal to ensure programs remain economically significant and beneficial) non-recourse marketing loan that maintains a world price formula for loan redemption purposes **and relevant world price** (AMCOT proposal to ensure programs remain economically significant and beneficial);
3. In an effort to improve the timeliness, competitiveness and flow of cotton, support farm legislation that:
- a. includes provisions that provide flexibility in loan redemptions and the movement of cotton including taking the necessary steps to ensure continued operation of the marketing loan during period of a government shutdown **lapses in government funding;** (AMCOT proposal for technical accuracy)
13. Urge the Secretary to consider the income of farm-support industries in administering the cotton program **and urge development of programs that support industry infrastructure;** (AMCOT proposal to support cotton industry-wide supply chain necessary for sector-wide viability)

RISK MANAGEMENT

28. Promote the development of both legislative and non-legislative programs, marketing tools and education efforts designed to help the cotton industry manage risk by:
- b. supporting improvements to the tropical storm coverage, **which include transparency of data collection,** (Staff added for clarity) within hurricane insurance protection products to make them a more effective risk management option for growers;
- g. urging the accelerated development of federally assisted insurance to **incentivize producer harvest** or other risk management programs such as but not limited to – grants, cost-share programs, low interest loans or other related programs for cotton ginning, warehousing, merchandising, textile manufacturing and crushing operations to mitigate the risk of losses associated with reduced processing volume attributable to a significant decline in crop production;

Ben Evans presented the 2024 Horace Hayden Ginner of the Year award presentation to Richard Lindsey. Richard Lindsey awarded Tim Price the 2023-2024 Charles C. Owen Distinguished Service Awards.

With no other business, the meeting was concluded at 2:30 p.m.

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MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Executive Committee
March 27, 2025 - Cordova, TN
Zoom Meeting

Executive Committee Chairman, Larry Black called the meeting of the NCGA Executive Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. CDT. In addition to the Chairman, the following committee members were present:

Brad Williams	Burlison, TN
Tom Pires	Riverdale, CA
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA
David Blakemore	White Oak, MO
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX

Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary, Jana Jackins, Cordova, Tennessee also participated.

Chairman Black informed the committee that it was their responsibility to select Peary Wilemon Scholarship recipients for 2025. The Chairman noted that the foundation would be required to spend about \$5,000 to meet its IRS obligation. The chairman noted that in addition to the \$4,530 in the checking account, that for the past 13 years the Texas Cotton Ginners had pledge an additional \$1,000. The committee was informed that in 2024, the Peary Wilemon Scholarship Foundation provided three students a total of \$5,250. The chairman called on Harrison Ashley to give a brief review of the five scholarship applicants. There was considerable discussion about the financial needs of undergraduate and graduate students noting that graduate students have a great need for funding. After the review and further discussion, Ben Evans made the following motion: The Peary Wilemon Foundations should provide two scholarships of \$1,000 each for undergraduate students Blake Bradbeer and Zoe Meeks, and \$2,000 each for graduate students Kyle Hampton and Jake Price. The motion was seconded by Brad Williams and the motion passed.

The recipients are and the scholarship amounts are as follows:

Blake Bradbeer	\$1,000
Kyle Hampton	\$2,000
Zoe Meeks	\$1,000
Jake Price	\$2,000

The Chairman called on Harrison to discussed other ginner issues.

Harrison briefly discussed the ongoing discussion regarding the phaseout of both woven polypropylene and wire ties and informed the committee that the Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee’s Executive Committee would meet quarterly until an agreeable time period for phase-out could be decided. That decision would then be taken to the full JCIBPC for final approval. Harrison also discussed issues with the 4-bale module averaging and informed the committee that a solution to the multiple of four requirement that had caused the majority of the bales to be rejected was being addressed by USDA-AMS and NCC staff. Furthermore, the fix would likely be available for the 2025 crop. In addition, module averaging as the only method available for classing would likely not go into effect until the 2026 crop year.

With no further business the committee was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

* * * * *

MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Executive Committee
July 7, 2025 - Cordova, TN
Zoom Meeting

Executive Committee Chairman, Larry Black called the meeting of the NCGA Executive Committee to order at 2:00 p.m. CDT. In addition to the chairman, the NCGA member gin associations representatives were invited to participate on the call. The following committee members were present:

Brad Williams	Burlison, TN
Tom Pires	Riverdale, CA
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA
Richard Lindsey	Centre, AL
David Blakemore	White Oak, MO
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX

The following NCGA member association representatives were present:

Gary Fiest	Anthony, KS
Dusty Findley	Dawsonville, GA
Roger Isom	Fresno, CA
Duncan McCook	Round Rock, TX
Chris McGlothlin	Fresno, CA
Alberto Pando	Mesquite, NM
Priscilla Rodriguez	Fresno, CA

Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary, Jana Jackins, Cordova, Tennessee also participated.

Chairman Black informed the committee and the associations that the primary purpose of the call was to discuss a request made by Chris Berry, Chairman of the Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee, in a letter to the National Cotton Ginners. Chairman Black gave details as to how the NCGA current policy was established stating that during the Technology Committee meeting, the Council's Strategic Task Force recommendations, which included a "to-be-determined" phaseout of woven polypropylene bags and wire ties by the Bale Packaging Committee, were reviewed. The committee passed a recommendation that the National Cotton Ginners' Board adopted. The committee's recommendation is as follows: The committee recommends that the marketplace be the driver of packaging changes rather than recommending the banning of woven polypropylene and wire ties. The chairman explained that while this is the National Cotton Ginners' policy, our recommendation was not adopted by the National Cotton Council's Packaging and Distribution Committee, so the Council's Board policy to phase out woven polypropylene and wire ties remains in place as the NCC policy.

Chairman Black informed the participants that during the Bale Packaging Committee's meeting in February, the committee postponed the vote on the timing for a phaseout. However, it was agreed that the Executive Committee will meet quarterly, and upon an agreement, the Executive Committee will require final approval by the full Bale Packaging Committee. Therefore, while progress was made, there was no final resolution. The first meeting of the Bale Packaging's Executive Committee was held on Thursday, May 29, and no consensus regarding the phaseout period was reached. The committee will meet again at the end of July, on the 28th to work towards an agreeable phaseout period.

The chairman stated that while the National Cotton Ginners' policy has not changed, there was a letter sent to the Bale Packaging Committee from all of the eight National Cotton Ginners' gin member associations requesting a phaseout period of 8 years for woven polypropylene and 10 years for wire ties.

Chris Berry, is asking that the gin associations reevaluate and shorten their request of 8 years for woven polypropylene and 10 years for wire ties. California Cotton Ginners is requesting that we do so, and we did receive an e-mail from Texas Cotton Ginners that supported the current NCGA policy of letting the marketplace work this out but also that indicated that if a certain number of years for the phaseout period is necessary, that certain date should be 8 years for woven polypropylene and the 10 years for wire ties, which would result in polypropylene bagging being eliminated after the 2033 ginning season and wire ties being eliminated after the 2035 ginning season. The chairman noted that Chris' letter recognized that gins are currently working to meet the policy of the NCC. He also indicates that the mills proposed a timeline of 4 years for woven polypropylene and 4 years for wire ties. Chairman Black said that the request for the phaseout period impacts all ginning associations and their gin members, so he needed the input from the member associations.

Three options were considered, the current National Cotton Ginners' policy is retained, that it could be amended to reflect the 8 and 10 years, as outlined in the gin association's letter or the NCGA, which would provide a date certain for a phaseout, or we can come up with a shorter period, as outlined in Chris Berry's request.

After considerable discussion with many stating that the current NCGA policy was sound and that this should be driven by the marketplace, and that merchants and manufacturers include packaging preferences in their contracts. Also discussed was the impact this would have on smaller association members, who could not easily or financially make changes. It was noted that the discussion was aimed at protecting smaller and vulnerable gin members and that no association should pursue a policy that would hasten gin closures.

The chairman informed those on the call that he would now call for the NCGA Executive Committee to meet and decide. Those association members were welcomed to stay for the session. During the session it was stated that we should retain our current policy but for good faith we may want to include dates for a phaseout. Several options were discussed, and the following motion was made by Ben Evans: The NCGA Executive Committee recommends that the marketplace be the driver of packaging changes rather than recommending the banning of woven polypropylene and wire ties. However, if a date certain is necessary, it should be the crop year after the 2031 ginning season for woven polypropylene and the crop year after the 2033 ginning season for wire ties. Brad Williams seconded the motion. During discussion it was noted that this would equate to a 7-year phaseout for woven polypropylene and 9 years for wire ties. Also discussed was the conveyance of concerns discussed by committee and association members to Chris Berry. Chairman Black then put the motion as presented to a vote and it was passed.

Harrison was asked to draft a response (Addendum) to Chris Berry's request as outline by the committee. With no further business the committee was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

* * * * *

LARRY BLACK
PRESIDENT
ROSCOE, TEXAS

BRAD WILLIAMS
1st VICE PRESIDENT
BURLISON, TN

TOM PIRES
2nd VICE PRESIDENT
RIVERDALE, CA

BEN EVANS
3rd VICE PRESIDENT
DOUGLAS, GA

HARRISON ASHLEY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
CORDOVA, TENNESSEE



NATIONAL COTTON GINNERS ASSOCIATION

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<https://www.cotton.org/ncga>

July, 8, 2025

Mr. Chris Berry, Chairman
Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee

Dear Mr. Berry,

The NCGA Executive Committee and the member associations met on Monday, July 7 and made the following recommendation to the JCIPBC: The NCGA Executive Committee recommends that the marketplace be the driver of packaging changes rather than recommending the banning of woven polypropylene and wire ties. However, if a date certain is necessary, it should be the crop year after the 2031 ginning season for woven polypropylene and the crop year after the 2033 ginning season for wire ties.

There was considerable discussion and there were several points that the NCGA Executive Committee wanted conveyed to the JCIBPC:

- That many of the gins in the Southwest have not had a decent crop in the last three years, and many of which have made automated bagger equipment purchases that utilize woven polypropylene. This fact makes changing or modifying equipment from woven polypropylene to PE film financially unfeasible.
- Concern that a move to PE film is an unnecessary step and expense if the goal is to move to cotton bagging.
- There were several who expressed a desire to move to cotton bags but acknowledged that we were far from an approved cotton bag alternative, especially considering that the bag had to go through the JCIBPC approval process.
- The elimination of wire ties would put smaller gins out of business and the member associations did not want to support policy that would have this effect.
- To emphasize the committee's recommendation that the marketplace be the driver of these changes, the merchants and mills are welcome to send the signals earlier through contracts.

The committee also wanted to convey that the phaseout periods of seven ginning seasons for woven polypropylene and nine ginning seasons for wire is the National Cotton Ginners' best and final offer. If the JCIBPC agrees to these dates, then this will force the industry to begin phaseout. Therefore, we urge the JCIBPC to adopt our recommendation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Black".

Larry Black
President

MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Executive Committee
August 14, 2025 - Cordova, TN
Zoom Meeting

Executive Committee Chairman, Larry Black called the meeting of the NCGA Executive Committee to order at 3:02 p.m. CDT. In addition to the chairman, the NCGA member gin associations representatives were invited to participate on the call. The following committee members were present:

	Burlison, TN
Brad Williams	
Tom Pires	Riverdale, CA
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA
Richard Lindsey	Centre, AL
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX

The following NCGA member association representatives were present:

Dusty Findley	Dawsonville, GA
Duncan McCook	Round Rock, TX
Alberto Pando	Mesquite, NM
Tim Price	Memphis, TN

Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary, Jana Jackins, and Tas Smith Cordova, Tennessee also participated.

Chairman Black stated that the purpose of our call was to continue our discussion and respond back to Chris Berry, Chairman of the Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee on the phaseout period compromise offered by the merchant member of the Bale Packaging Executive Committee.

The chairman said the NCGA had been following the development of a harvest incentives endorsement for crop insurance for cotton and that there had been recent developments. Chairman Black called on Tas Smith the NCC's Vice President for Producer Affairs to discuss the latest actions. Tas stated that the endorsement development had gone well and there are hopes that the pilot can begin in the Southwest for the '26 crop. He indicated the RMA has submitted the proposal to five expert reviewers and that four of the five agreed to vote the proposal down. Interestingly, all agreed that the program would work and that it was philosophical reasons for their conclusion. Tas said that the USDA chief economist was also adamantly opposed to the program and his reason was that he felt that a crop insurance program should not pay producers to harvest crops. Tas said that the RMA Committee would likely table the discussion and that this would be reviewed again in September, and that other avenues may be explored if RMA did not adopt the endorsement.

After Tas's report Chairman Black reviewed the July 7 recommendation to the JCIBPC Executive Committee that stated the members of the NCGA Executive Committee agreed that while they believe it should be the marketplace that drives changes in packaging materials, if a date certain was needed from National Ginners as to a phaseout time, that it should be 7 years for woven polypropylene and 9 years for wire ties. Essentially this would mean the crop year after the 2031 ginning season for woven polypropylene, and the crop the year after the 2033 ginning season for wire ties. That message was delivered to Chris and to the Bale Packaging Executive Committee soon after our meeting. The chairman continued that on July 28, the JCIBPC Executive Committee met again and, in an effort to compromise, the merchant member proposed 5 years for woven polypropylene and 5 years for wire ties, with an extension timeline available to ginners to submit a business plan showing they are planning to make the changes. If these gins go over the 5-year timeline, and produce this business plan, they can still be loan eligible and eligible for delivery on ICE. They also added that the extensions would be capped by the ginners' phaseout timeline of 2032 and 2034. The extension can be pushed

up to two years for WPP and 4 years for wire, and after that time, if the changes had not been made or if a business plan was not produced, the bales coming from that gin would be ineligible for loan or ICE.

During discussion, many questions arose concerning who would police the ginners' business plans and who would determine if the ginners met the criteria for an extension to the phaseout period. Additionally, it was pointed out that no details were available regarding what that business plan should entail. There were also concerns about having to provide personal private and confidential information that is far beyond the scope of the JCIBPC. The point was also made as to why would make a gin go through such an overly complicated process to end up at the same 7-year and 9-year phaseout period proposed by the NCGA in the previous letter to JCIBPC Chairman, Berry.

Richard Lindsey made a motion that the committee remain with the July 7 recommendation that the marketplace be the driver of packaging changes and remain with a 7 and 9 years phaseout period, with the phaseout becoming effective on the crop year after the 2031 ginning season for woven polypropylene and the crop year after the 2033 ginning season for wire ties. The motion was seconded by Brad Williams and the motion passed. Harrison was asked to send a letter to the JCIBPC Chairman reaffirming our position.

Harrison updated the committee on the 2.2 lb. cotton bag test program. He also discussed a recent letter sent to ICE asking that they remove the language that an ICE Determination may only be made after JCIBPC has considered the results of at least one full crop year test period for that experimental test program. Harrison also discussed the upcoming NCC Board Meeting in Scottsdale.

No additional action was taken by the committee and with no further business the committee was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

* * * * *

MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Executive Committee
September 22, 2025 - Cordova, TN
Zoom Meeting

Executive Committee Chairman, Larry Black called the meeting of the NCGA Executive Committee to order at 2:30 p.m. CDT.

Brad Williams	Burlison, TN
Tom Pires	Riverdale, CA
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA
Richard Lindsey	Centre, AL
David Blakemore	White Oak, MO
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX

Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary.

Chairman Black stated that one purpose of our call is to continue our discussion on woven polypropylene and wire ties discussed with the latest Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Executive Committee on a compromise that was agreed to on September 9. The chairman stated that the compromise allows for woven polypropylene bagging to be loan eligible for 6 years, with its last approved year being 2031, and that wire ties would be loan eligible for 9 years, however, after the 5th crop year (2030) would be restricted to export only. He said that this motion was unanimously approved by the JCIBPC Executive Committee. Chairman Black noted that the countdown begins in 2026 rather than 2025, so we end up at the same ending date as we had proposed earlier for woven polypropylene.

Brad Williams made a motion that the National Cotton Ginners Association Executive Committee adopt the JCIBPC Executive Committee's recommendation. After discussion Ben Evans seconded the motion and was adopted. Harrison informed the committee that the full JCIBPC would meet in early October to consider this as the phaseout period and that he would send a letter to Chris Berry informing him of the NCGA Executive Committee's action.

The chairman stated that one very interesting issue that had arisen were recent actions taken by the Texas Cotton Association (TCA) and the American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) on bale weight penalty rule changes. He said that both Kelley and Harrison had been involved in this issue, and he called on them to discuss the rule change. Harrison stated that rather than the individual trade associations and exchanges having different trade rules that ACSA was attempting to consolidate and write rules that would apply to all. He said that ACSA and TCA had recently adopted a weight penalty rule that was extremely problematic and not at all practical for numerous reasons and that rule allow merchants to impose a \$5 penalty for each bale less than 475lbs or more than 525lbs.

Kelley stated that he and Vanessa Stewart with Texas Independent Ginners had met with the TCA in June to discuss this issue at their Ginning Committee Meeting in Houston. He said that the interesting thing about the Ginning Committee was that there were no ginner committee members. Kelley said that they gave many reasons as to why this was a terrible idea and that the committee members seemed to be listening and in agreement. Harrison said that at about the same time of this June meeting an email had been sent to Buddy Allen outlining several practical and mechanical problems with this proposal. Both were surprised when they saw the September 9 email from TCA and ACSA that they had adopted the rule change.

Harrison said that several emails had already been sent to ACSA and TCA in opposition to this rule and that gins in Texas were calling merchants to determine if they were charging this penalty. Harrison reviewed the

attached letter that opposed ACSA's weight penalty rule and requested that the committee agree to send this to Buddy as soon as possible. (Addendum)

After considerable discussion that included a review of the current Memphis Cotton Exchange policy and the NCC policy that states "trade associations and exchanges to waive all lightweight bale penalties for any invoice or draft where the average bale weight is 485 pounds or greater". Brad Williams made a motion that the National Cotton Ginners Association oppose the rule change, and that a letter be written to ACSA expressing our concerns.

After additional discussion the motion was seconded by Ben Evans and the motion passed.

No additional action was taken by the committee and with no further business the committee was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

* * * * *

LARRY BLACK
PRESIDENT
ROSCOE, TEXAS

BRAD WILLIAMS
1st VICE PRESIDENT
BURLISON, TN

TOM PIRES
2nd VICE PRESIDENT
RIVERDALE, CA

BEN EVANS
3rd VICE PRESIDENT
DOUGLAS, GA

HARRISON ASHLEY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
CORDOVA, TENNESSEE



NATIONAL COTTON GINNERS ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 2995 • Cordova, Tennessee 38088-2995

(901) 274-9030 • Fax (901) 725-0510

<https://www.cotton.org/ncga>

September 22, 2025

Mr. William H. Allen
The American Cotton Shippers Association
6075 Poplar Avenue, Suite 401
Memphis, TN 38119

Dear Mr. Allen:

The purpose of my letter is to express the National Cotton Ginners Association's (NCGA) strong disapproval for the American Cotton Shippers Association's (ACSA) passage of new weight penalty rules. As you are aware, this proposal originated with the Texas Cotton Association, and both the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association and the Texas Independent Cotton Ginners' Association offered several sound arguments as to why this change is impractical. These arguments were ignored, and it is even more troubling that after the NCGA gave our opinions, ACSA and other exchanges would adopt this policy. It is our understanding that the exchanges will incorporate this policy into their trade rules.

As we have expressed in our initial arguments against this proposal, there are multiple reasons why adopting this policy is just not possible. First, when ginning, you are dealing with the variabilities of weather, which can be a contributing factor. During extremely dry harvest conditions, it is difficult to apply enough conditioning moisture before the press to produce 500 lbs. bales consistently. Even gins that perform at the 500lb. bale weight mark during normal conditions at harvest would find it a struggle to perform in such dry conditions. If growing conditions are adverse or if there is an early freeze, gins find that lower micronaire cottons are extremely difficult to press.

In addition, older presses with 14- and 16-inch rams may find it even more difficult to achieve the necessary pressure for dry cotton. Furthermore, the cotton variety and qualities can influence press capacities. The JCIBPC Bale Packaging Specifications require gins that are using PET strapping to reach a minimum shut height of 19 inches. Some of the older presses cannot physically achieve the forces necessary in dry conditions with any of the available moisture restoration systems.

Through the years, gins have eliminated most remanent bales as ginners use controls and monitors to meter cotton to produce uniform bale weights. In fact, some newer presses have the capability to determine how much cotton to meter for the final tramper stroke, but this is not a perfect system for ginning. Additionally, with today's ginning capacities, a tramper stroke can

Page 2

easily produce 50 lbs. of lint, so a miscalculated tramper stroke could cause a gin to produce under a 475 lb. or over 525 lb bale. with just one stroke. For these reasons, it is just not practical to impose the weight requirements and the corresponding penalties, and therefore, the current weight penalties for cotton are sufficient.

Furthermore, the NCC's Packaging & Distribution policy contains the following language: "Continue to urge all industry trade associations and exchanges to waive all lightweight bale penalties for any invoice or draft where the average bale weight is 485 pounds or greater, and review all existing rules, taking into consideration industry changes such as gin universal density bales, net-weight trading, F.O.B. truck, charges for unrequested services, and modern processing equipment." Before the recent rule change, this language was aligned with the NCC's current policy. Therefore, the NCGA assumes that with the removal of this language, ACSA is ignoring what was developed though industry consensus.

Additionally, the NCGA questions why ACSA and its members do not seek the advice of ginners when developing policy, such as weight penalties. ACSA's change in policy for weight penalties was related to the mechanical operation of gins, and merchants do not have the practical experience or the expertise to make such a change in trade rules. Furthermore, it is the gins and their producers and not the merchants who will bear the brunt of the costs that are associated with this policy change. Therefore, we would urge you to reconsider the updated bale penalty rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Black".

Larry Black,
President

MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Executive Committee
December 18, 2025 - Cordova, TN
Zoom Meeting

Executive Committee Chairman, Larry Black, called the meeting of the NCGA Executive Committee to order at 2:06 p.m. CST.

Brad Williams	Burlison, TN
Tom Pires	Riverdale, CA
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA
Richard Lindsey	Centre, AL
David Blakemore	White Oak, MO
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX

Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary.

Chairman Black stated that the purposes of our call were to review the upcoming NCGA meetings that would be held in San Antonio and to review possible recommendations that could come out of the committees' meetings. He called on Harrison to review the agendas and schedule.

Harrison reviewed the agendas and informed the committee that many of the speakers in the Technology Committee were with USDA and that, to date, those speakers had not been cleared to travel to San Antonio to attend the meetings. So, the agendas for these meetings could greatly change. Harrison also said that the Technology Committee would likely offer two recommendations, stemming from the Bale Weight Issue and RMW Standard Update agenda items. There was discussion about each of these topics, and the committee's members agreed that each of these agenda items should be addressed. After the agenda review, the committee did not make any suggestions for additional agenda item topics.

Harrison said that the committee would likely suggest that the recommendations be sent to the NCC to be incorporated into policy. Furthermore, he said that the recommendations are taken to the NCGA Board for final passage but that the Executive Committee can also choose to submit the Technology Committee's recommendations to the NCC so that the recommendations can be incorporated into the policy revisions that are sent to all NCC delegates prior to the February meeting. Harrison also reviewed the Ginning Conference.

No action was taken by the committee, and with no further business, the committee was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Executive Committee
January 8, 2026 – San Antonio, Texas

Chairman Black called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. In addition to the chairman, the following committee members were present:

Brad Williams	Burlison, TN
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA
Richard Lindsey	Centre, AL
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX

Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary.

The Chairman called on the chairman of the committees to report recommendations that would be considered by the board.

Brad Williams, Chairman of the Safety and Labor Committee stated that the committee had adopted the following recommendation:

1. Recommends that during the gin schools that module truck dash cameras be emphasized and that DOT regulations be reviewed.

The Technology Committee report was given by Harrison Ashley for Tom Pires, chairman of the committee, and reported the following recommendations:

1. The Southwest School in Lubbock –April 6-8
2. The Western School in Las Cruces - May 5-7
3. The Stoneville School - June 2-4
4. The curriculum will be developed by Greg Holt, Harrison and the Research Leaders at the three labs.
5. USDA and NCGA Staff work together to develop potential options to allow the Tifton School, and that the subcommittee reconvene to consider these options prior to the Technology Committee meeting in San Antonio.
6. The committee recommends that the Stoneville Gin School be held in Tifton every three years, and that when the school is held in Tifton be designated the Southeast Gin School.
7. Recommends that a best practices document for handling Seed Coat Fragments be developed.
8. Revisions to existing trade rules and the development of new trade rules should be performed in collaboration with all affected parties and include merchants, cooperatives, ginners, producers and warehousemen.
9. Recommends that round module wrap that is undergoing testing to pass the ASABE S615.3 Cotton Module Cover Material Performance Standard must have field testing preformed in the United States and be available for review during the testing period.

Ben Evans made a recommendation to adopt both the Safety and Labor and Technology Committee recommendations. The motion was seconded by Brad Williams, and the motion was approved.

Harrison explained to the committee that the recommendation addressing the module wrap and trade rules were intended to be taken to the NCC for policy consideration. He suggested that it be included in the NCC's next version of the resolutions that included industry and organization proposed revisions.

Ben made the motion that the Executive Committee submit the following to the NCC for consideration as NCC policy:

1. Revisions to existing trade rules and the development of new trade rules should be performed in collaboration with all affected parties and include merchants, cooperatives, ginners, producers and warehousemen.
2. Recommends that round module wrap that is undergoing testing to pass the ASABE S615.3 Cotton Module Cover Material Performance Standard must have field testing performed in the United States and be available for review during the testing period.

Brad Williams seconded the motion and was passed.

The committee convened as the Budget Committee, which was chaired by Larry Black. Harrison Ashley, gave a financial report and presented the following information for consideration:

2026-2027 Proposed Dues Rate and Income Estimate (@ 0.0020)

Dues from ginnings:

	2024-25	2025-26*	Average	@ 0.0020
West	783,495	692,233	737,864	\$1,476
Southwest	4,301,942	5,466,019	4,883,981	\$9,768
Midsouth	4,781,553	4,184,466	4,483,010	\$8,966
Southeast	3,966,019	3,538,835	3,752,427	\$7,505
Totals	13,833,010	13,881,553	13,857,282	\$27,715

Income from activities:

Ginner Schools	\$45,500
Reception Contributions	\$20,000
Interest Income	\$13,305
Total	\$78,805

TOTAL INCOME ESTIMATE **\$106,519**

**Based on USDA's December 2025 Crop Estimate*

NATIONAL COTTON GINNERS ASSOCIATION

2025-2026 Budget Information

Projected 2025– 2026 Budget - Expected Expenditures and Income through February 28, 2026:

Based on available December 2025 information

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Income</u>
Operations:			
Office	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Meeting	\$14,000	\$14,000	
President's Travel	\$12,000	\$12,000	
Publications	\$600	\$600	\$13,305
Special Projects	\$4,000	\$4,000	
Dues			\$25,952
Interest			\$2,436
Insurance/Dues	\$5,500	\$5,500	
Miscellaneous	\$250	\$250	
Totals	\$39,350	\$39,350	\$41,693
Activities:			
Ginner Schools	\$42,500	\$41,158	\$57,350
NCGA Website	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$0
Receptions	\$20,000	\$21,128	\$16,640
Totals	\$63,800	\$63,586	\$73,990
TOTALS	\$103,150	\$102,936	\$115,683

NATIONAL COTTON GINNERS ASSOCIATION
2025-2026 Budget Information and Proposed 2026-2027 Budget

<i>2025-2026 Budget:</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
<u>Expense Item</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
Operations:		
Office	\$3,000	\$3,000
Meeting	\$14,000	\$14,000
President's Travel	\$12,000	\$12,000
Publications	\$600	\$600
Special Projects	\$4,000	\$4,000
Insurance/Dues	\$5,500	\$5,500
Miscellaneous	\$250	\$250
Total Operations Budget	\$39,350	\$39,350
Activities:		
Gin School	\$45,500	\$45,500
NCGA Web Page	\$1,300	\$1,300
Reception	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total Activities Budget	\$66,800	\$66,800
Total Budget	\$106,150	\$106,150

NATIONAL COTTON GINNERS ASSOCIATION
MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2025

Summary of Assets and Liabilities

ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 202,901.48
Certificates of Deposit	390,810.51
Accounts Receivable	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 593,711.99
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00
Deferred Revenue	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ -
NET FUNDS	\$ 593,711.99
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET FUNDS	\$ 593,711.99

Revenues, Expenses and Net Assets

	<u>THIS MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Revenues:		
Dues Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 25,952.45
Interest Income	10,869.11	13,304.77
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	2,358.75
<u>Activities Income:</u>		
Ginner Schools	\$ 0.00	57,350.00
Web Page	0.00	0.00
Association Receptions	11,000.00	16,640.00
Total Revenues	\$ 21,869.11	\$ 115,605.97
Expenses:		
Operating Budget Expenditures	\$ 665.06	\$ 15,576.40
Unbudgeted Legal Expense	0.00	0.00
Unbudgeted Educational Materials	0.00	0.00
<u>Activities Budget Expenditures:</u>		
Ginner Schools	0.00	41,158.45
Web Page	100.00	1,000.00
Association Receptions	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	\$ 765.06	\$ 57,734.85
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 21,104.05	\$ 57,871.12
Net Assets at Beginning of Year		535,840.87
Net Assets Available Period End		\$ 593,711.99

NATIONAL COTTON GINNERS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash received from members and others	11,000.00	91,765.02
Cash paid to suppliers & others	(765.06)	(94,429.25)
Interest income received	10,869.11	13,304.77
Net cash provided by operating activities	21,104.05	10,640.54
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	21,104.05	10,640.54
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	572,607.94	583,071.45
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	593,711.99	593,711.99
RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income/(loss)	21,104.05	57,871.12
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in current assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease accounts receivable	0.00	0.00
Increase/(decrease) accounts payable	0.00	(36,580.58)
Increase/(decrease) deferred revenue	0.00	(10,650.00)
Total adjustments	0.00	(47,230.58)
Net cash provided by operating activities	21,104.05	10,640.54

Harrison stated that several Operation Budget items that included the meeting and insurance line items had been overspent in 2024 and the budget in 2025 was increased to cover increasing costs. Harrison noted that with last year's increase to the budget that the line items should remain the same. He said using the December Crop Report, the U.S. should gin approximately 13,881,553 bales and when averaged with the 2024 crop of 13,833,010 bales at a dues rate of .0020 cents/bales will generate \$ 27,715 in dues.

Harrison discussed the Activities Budget and stated that the NCGA Annual Meeting Reception Budget would remain at \$20,000. Harrison said the Gin School line Item increase to \$45,500 had covered the costs for the 2025 schools.

Additionally, it was noted that as had been requested by the NCC Board, an additional \$100,000 had been moved to a CD. Harrison stated that recently that in addition to the 13,305 in interest from the checking and CD interest that an additional to the \$13,305 in interest from the checking account and CDs that and additional \$9,900 would be posted in late February from a maturing CD.

Harrison reported that the proposed budget of \$106,150 and an expected \$106,519 in income would cover the 2026-2027 budget. He reported that the association had cash in its checking account to cover any unforeseen budget need or shortfall and the association was in good shape financially. A motion was made by Richard Lindsey to adopt the proposed budget and seconded by Ben Evans, and the motion carried.

Chairman Black called on Harrison Ashley to discuss other issues. Harrison reviewed plans for the upcoming NCGA Board and Annual Meeting that would be held in San Antonio, February 10, and plans for the reception on February 11. He also stated that the Horace Hayden Ginner of the Year recipient had been selected as well as the Charles C. Owen Distinguished Service Award. Harrison stated that the Southwest would name Chris Berry from Wellman, Texas as incoming 3rd Vice President. A motion was made by Ben Evans to report Chris Berry's name to the Board as the incoming 3rd Vice President. The motion was seconded by Brad Williams and was passed.

With no other business to discuss, the committee adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

* * * * *

MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Cotton Ginning Technology Committee
January 8, 2026 – San Antonio, TX

Committee Chairman, Tom Pires, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. In addition to the Chairman, the following committee members and alternates participated in the meeting:

Ed Barnes	Cary, NC	Bobby Hardin	College Station, TX
Chris Berry	Wellman, TX	Greg Holt	Lubbock, TX
Tom Calloway	Rayville, LA	Lauren Krogman	Cordova, TN
Larry Black	Roscoe, TX	Chris McGlothlin	Fresno, CA
David Blakemore	Campbell, MO	Alberto Pando	Mesquite, NM
Mike Buser	College Station, TX	Tim Price	Memphis, TN
Chris Delhom	New Orleans, LA	Priscilla Rodriguez	Fresno, CA
Gary Evans	Hazlehurst, GA	Ross Rutherford	Lubbock, TX
Gary Feist	Anthony, KS	Curtis Stewart	Spade, TX
Dusty Findley	Dawsonville, GA	Brad Williams	Burlison, TN
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX	Derek Whitelock	Mesilla Park, NM

Other participants included the following:

Joel Basinger	Lubbock, TX	Aaron Nelsen	Round Rock, TX
Lance Bradford	Batesville, TX	Nathan Porter	Alamo, TN
Mark Cory	Eaton, GA	Billy Sickler	Athens, AL
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA	Kyle Smith	Enid, OK
John Fabian	Lubbock, TX	John Steelhammer	Mathis, TX
Clifford Fisher	Lubbock, TX	Russell Sutton	Lubbock, TX
Greg Gestes	Lubbock, TX	Joe Thomas	Stoneville, MS
Curtis Griffin	Morton, TX	Mike Thompson	Bishop, TX
Dan Jackson	Brownfield, TX	Jaya S. Tumuluru	Las Cruces, NM
Andy Knowlton	Dawsonville, GA	John Wanjura	Lubbock, TX
William Kutcher	Savannah, GA	Clay Whitley	El Campo, TX
Daniel Luehrs	Odem, TX	Donnie Wood	Enid, OK
William Lindamood	Memphis, TN	Austin Yarbro	Memphis, TN
Rich Lindsey	Centre, AL	Roger Zey	Ankeny, IA
Duncan McCook	Round Rock, TX		

Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary.

The Chairman called on the Chairman of the Technology Committee's subcommittees to give their reports.

Ben Evans, the Gin School Subcommittee Chairman, gave the report for the Gin School Subcommittee. Ben stated that the subcommittee met on September 9 and reviewed the 2025 schools. He reported that in 2025, the attendance for the three schools totaled 276 students, which was 23 students lower than the 2024 attendance. The breakdown of the numbers for the three 2024 schools were as follows: 133 attending the Southwest School, 27 attending the Western School, and 82 attending the Stoneville School.

The subcommittee recommended the following dates and locations for the 2026 schools: **The Southwest School in Lubbock - April 6-8, the Western School in Las Cruces - May 5-7, and the Stoneville School -**

June 2-4. It was agreed that all three schools will offer Levels I, II, and III, with a Continuing Education course. Ben indicated that the subcommittee discussed possible Continuing Education topics for the 2026 schools, with the subcommittee's passing a motion to allow Harrison Ashley and the Research Leaders at the schools to choose topics based on the needs that are identified during the 2025 ginning season.

During the discussion, it was stated that in the future, ginner may want to start referring to this as the Southern School if there were a plan to alternate between Stoneville and Tifton. Several members of the subcommittee questioned if there had been a formalized arrangement to alternate between the two locations, and it was noted that there had not been a formalized plan or interval determined. **The subcommittee passed a recommendation: the USDA and NCGA Staff should work together to develop potential options to allow the Tifton School, and the subcommittee should reconvene to consider these options prior to the Technology Committee meeting in San Antonio.** To address the Tifton school question, the subcommittee reconvened on December 10 and made the following recommendation to the Technology Committee: **The Gin School Subcommittee recommends that the Stoneville Gin School be held in Tifton every three years, and when the school is held in Tifton, the school should be designated the Southeast Gin School. It was clarified that the next school in Tifton would be in 2028, and the name for the Stoneville School would remain when schools were held in that location.** Ross Rutherford made a motion that the subcommittee's recommendations be adopted by the committee. The motion was seconded by Greg Holt, and the motion passed unanimously.

Brad Williams, Chairman of the Cottonseed Subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee met by conference call on October 28 and had extremely good attendance and participation. Brad said that Amy Hopper, with the Andersons in Overland Park, Kansas, discussed the current state of the cottonseed market. Amy gave an overview of the current supply and demand, noting that it had changed very little from the previous year, with an expected carryout of 444,000 tons of cottonseed, which was not a burdensome oversupply. She also discussed seed weight issues, contracts that were being undersold, and gins that are coming up short. One of the substantial changes concerns where the crop is, with both the Southeast and Mid-South being down in production and with the increase in the production of the Texas crop, and while the production may remain the same, it changes the supply chain and could influence prices. Furthermore, Amy discussed the demand side of production, showed a chart of dismal milk prices, and indicated that dairies were shifting to cheaper feed ingredients. She did say that with RFK's push for saturated fats, this potential shift to cheaper feed ingredients could change. Amy said that things to watch are the US cotton production, milk prices, prices of competing ingredients, and the crush and export demand. Amy also discussed a lack of consistent interest, such as logistical frustrations, price volatility, cottonseed availability, and concerns about cottonseed quality. She stated that there were some shared opportunities, such as revisiting research that shows the benefits of feeding cottonseed in a dairy diet, focusing on increasing seed size and oil content, and supporting all efforts to drive a higher lint cotton demand.

Brad reported that John Chisum, President of Plainsman Company in Lubbock, Texas, provided an update on market conditions for cottonseed products. John said that there were several issues that were affecting the market, which caused problems in determining the direction of the market for cottonseed products, and moreover, the direction of the market for cottonseed products would be known in the December to March timeframe. He said that meal was trading in a range of \$250-\$270 and that the market had reacted to President Trump's then upcoming meeting with China's Xi Jinping. However, John stated that prices were low and were a reflection of other competing cheap proteins. In terms of oil prices, soybean oil was in the 50-52 cent range. John said the major user of cottonseed oil was in the snack food industry, that business was not doing very well, and that demand from that sector was off. John said that the current crush estimate of 1.1 million tons was likely a close estimate. He said that the crush continued to fall, that there is just too much capacity given the current crop size, and that plants do not do well without volume. He said that Georgia Pacific was shutting down their cellulosic business in the U.S., and this reflected how competitive that this market is. Linters are a smaller component of the crush, which can be frustrating from a pricing standpoint, and linters are currently at an 8-12 cent price level. In addition, John stated that prices for all products were off their highs from a year ago, with the exception of cottonseed hulls, and this was due to a shortage of roughage.

John said that cottonseed hulls were a bright spot, with prices at \$350-400. He also said that this was being used in starter rations for calves to jumpstart the rumen to get them on feed more quickly. He did say that too much lint was being left on the cottonseed, and this was causing unnecessary expense and processing issues.

Gaylon Morgan, Director of Agriculture and Environment Research for Cotton Incorporated, reviewed the Seed Quality Summit that was held in September. He said that there were participants from various sectors of the industry, including universities, seed labs, breeders, extensions, and seed companies. Gaylon reviewed the two meetings of the Seed Quality Summit that were held in March and September, and that work from the two meetings is included in the minutes. Also discussed in the March meeting were breeding and research to increase the oleic acid content of cottonseed oil to improve the oil profile that could help us better compete with other commodities. Gaylon also said that there was other research that CI was funding, and this included looking at all aspects of the planting seed quality from the farm through the gin, storage, and the process of finally planting seed. He said that funding for research on the value of feeding cottonseed to dairy cattle was ongoing research on the human cardio health aspect of cottonseed oil.

Byron Cole, Deputy Director of the USDA-AMS Grading Division, discussed how the classing offices were making seed coat fragment classing determinations. Byron said that as of the October 28th date, there had been approximately 20,000 seed coat fragment calls. However, all classing offices were seeing some degree of seed coat fragments, and that some of the seed coats being observed had fiber attached. Byron said that seed coat fragments were an increasing issue and that the industry needed to take a further look into the cause. In questions, Byron was asked if any region was worse than others. He stated that this year, issues with seed coat fragments have primarily occurred in the Mid-South, but issues with seed coat fragments occur in the Southeast as well and just depends on the year. He said that South Texas had SCFs this year as well. After considerable discussion about working with the gin labs to develop a best practices document for handling Seed Coat Fragments, the subcommittee recommended that a best practices document for handling Seed Coat Fragments be developed. Tom Calloway made a motion to adopt the Cottonseed Subcommittee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ross Rutherford, and the motion passed.

Chairman Pires had chaired the Air Quality Subcommittee that had met on the previous day. He stated that the Air Quality Subcommittee met the previous afternoon, and he would only give a very brief summary of that meeting. The minutes that will be made available at the National Cotton Ginners' Board meeting in February will include the details of the meeting. Kelley Green reported on recent changes to air quality and the status of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Kelley also discussed the activities of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard Review & Regulatory Review Coalition, or the NR3, of which the National Cotton Ginners Association is a member. Mike Buser, the Cotton Chair at Texas A&M, reviewed several air projects that included particulate matter, oversampling of both PM10 and PM2.5 research, and efficiencies of 1D-3D cyclones. Mike also discussed a number of other research projects that were underway at TAMU. State and regional air regulatory activities were covered by member associations and USDA staff. that included Chris McGlothlin, Kelley Green, Duncan McCook, William Lindamood, and Dusty Findley. Furthermore, David Blakemore reported on activities of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. There were no recommendations offered from the Air Quality Subcommittee.

Chairman Williams called on Chris Delhom, with USDA-ARS, to discuss the seed coat fragment (SCF) issue as was requested by the Cottonseed Subcommittee. Chris said that most of the SCF calls occurred early in the season and that most of these calls were ascribed to the Dumas and Rayville Classing Offices. Of course, it was noted that Dumas did not class cotton in 2025 and that cotton was classed in Rayville. Nevertheless, as of December 29, 2025, Dumas was showing SCF calls that were made on >13,500 bales or 1.46% of the bales classed, and Dumas was showing Rayville 8,000 bales or 2.94% of the bales classed at that office. Chris also showed the SCF counts from 2021-2025, reflecting the impact of hurricanes and a significant increase in SCF calls during those crop years. Chris attributed part of the blame on farmers' harvesting too early in the season and the other part of the blame to small seed and seed coat issues. Chris indicated that SCF calls seem to disappear as the harvest and ginning season progressed. He also said that seed cotton was being brought to the gin, with seed coat fragments already being in the lint, so this occurred before ginning. Also discussed was the

wet spring and the drought that ensued shortly thereafter. Chris said that the issue of making changes to address SCF was that you wouldn't know if the change fixed the issue until the gin received the classing data, and by then, the problem may have gone away, as it did in 2025. The subjective nature of SCF calls was also discussed. Chris and Joe Thomas stated that they would work on some possible bullet points to address concerns with SCF.

Lauren Krogman, Manager of Marketing and Processing Technology with the National Cotton Council, was called on to update the committee on bale packaging and cotton flow issues. Lauren informed the committee that the JCIBPC had met on October 7th to discuss the phase-out timeline of woven polypropylene bagging and wire ties, as directed by the NCC Board and the JCIBPC during its February meeting. During that meeting, the JCIBPC recommended that woven polypropylene bagging only be loan eligible for six years, with its last approved year being 2031. Wire ties would be loan eligible for nine years. However, in 2031, after the 5th crop year, wire ties would be restricted to export only. To assist in the phaseout, merchants have asked about recognizing bagging and tie codes through recaps and purchases through The Seam. Therefore, bagging and tie codes through The Seam will be standardized within the EWR platform and will be reported in a common format. The Seam is asking its customers to make sure that the information is correct and that the information is correctly submitted to the platform.

Lauren also discussed light weight and heavy weight bale penalties that had been adopted by the Texas Cotton Association and the American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA). She said that for each bale weighing less than 475 pounds or greater than 525 pounds, net, the seller may be assessed a penalty of \$5.00 per bale, and that bales weighing less than 400 pounds or more than 600 pounds, net, may be rejected by the buyer. Lauren informed the committee that after discussions with NCGA and other gin associations, that ACSA has agreed to amend their rule on invoices and has decided that with an average weight of 485 lbs. or greater, no weight penalty for the bale will be applied. This change agrees with current NCC policy. She said that ACSA had requested that we help educate ginners as to the costs that are associated with lightweight bales and the efficiencies of producing 500 lb bales. Lauren also discussed the PBI Tag subcommittee's addition of a quick-response code in addition to the bar code, giving "space" for future traceability and sustainability information. Lauren covered the ongoing test program for the 2.2 lb. cotton bag that was being conducted in the Southwest and the Midsouth. Furthermore, she said that the 2025 season is counting a first-year test program.

Lauren also discussed the round module standard, said that there were now 43 identified wrap companies that are attempting to sell wrap in the U.S., and stated that there are now four wraps that met the standard. She said that a few other companies had inquired about testing. She also said that the RFID inclusion was mandatory for wraps meeting the standard. It was noted that some wraps have inactive or had fake RFID tags. John Wanjura said that there could be issues with companies' using or copying other vendors' General Manager Numbers in the RFID character string.

Lauren discussed the fungibility project and the issues that arose during the 2024 crop, with the "must be divisible by four" requirement. She said that the Quality Task Force (QTF) had met on March 25 and determined that the AMS should not require bales to be submitted in groupings that are divisible by four when submitted to the fungibility pilot to better accommodate various sized module loads that are coming from the gin. She said that the QTF met again on May 19 and determined that the AMS should move toward "Version 2" programming, which removes the requirement that bales must be submitted in groupings that are divisible by four and that average the 2 to 3 bales that remain to better accommodate various sized module loads coming from the gin. During the meeting, it was determined that to reduce outliers and to improve repeatability, AMS should set the maximum module size to 20 bales for traditional module averaging, in an effort to reduce the variation in bales that are module averaged. Lauren stated that all three of these QTF action items were approved by the Mid-Year Board in August.

Lauren said that there had been a number of issues, with one company that had met the standard, and that now, that wrap had major quality issues and failures. She also said that some of the Chinese companies had requested that they conduct field testing in the Xinjiang area of China, which is strictly forbidden. She said that it is very important that we be able to observe the field portion testing component of the standard, and she made the following suggestion as a recommendation to the committee: **Round module wrap that is undergoing testing to pass the ASABE S615.3 Cotton Module Cover Material Performance Standard must have field testing preformed in the United States and must be available for review during the testing period.** During discussion, Harrison said that this should be submitted to the NCC for inclusion in the Research & Education Program Committee. Kelley Green made a motion to adopt the language as proposed, and Gary Evans seconded this motion that was passed unanimously.

The Chairman called on Ed Barnes to give an update on gin related Cotton Incorporated Research. Ed reported on the continuing work on RFID technology and the current standard. He also discussed last year's meeting that linked technology, RFID, module, and HID to practical use to help both the farmer and the ginner with making production decisions. Ed said that there would be a continuation of this discussion at the Mid-South Farm and Gin Show in February. Ed also discussed the ongoing whole plant harvester research that was being funded by a \$10 million grant from Ohio State. He said that farmers in areas where they may want other options for research may need a less expensive option and a machine that could be used to harvest alternative crops. Ed called on Evy Jaconis to discuss the cottonseed summit and ongoing research that is being conducted to address cottonseed issues. Evy discussed some of the activities to promote the use of cottonseed and the ongoing work to prove research that shows that cottonseed oil is as healthy as olive oil in the human diet.

The Chairman called on Kelley Green and Harrison Ashley to discuss the bale weight issue. Kelley explained the background and discussed a Texas Cotton Association meeting that Van Stewart and he had attended. He said that they had given a number of reasons why new penalties were problematic for gins, given the many variables that are associated with ginning. Furthermore, he said that the ginner seemed to understand the problems with new penalties, and he was surprised when the ginner didn't take his comments into consideration when changing their rule to <475 and when >525 is being accessed the \$5.00 penalty. Harrison showed a number of slides that had been created using EWR bale weight data for the 2021-2024 crops and then focused on the 2024 crop that is showing the standard deviations for the four regions. Harrison stated that after the ginner met with ACSA, they changed their policy to align with the NCC's policy, which states that invoice weights that average 485 lbs. or greater would be exempt from the penalties. The letter also stated that we should continue to strive to produce 500 lb. bales. Harrison reviewed the current NCC policy that

addresses bale weights and said that there had been a suggestion to include both ginners and other segments when writing trade rules. The committee considered the inclusion of the following language: Revisions to existing trade rules and the development of new trade rules should be performed in collaboration with all affected parties and should include merchants, ginners, producers, and warehousemen. In addition, it was suggested that cooperatives be added. Curtis Stewart made the following motion: **Revisions to existing trade rules and the development of new trade rules should be performed in collaboration with all affected parties and include merchants, cooperatives, ginners, producers, and warehousemen.** The motion was seconded by Chris Berry and passed unanimously.

Greg Holt and Harrison Ashley discussed the Gin Cost Survey and issues with participation in the survey. It was noted that the survey is important for a number of reasons, as it is used in farm bill discussions and is used to show that we are improving in energy usage and, therefore, is important in sustainability discussions. Greg stated that few ginners who are outside of Texas are completing the survey, and in the other three regions, there is nothing to average considering that there are only one or two entries. Harrison asked the committee if changes needed to be made to the format and if questions that were not strictly addressing variable cost or conducting this survey every three years as it had been conducted before we had the electronic version needed to be removed. It was agreed that more efforts should be made to promote participation in this survey. No other action was taken.

Chairman Pires called on the USDA-ARS Labs to give reports on their activities, including staffing and staffing needs. Chris Delhom reported on activities at the Stoneville Lab. Greg Holt covered the activities of the Lubbock Lab, and Derek Whitelock discussed the activities of the Mesilla Park Lab. The reports from the three labs included hiring needs, details regarding individual scientists, and ongoing and proposed research.

Chris discussed the current need to hire a new RL at the Stoneville Lab and the recent retirement of Archie Tucker as the area director. He said that the Stoneville Lab was able to hire Joe Thomas back as a consultant. Furthermore, Chris stated that the lab had been recognized for addressing the needs of the American farmer. Derek said that he only had seven of fifteen staff members who were working at the lab and that many of the staff members had left USDA. He said that the USDA continue to conduct research on roller ginning hybrids and upland cottons. In addition, several biochar projects are being conducted. The lab continues to work on particulate matter research with TAMU on agrivoltaics. Greg Holt, with the Lubbock Lab, informed the committee that Mathew Pelletier had retired, that he was hoping that he could hire a Pathway employee who working at the lab, and that he intended to hire a Pathway employee who had a PhD in engineering and, most importantly, was an American citizen. In addition, Greg said that he was finalizing his cottonseed fire detection research and that he would continue to work with the national peanut lab in Dawson, Georgia.

Mike Buser gave a thorough review and his vision as the Cotton Chair at Texas A&M University, and Mike updated the committee on several research projects that are underway at the university and on plans for the future. His discussion also included possible federal funding proposals. Furthermore, Mike discussed his goal of building strong relationships with various USDA agencies, stakeholders (clients), and technology companies. In addition to the particulate matter and the oversampling issues with both PM10 and PM2.5, he also discussed the work with AI to develop an infield contamination dataset. In addition, research was being conducted to develop a road round module hauler and an unwrapping system, and researchers are currently exploring optimizing a cotton gin's service area.

With no other business, the committee adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Ginning Technology Committee - Gin School Subcommittee
September 9, 2025
Zoom Meeting

Chairman Ben Evans called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. In addition to the Chairman, the following committee members participated in the meeting:

Chris Berry	Wellman, TX	William Lindamood	Memphis, TN
David Blakemore	White Oak, MO	Rich Lindsey	Centre, AL
Melissa Campbell	Coolidge, AZ	Alberto Pando	Mesquite, NM
Chris Delhom	Stoneville, MS	Ross Rutherford	Lubbock, TX
Gary Evans	Hazelhurst, GA	Joey Scarborough	Shorter, AL
John Fabian	Lubbock, TX	James Shepard	Austin, TX
Gary Fiest	Anthony, TX	Derek Whitelock	Mesilla Park, NM
Greg Holt	Lubbock, TX		

In addition to the committee members, Jana Jackins, Cordova, Tennessee attended. Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary.

After opening remarks and roll call, Harrison gave a report on each of the 2025 schools attendance. Harrison indicated that the number of students enrolled in the three schools in 2025 had totaled 242, which was 57 fewer than in 2024. The individual location attendance numbers for the three schools were 133 students attending the Southwest School, 27 at the Western School, and 82 in attendance at the Stoneville School. Harrison said that the pass rate for the Certified Ginner Exam was exceptional with 27 out of 34 taking the exam passing.

Greg Holt, Derek Whitelock and Chris Delhom provided comments regarding the schools at their respective labs. Greg indicated that at the Lubbock School, all went very well with instruction and class size and that the large classroom at TAMU was used for CE. Derek reported 27 students, which was down from the previous year, and indicated that they had outstanding students in attendance. It was also reported that several Texans were in attendance for the roller ginning component offered at the school. He also said he would like to have more students from California and was continuing to seek ways to increase their participation. Chris reported that the Stoneville School had gone well, and they were working to finalize the updates to the microgin equipment. He said that the 2026 school would utilize the same class setup utilizing both the Capps Center and the Mississippi State Classroom.

Greg was called on to give an overview of his observations of the 3 schools. He reported that they received positive feedback from the student reviews, attributing this to the overhaul of the review process by Jana. Harrison added that in the future, instructors should focus on the subject matter rather than their equipment. Greg said that before the 2025 schools, he and Harrison would work on making gin school programs and timings more uniform across all locations.

The Chairman proposed the following dates, course levels, and locations that should be submitted to the National Cotton Ginners Association Technology Committee for consideration:

1. The Southwest School shall meet at the Lubbock Ginning Laboratory on April 6-8 2026 (Mon.-Wed.), and it shall offer Levels I, II, and III, with a Continuing Education course.
2. The Western School shall meet at the Las Cruces Ginning Laboratory on May 5-7, 2026 (Tues.-Thurs.), and it shall offer Levels I, II, and III, with a Continuing Education course.

3. The Stoneville School shall meet at the Stoneville Ginning Laboratory on June 2-4, 2026 (Tues.-Thurs.), and it shall offer Levels I, II, and III, with a Continuing Education course.

Gary Evans made a motion to adopt the proposed dates and offerings. The motion was seconded by Joey Scarborough and passed unanimously.

There was considerable discussion about the Stoneville School that had been held in Tifton, Georgia in 2024. In the discussion it was stated that in the future we may want to start referring to this as the Southern School if there was a plan to alternate between Stoneville and Tifton. Several members of the subcommittee questioned if there had been a formalized arrangement to alternate between the two locations. Harrison responded that there had not been a formalized plan or a set interval. Rich Lindsey and Gary Evans voiced the need for the subcommittee to develop a formal plan before the Technology Committee met at the BWCC. Rich Lindsey made a motion that the USDA and NCGA staff work together to develop potential options to allow the Tifton School to be held and scheduled on a predetermined basis, and the subcommittee will reconvene to consider these options prior to the Technology Committee meeting in San Antonio. The motion was seconded by Gary Evans and after discussion was passed.

Harrison and Greg were called on to discuss possible CE topics for the 2026 schools. Harrison began by discussing the topics presented at the 2025 schools. He stated that the topics presented were well received with excellent comments from the CE students. Harrison reviewed the topics that had been identified by the students as topics that they would like to see covered in the future. These included: more automation discussions, the H-2A program, more on RFID and Harvest ID, EWR discussions, CRP and bleed control, forklifts in the cotton gin, electricity, more on sensors, safety management responsibilities, how to handle broken round modules, and an overview of various control and data collection systems. In addition, roller ginning in new areas of the belt, cottonseed storage temperature monitoring systems, and methods to prevent lightweight bales were mentioned during the discussion. A motion was made by Ross Rutherford that Harrison and the USDA-ARS Research Leaders choose topics based on the needs that are identified during the 2025 ginning season. The motion was seconded by Alberto Pando and passed unanimously.

With no further business, the subcommittee was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Ginning Technology Committee - Gin School Subcommittee
December 10, 2025
Zoom Meeting

Chairman Ben Evans called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. In addition to the Chairman, the following committee members participated in the meeting:

David Blakemore	White Oak, MO	William Lindamood	Memphis, TN
Melissa Campbell	Coolidge, AZ	Rich Lindsey	Centre, AL
Chris Delhom	Stoneville, MS	Alberto Pando	Mesquite, NM
Gary Evans	Hazelhurst, GA	Ross Rutherford	Lubbock, TX
John Fabian	Lubbock, TX	Joey Scarborough	Shorter, AL
Gary Fiest	Anthony, TX	James Shepard	Austin, TX
Greg Holt	Lubbock, TX	Derek Whitelock	Mesilla Park, NM

The following guests were in attendance:

Dusty Findley	Dawsonville, GA	Duncan McCook	Round Rock, TX
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX	Chris McGlothlin	Fresno, CA

In addition to the committee members, Jana Jackins, Cordova, Tennessee, attended. Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary.

Chairman Evans stated that during the meeting that was held on September 9, the subcommittee set the dates and the levels for the 2026 schools, discussed possible topics for Continuing Education., and indicated that those details for Continuing Education will be presented to the Technology Committee in San Antonio. Furthermore, there was discussion regarding a formalized schedule that would allow for the school to be held in Tifton on a predetermined timeframe. The subcommittee passed a recommendation that USDA and NCGA staff should work together to develop potential options to allow the Tifton School to be held and to be scheduled on a predetermined basis, and the subcommittee will reconvene to consider these options prior to the Technology Committee meeting. The chairman stated that before the government shutdown, Harrison met with Greg Holt, Chris Delhom, and Derek Whitelock to discuss options and the pros and cons of each option, and those options and a summary of the discussion also had been sent to the subcommittee members. Chairman Evans called Harrison to review the options with the subcommittee.

Harrison stated that the Lab RLs had determined that there were really three options:

1. The Southern Gin School location would alternate every other year or some other set interval between Stoneville and Tifton. For example, the Southern Gin School could be located every 2nd year at Tifton or every 3rd year at Tifton, etc.
2. Lubbock, Mesilla Park, and Stoneville would alternate with Tifton every other year or at other set interval. If all schools alternated, that means that a current location would miss every 4th year.
3. A fourth annual school would be added in Tifton. The additional school could be every year or could occur at some other interval, such as every 3rd year.

Harrison also said that there was discussion that noted that since the Southwestern and Western Schools are referenced by their region, it is possible that the current Stoneville School should be called “the Southern School.”

Harrison stated that concerns that were voiced for options 1. and 2. included that not having schools at the three gin labs would be perceived as a lack of support for the facility by USDA and by the Administration. Additionally, there were concerns that stakeholders in the region, including interest organizations, would push back on any option that would include a school rotation away from a facility. Furthermore, in this time of uncertainty with USDA staff travel's being in seemingly an always unknow "flux," this option for a school rotation may not be allowed, especially considering that there is no USDA facility in Tifton. Option 3. may be the more logical choice, as it would eliminate the concerns that were expressed above. USDA also does not seem to have issues with staff traveling to meet with stakeholders if they are making presentations. One major concern of a 4th school would be securing instructors. In addition, for those years during which the 4th school occurred, the 4th school would impact the Stoneville attendance for that year and could even permanently impact attendance if students in the Southeast waited for the school to be held in Tifton.

Dusing the subcommittee's discussion, the subcommittee determined that option 1. was the most practical option, and the subcommittee decided that every three years was the best frequency for the schools to occur. It was noted that the microgin facility needed housekeeping and some repair work before the next school. It was also determined both that the Stoneville School should retain that designation and when the school was held in Tifton that it would be known as the Southeast Gin School. After discussion the following motion was made by Joey Scarborough: The Gin School Subcommittee recommends that the Stoneville Gin School be held in Tifton every three years, and that when the school is held in Tifton be designated as "the Southeast Gin School." The motion was seconded by Ross Rutherford and was passed.

In other discussion, the subcommittee noted that changes should be made to the school to help appeal to ginners, such as more hands-on engagements at the school. The subcommittee also discussed ways to show gin school value and to promote the school in an effort to increase participation in the gin school. Furthermore, the subcommittee discussed the possibility of including insurance companies to help incentivize gin school participation.

With no further business, the subcommittee was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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**National Cotton Ginners Association
Ginning Technology Committee – Cottonseed Subcommittee
October 28, 2025
Zoom**

Chairman Brad Williams called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. In addition to the Chairman, the following committee members participated in the meeting:

Gary Bailey	Tunica, MS	George LaCour	Morganza, LA
Larry Black	Roscoe, TX	Richard Lindsey	Cherokee, AL
David Blakemore	Campbell, MO	Billy Sickler	Athens, AL
Melissa Campbell	Coolidge, AZ	Curtis Stewart	Spade, TX
Adriane Carbonel	Buttonwillow, CA	Tri Watkins	Lepanto, AR
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA	Todd Waters	Pantego, NC
Gary Evans	Hazlehurst, GA	Brad Williams	Burlison, TN
Phillip Kidd	Edmonson, TX		

The following guest were in attendance:

John Chisum	Lubbock, TX	Chris McGlothlin	Fresno, CA
Byron Cole	Memphis, TN	Tom Pires	Riverdale, CA
Gary Feist	Anthony, KS	Tim Price	Memphis, TN
Dusty Findley	Dawsonville, GA	Priscilla Rodriguez	Fresno, CA
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX	Ray Scroggins	Memphis, TN
Amy Hooper	Overland Park, KS		

NCC staff member in attendance were Jana Jackins. Harrison Ashley served as Secretary.

After opening remarks, Chairman Williams stated that the ginning segment depends heavily on the revenue stream generated from cottonseed sales, and therefore, ginners should remain aware of market conditions and issues impacting the cottonseed segment of the cotton industry. He reminded the committee that any actions taken would be reported to the Technology Committee on January 8 in San Antonio.

The chairman introduced Amy Hopper, The Andersons in Overland Park, Kansas to discuss the current state of the cottonseed market. Amy gave an overview of the current supply and demand noting that it had not changed from the previous year with an expected carryout of 444,000 tons and was not burdensome or an overly tight supply. She also discussed seed weight issues and contracts are being undersold and gins are coming up short. One of the substantial changes is where the crop is with both the Southeast and Mid-South down in production and the increase in the Texas crop, and while the production may remain the same it changes the supply chain and could influence prices. Amy discussed the demand side and showed a chart of dismal milk prices and also stated that the current prices indicate that dairies are not being paid to produce. With cottonseed being a premium feed ingredient and commanding a higher price, dairies were shifting to other cheaper feed ingredients. Coop dairies in the Mid-West are indicating that they were paying a premium for cottonseed but cannot do that anymore. She did say that with RFK's push for saturated fats this could change. Amy also discussed competing feed ingredients stating that current canola and hay prices were both \$100 less than in the fall of '24. There is some demand for export and one of the more positive markets that we currently have and hopefully exports will be up slightly this year. Amy said that things to watch are the US cotton production, milk prices, prices of competing ingredients, and the crush and export demand. Amy also discussed a lack of consistent interest such as logistical frustrations, price volatility and cottonseed availability and concerns about quality. She stated that the current oversupply of infrastructure is supporting the cottonseed industry at the current production numbers. Amy also said there were some shared opportunities such as revisiting research that shows the benefits of feeding cottonseed in a dairy diet, focusing on increasing seed size and oil content, and supporting all efforts to drive a higher lint cotton demand.

The chairman introduced John Chisum, President of Plainsman Company in Lubbock, Texas, who provided an update on cottonseed products market conditions. John said that there were several issues that were affecting the market which caused problems in determining the direction of the market for cottonseed products. Additionally, more would be known in the December to March timeframe. He said meal was trading in a range of \$250-\$270 and that the market had reacted to President Trump's upcoming meeting with China's Xi Jinping. However, prices are low and a reflection of other competing cheap proteins. In terms of oil prices soybean oil was in the 50-52 cent range. John said the major user of cottonseed oil was the snack food industry and that business was not doing very well and demand from that sector was off. He said the chippers and snack food industry do not want to pay where cottonseed prices are currently and are using corn oil, which is cheaper as a substitute, or blending oils. John said that the current crush estimate of 1.1 million tons was likely a close estimate. He said that the crush continued to fall and that there is just too much capacity given the current crop size and that plants do not do well without volume. John said that what was being crushed had oil content of 15-16% and that equated to 250-270 lbs of oil per ton, whereas in the past, that number was 325 lbs of oil per ton of seed. He said that Georgia Pacific was shutting down their cellulosic business in the U.S. and this reflected how competitive this market is. Linters are a smaller component of the crush, which can be frustrating from a pricing standpoint, and are currently at an 8-12 cent price level. John stated that prices for all products were off their highs from a year ago, with the exception for cottonseed hulls, and this was due to a shortage of roughage. John said cottonseed hulls were a bright spot with prices at \$350-400. He also said this was being used in starter rations for calves to jumpstart the rumen to get them on feed more quickly. He did say that too much lint was being left on the cottonseed, and this was causing unnecessary expense and processing issues.

The chairman called on Gaylon Morgan, Director of Agriculture and Environment Research for Cotton Incorporated to review the Seed Quality Summit that was held in September. He said there were participants from various sectors of the industry, including universities, seed labs, breeders, extension, and seed companies. Gaylon reviewed the two meetings of the Seed Quality Summit that were held in March and September. He said the March meeting included presentation on visual mechanical damage of planting seed that not only looked at the impact of the damage but also the impact of germination and vigor resulting from where on the seed the damage occurred such as the radical or the chalaza cap. He said there was also a presentation on the use of a cold plasma method to decontaminate seed that could lead to better stand establishment. Also discussed in the March meeting was breeding and research to increase the oleic acid content of cottonseed oil to improve the oil profile that could help us better compete with other commodities. Gaylon said the September meetings included a presentation on the development of divergent populations for the investigation of seed size impacts across the cotton industry, and a genetic analysis of a recombinant inbred line (RIL) population that uncovers genes that contribute to oil content in cottonseed, and a project that looked at seed quality characteristics that impact stand establishment. Some of the other research that Gaylon said was ongoing was looking at the various and inconsistent methods to determine germination such as the cool germ test with as much as a 30% difference between labs. They are also looking at new methods for cool germ testing. Gaylon said there was other research CI was funding, and this included looking at all aspects of the planting seed quality from the farm through the gin, storage, and through the process of finally planting seed. He said that funding for research on the value of feeding cottonseed to dairy cattle was ongoing as was research on the human cardio health aspect of cottonseed oil.

Chairman Williams stated that there had been a number of seedcoat fragment (SCF) calls this season and called on Byron Cole, Deputy Director of the USDA-AMS Grading Division to discuss how the classing offices made this determination. Byron said to date there had been approximately 20,000 seed coat fragment calls. However, all classing offices were seeing some degree of seedcoat fragments. Byron said that some of the seedcoats being observed had fiber attached. Additionally, he said that the classer made this determination when checking the sample for extraneous matter and the criteria for calling SCF was that the classer, when seeing and feeling the sample, determined that SCF were present. Then the sample was viewed and felt by the classer to determine if a SCF call was warranted. Byron said SCF was an increasing issue, and that the industry needed to take a further look into the cause. In questions, Byron was asked if any region was worse than others. He said this year it has been primarily the Mid-South, but it occurs in the Southeast as well and

just depended on the year. He said that South Texas had SCFs this year as well. Gaylon and Ben mentioned issues with repeated rains and wet seed and how this weakens the seedcoat. Therefore, when the cotton was ginned seed would shatter across all varieties.

After considerable discussion about working with the gin labs to develop a best practices document for handling SCF. Ben Evans made the motion that that a best practices document for handling SCF be developed. The motion was seconded by Adraine Carbonel and the motion was adopted.

There was no action taken by the Technology Committee Cottonseed Subcommittee and with no further business, the committee was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

* * * * *

MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Ginning Technology Committee – Air Quality Subcommittee
January 7, 2026 – San Antonio, TX

Tom Pires, Chairman of the Air Quality Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. In addition to the Chairman, the following committee members and alternates participated in the meeting:

Larry Black	Roscoe, TX	Greg Holt	Lubbock, TX
David Blakemore	Campbell, MO	Roger Isom	Fresno, CA
Mike Buser	College Station, TX	William Lindamood	Memphis, TN
Tom Calloway	Rayville, LA	Daniel Luehrs	Odem, TX
Chris Delhom	Stoneville, MS	Chris McGlothlin	Fresno, CA
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA	Alberto Pando	Mesquite, NM
Dusty Findley	Dawsonville, GA	John Steelhammer	Mathis, TX
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX	Derek Whitelock	Mesilla Park, NM

The following guests also participated in the meeting:

Wyatt Duhon	College Station, TX	Aaron Nelsen	Round Rock, TX
Gary Evans	Hazelhurst, GA	Priscilla Rodriguez	Fresno, CA
John Fabian	Lubbock, TX	Ross Rutherford	Lubbock, TX
Clifford Fisher	Lubbock, TX2	Billy Sickler	Athens, GA
Gary Feist	Anthony, KS	Libby Sitzes	Jefferson City, MO
Curtis Griffith	Morton, TX	Kyle Smith	Enid, OK
Jackson Grove	College Station, TX	Seth Stephens	El Campo, TX
William B. Houston	College Station, TX	Curtis Stewart	Spade, TX
Christy Lewis	Round Rock, TX	Russell Sutton	Lubbock, TX
Duncan McCook	Round Rock, TX	Lilly Taylor	College Station, TX
Natalie Rosenberg	Urbana, IL	Jaya S. Tumuluru	Las Cruces, NM
Tim Price	Memphis, TN	John Wanjura	Lubbock, TX
Andy Knowlton	Dawsonville, GA	Austin Yarbro	Memphis, TN

Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary.

After roll call and opening remarks, Kelley Green reported on the activities of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard Review and the Regulatory Review & Rulemaking Coalition (NR3). Kelley gave the details of the updated NAAQS, whereby the Annual PM 2.5 had been lowered from 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Kelley said that the Trump Administration and the EPA are reviewing changes that have been made to the Annual PM 2.5 during the Biden Administration and that the NR3 was monitoring these changes closely. This is also one of the regulatory reforms that the NCC has submitted, requesting that this be changed back to the original 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Kelley stated that there are three possible outcomes: that the 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ remain in place, that we revert back to the former 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, or that new samplers and methods be used that are not as biased and that do not overestimate particulate matter as what are currently being used. Furthermore, Kelley said that the EPA know that it has a serious issue with the current 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, as the background PM2.5 is 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 9 does not leave headroom for new construction or expansion of existing facilities. He said that the third possible outcome could require a reopening of the Clean Air Act, could include an economic analysis, and may need to review the five-year cycle time to review the NAAQS to a ten-year review. In addition, Kelley indicated that in some

instances, the current five-year cycle time creates issues when changes to the standard become stacked on previous changes in the standard. Also needed to be reconsidered are exceptional events, such as wildfires, which can put areas and facilities in non-attainment. There was a considerable amount of discussion regarding issues with oversampling and with new monitors and electronics that may even be more biased. Dusty Findley said that Georgia had successfully been allowed to exclude certain exceptional events, such as brush fires, in air monitoring data to track attainment, with air quality as a part of the NAAQS air quality standard.

Chairman Pires introduced Mike Buser, Cotton Chair at Texas A&M University (TAMU), who was asked to review current and proposed air quality research at TAMU. Mike said that engineering solutions had requested \$4 million in appropriations to address air quality issues that are impacting agriculture. This request would be in partnership with the USDA-ARS Cotton Production and Processing Research Unit in Lubbock, TX. He further stated that considerable efforts are being made to strengthen the relationship between TAMU and the Ginning Research Unit in Mesilla Park, NM. He stated that the data that has been generated from the National Cotton Gin PM Emissions Study continues to be analyzed, and sampler modeling and predictions for TSP and PM10 versus what is actually observed are also being investigated. Also discussed was ongoing work that is using the Air Quality Dispersion Modeling Model (AERMOD) system. Mike discussed the incredible oversampling that has been shown through TAMU research and that has been caused by current sampling monitors and by EPA's sampling methods for both PM10 and PM2.5 for both lint and non-lint systems. He also discussed ongoing 1D-3D cyclone work to determine fine dust collection efficiency (ADDENDUM). Furthermore, Mike discussed a wide range of agriculture-related research conducted that TAMU is currently conducting.

The subcommittee also heard reports from the state and regional associations as well as from the USDA's Ginning Laboratories regarding air quality issues in their states and regions. Chris McGlothlin gave the report for California. Chris stated that California's move to all-electric systems continues but has been halted somewhat by the Trump Administration's actions. California has now pulled the truck replacement mandate that would have required replacement of all trucks in 20 years. Also pulled was the requirement to replace forklifts with electric versions. Furthermore, Chris said that the focus is now on stationary sources and that the concern in cotton gins and agriculture would be a move to low NOx burners. Derek Whitelock indicated that to his knowledge, there were no Air Quality issues for gins in either Arizona or New Mexico. In addition, Alberto Pando confirmed that there were no issues in New Mexico.

Kelley Green and Duncan McCook reported on inspections in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Duncan reported that after having only three inspections in 2024, in 2025 in Texas, there had been eighteen inspections by the Texas Commission. Six of these inspections were due to complaints by neighbors. Duncan said that no citations were given during the inspections and these inspections were conducted for more of an educational nature for the inspectors. Kelley said that his concerns were Texas' proposal to develop the many data centers that would require 150 megawatts to operate, the possible impact on the grid, and the costs of electricity. Furthermore, he stated that wind and solar energy sources are not capable of providing the needed energy and would require natural gas to produce the necessary energy. It was also stated that the change in the Annual PM2.5 could result in ten to twelve counties' being in non-attainment. Duncan stated that there were no issues that he was aware of in either Kansas or Oklahoma.

William Lindamood gave the report for the Mid-South and said that for the most part, things were relatively quiet and that Arkansas now had two gins that had Title V permits due to the state permit requirements and their production volumes. David Blakemore reported on the air permits in Missouri, stating that turnover in managing air permits in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was an issue. He said that there continues to be discrepancies as to the permitted volumes of production, with some gins being able to have higher volumes than others for no apparent reason. In addition, he said that several of the Missouri gins had hired Jan Chronister who retired from the DNR. He said that there may be a chance for Missouri to have a permit by rule.

Dusty Findley reported on the Southeast states, noting that with the exception of one complaint in South Carolina, in the Southeast, there had been no other issues. He stated that four of the six states in the Southeast have permits by rule. He also stated that Georgia has an equipment-based standard that allows a permit of 125,000 bales. He further stated that EPA never approved Georgia's SIP.

There was no action taken by the subcommittee, and with no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

* * * * *

ADDENDUM



1

**FY27 Federal
Appropriation Requests**

- Engineering Solutions to Address Air Quality Issues Impacting Agricultural Industries
 - \$4,000,000 Annual Request (Not selected by TAMU AgriLife)
 - In partnership with the USDA ARS Cotton Production and Processing Research Unit, Lubbock, TX

2

Building a Strong Relationship with the Cotton Ginning Research Unit in Mesilla Park, NM



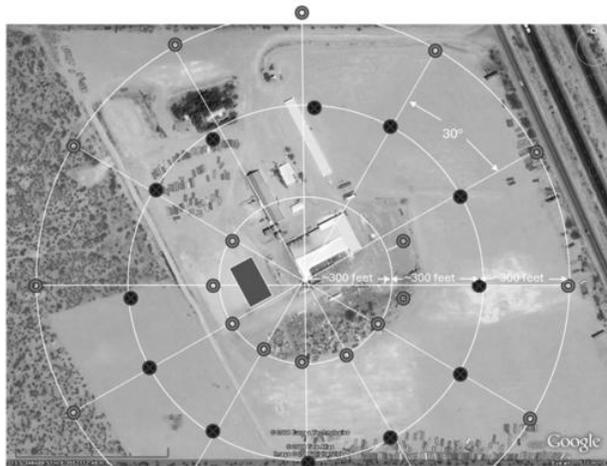
Dr. Derek Whitelock

3

3

National Cotton Gin PM Emissions Study

- New Mexico
- South Texas
- West Texas
- California
 - Saw
 - Roller
- Missouri
- North Carolina

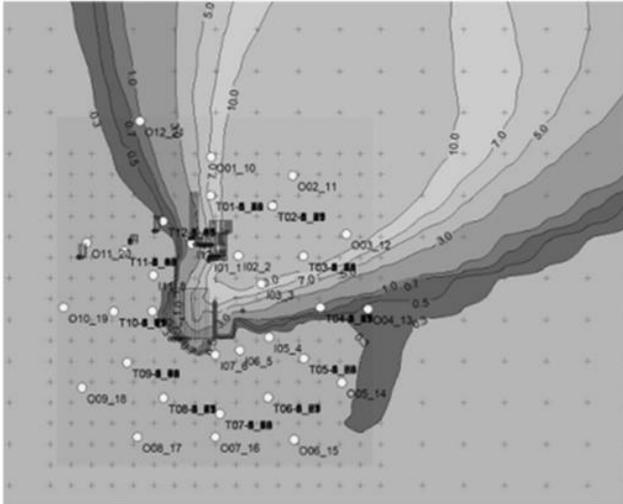


Tower Sampler {PM sampler heads and anemometers located at 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.5, 7.25, and 10.0 meters}

Stand Alone Sampler {PM sampler head located at 2.0 meters}

4

Results: Measured vs. Modeled



Spatial distribution:

- Measured values aligned with modeled plume spread
 - Elevated concentrations observed downwind matches plume orientation towards northeast

Upwind samplers:

- Showed low concentrations
- Consistent with prevailing southwest wind

5

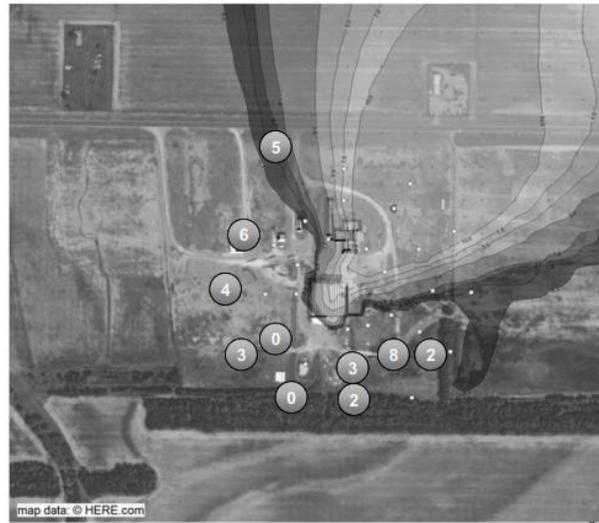
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Results: PM₁₀ Modeled Concentration

Sampler	Height (m)	TSP (µg/m ³)	Mass Fraction of TSP < 10 (µg)	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)
O07	2.0	16	0.146	2.0
O08	2.0	2.0	0.146	0.0
O09	2.0	22	0.146	3.0

$$PM_{10} = TSP \times \%PM_{10}$$

- Mean PM₁₀ mass fraction
 - Derived from outer ring samplers (low on-site gin emissions impact)



6

6

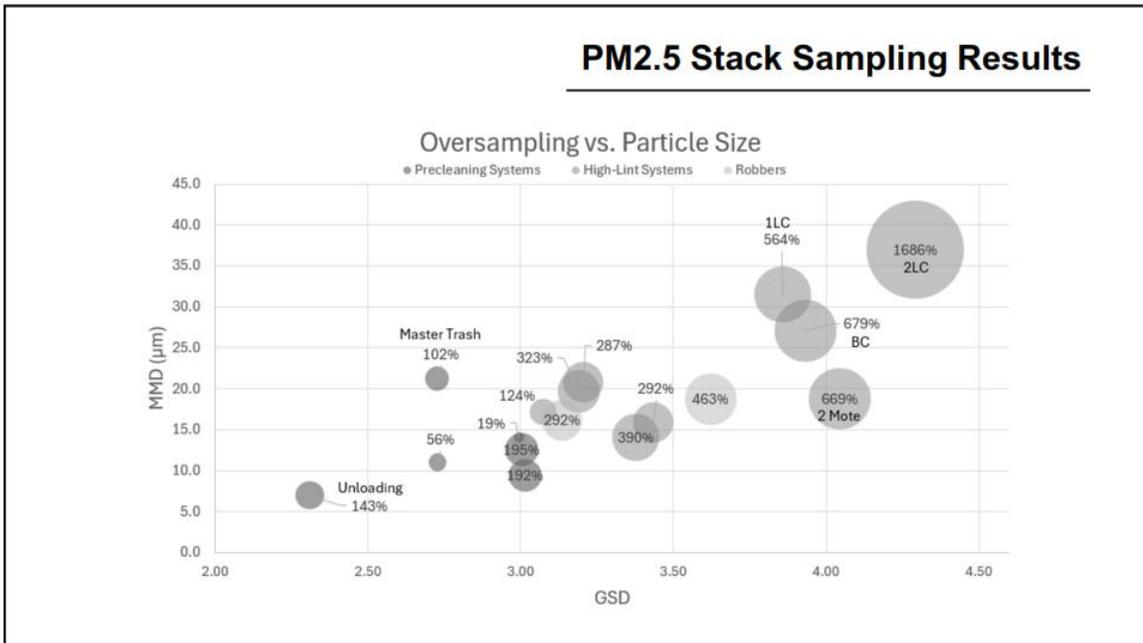
Results: Selected Background Samplers

Sampler	Height (m)	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)
T06	10	8.0
T07	10	2.0
T07	7.25	0.0
T09	7.25	0.0
O10	2	4.0
O11	2	6.0
O12	2	5.0
O07	2	N/A
O08	2	N/A
O09	2	N/A

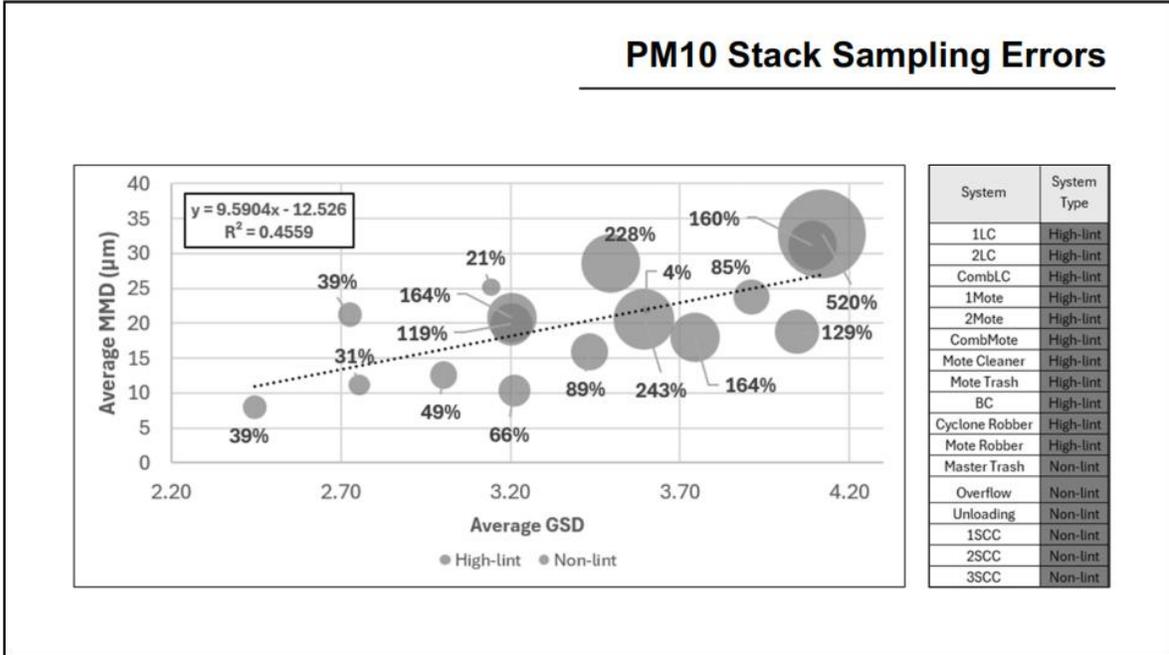


- Site-specific PM₁₀ Background range : 0-8 (µg/m³)
- Several samplers reported PM₁₀ as "N/A"
 - Insufficient TSP mass → PM₁₀ validation process
- Outer sampler in grass
 - Located in grass by trees
 - Far from on-site gin emissions

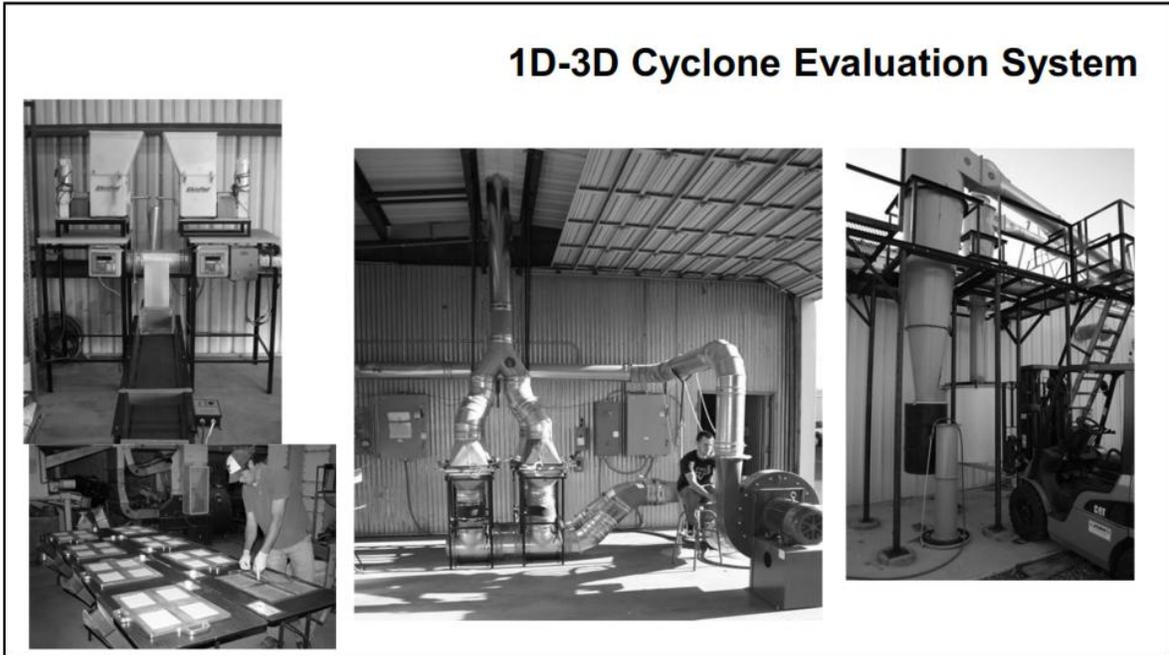
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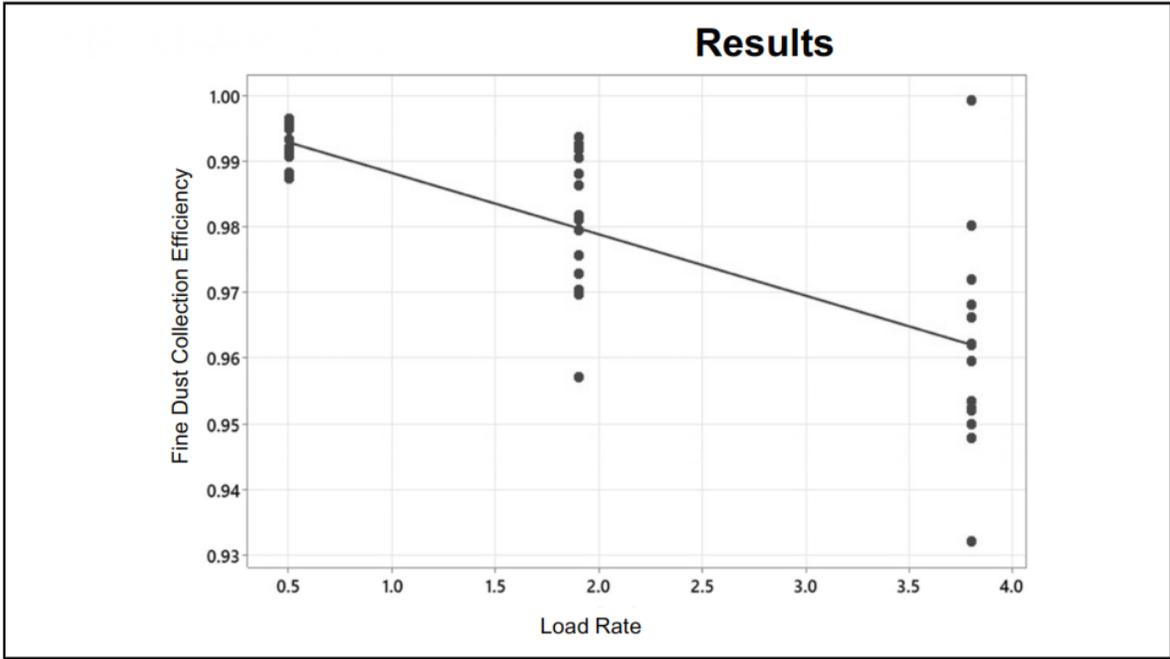
8



9



10



MINUTES
National Cotton Ginners Association
Safety and Labor Committee
January 7, 2026– San Antonio, Texas

Safety and Labor Committee Chairman, Brad Williams, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. In addition to the chairman, the following committee members and alternates participated in the meeting:

Larry Black	Roscoe, TX	William Lindamood	Memphis, TN
Tom Calloway (alt)	Rayville, LA	Aaron Nelsen	Round Rock, TX
Brett Davis (alt)	Colquitt, GA	Alberto Pando (alt)	Mesquite, NM
Gary Evans	Hazlehurst, GA	Priscilla Rodriquez	Fresno, CA
Gary Feist	Anthony, KS	James Shepard	Austin, TX
Dusty Findley	Dawsonville, GA	Billy Sickler	Athens, AL
Kelley Green	Round Rock, TX	Curtis Stewart	Spade, TX
Greg Holt	Lubbock, TX	John Steelhammer	Mathis, TX
Andy Knowlton	Dawsonville, GA	Mike Thompson	Bishop, TX

The following guests were in attendance:

David Blakemore	White Oak, MO	Tom Pires	Riverdale, CA
Frank Davis	Dallas, TX	Nathan Porter	Alamo, TN
Ben Evans	Douglas, GA	Daniel Luehrs	Odem, TX
John Fabian	Lubbock, TX	Duncan McCook	Round Rock, TX
Greg Gestes	Lubbock, TX	Tim Price	Memphis, TN
Curtis Griffin	Morton, TX	Robert Schneider	Lubbock, TX
Dan Jackson	Brownfield, TX	Ross Rutherford	Lubbock, TX
William Kutcher	Savannah, GA	Russell Sutton	Lubbock, TX
Christy Lewis	Round Rock, TX	Kyle Smith	Enid, OK
Rich Lindsey	Centre, AL	Seth Stephens	El Campo, TX
Richard Lindsey	Centre, AL	Derek Whitelock	Las Cruces, NM
Duncan McCook	Round Rock, TX	Chris McGlothlin	Fresno, CA
Chris McGlothlin	Fresno, CA	Donnie Wood	Enid, OK
Jerry Multer	Walls, TX	Austin Yarbrow	Memphis, TN
Alberto Pando	Vado, NM		

Harrison Ashley, Cordova, Tennessee, served as Secretary.

After opening remarks, the welcoming of the group, and introductions, Chairman Williams called on Aaron Nelsen to report on the Safety Specialists' Forum meeting that had met earlier in the day. Aaron reviewed the accident reports that were given by the various state and regional safety specialists, noting that both the Southeast and Mid-South Regions had few accidents. In one instance, a mote press accident had been reported to OSHA, and the six-month window for reporting other accidents had now passed. According to attorney Frank Davis, who had attended the Safety Specialists' Forum, this may have been due to the government shutdown and the lack of OSHA investigators. Texas had fourteen reportable accidents, with nine of these accidents occurring in the same regional office. One serious lint cleaner accident also was discussed. California reported an accident involving a lint cleaner. In insurance company reports, Robert Schneider, with Texas Cotton Ginners' Trust, said that the trendline has been down over the past few seasons, with the short crops and with a larger-than-expected crop this season, reportable accidents had increased. Robert stated the importance of emphasizing the lockout tagout program in cotton gins. Furthermore, Kyle Smith, with Triangle Insurance, said that module trucks were a major concern and that dash cameras for trucks were a company requirement. He said that it was important for gins to make sure that trucks had operable cameras in their trucks. Also discussed was the need for rear-facing cameras. Aaron said that after discussion, the Safety

Specialists Forum recommended that during the gin schools, module truck dash cameras should be emphasized, and DOT regulations should be reviewed.

Harrison had reported on safety materials and both the safety videos and the *You're the Key to Safety* booklets that were being used by ginners for training. He said that more gins were now streaming the videos, and orders for the thumb drive had decreased. Harrison also discussed the status of breaking the videos into sections and the status of allowing both questions and a review of equipment that is being discussed in the videos. Harrison said that the goal was now to have Video II, which covers ginning from the module feeder to the bale press, ready prior to the 2026 ginning season.

Andy Knowlton made the following motion: Recommends that during the gin schools, module truck dash cameras should be emphasized, and DOT regulations should be reviewed. The motion was seconded by Gary Evans, and the motion passed.

The Chairman introduced Frank Davis, with the Ogletree Deakins Law Firm in Dallas, to discuss labor issues. Frank said that recently, David Keeling was named Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA and that this was positive for business. Frank said that OSHA would likely update the Hazardous Energy Control rule, focusing on various respiratory protection requirements and finalizing the heat illness standard, and Keeling is committed to finalizing a workplace violence rule. Frank also commented on the new Texas posting requirement for workplace violence. He discussed Hazard Assessments, employee involvement, the heat emphasis program, and increases in civil penalties. In addition, he reviewed the ginning of eight OSHA-1910 areas that gins fall under. He stated that the noise standard does not apply to cotton gins and that we have been successful in defending this point. Frank said that there is only one of the three OSHA Deputies in place and that the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission cannot do much, including hearing cases, without a quorum. He further stated that a 30% reduction in OSHA staff led to an OSHA 30% production goal, inspections, fines, etc., and because of the government shutdown, had been reduced to 60%. He said that OSHA would narrow its focus to fatalities and amputations. He reviewed the Ogletree injunction against an Administrative Law Judge in Houston and a case that was brought by the Texas International Produce Association against OSHA. Furthermore, Frank said that most of the compliance officers had no idea what they were doing nor what their authority was, and the compliance officers believe that they only have authority to inspect no more than what is in a complaint or in what you want to permit them to inspect. He said that the compliance officers should make sure that they are inspecting only what is included in the document, and the compliance officers should not be allowed to broaden the inspection beyond what is included in the complaint. Frank also prompted the committee to be careful what is said during an inspection, as it is extremely hard to walk back whatever a "manager" says during an inspection.

Kelley Green and Duncan McCook provided an update on the proposed OSHA Indoor Heat Illness Standard. From the beginning, the National Cotton Ginners Association has been very involved in attempting to bring some reason to the discussion before the rule was published. After the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, we had two ginners, Dan Jackson and Wes Morgan, make statements to the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel, explaining what ginners are already doing to keep their workers safe. Since that time, we have attempted to be a voice of reason, pointing out several major concerns with OSHA's one-size-fits-all approach in its rulemaking. In addition, Kelley said that there was a hope that when Trump was elected, this rule would disappear, but that did not happen. After OSHA called for additional comments, which generated 25,000 comments, Duncan said that most recently, during an OSHA hearing, Larry Black presented testimony as to concerns with many requirements of the rule, including the blanket one-size-fits-all approach, such as nationwide heat index triggers of 80° and 90° and the impracticalities of implementation. The proposed rule also requires scheduled work breaks, administrative controls, monitoring and recording of workplace temperatures, maintaining these records, and the acclimatization of new and returning workers. Priscilla Rodriguez reminded the committee that California already has a Cal/OSHA heat rule in place. It was pointed out the gins are already addressing heat in the workplace to protect their employees. Kelley said that in a wish list of regulatory reforms that had been submitted to the NCC office just before the start of the Safety and Labor Committee meeting, the Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Program was included as a priority that should be reined in or that should be eliminated.

Dusty Findley, who closely follows the H-2A program, updated the committee on recent changes to the program. (ADDENDUM) Dusty informed the committee on the merits of using the BLS Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (OEWS) as the wage data source rather than using the USDA Farm Labor Survey. He stated that the OEWS included a two-wage tier per occupation in each state and added a compensation adjustment for employer-provided housing that applies only to H-2A workers. The two-tier system of Skill Levels I and II includes a period of two months of experience that is a factor in the determination of the skill level. However, Dusty did state that the job could be listed as requiring a Skill Level I. Dusty also discussed the SOC codes that were listed and noted that the SOC codes for truck drivers were not listed. Dusty informed the committee that there had been a recent change that clarified that H-2A workers were able to obtain CDL licenses. He stated that while these changes are helpful, there are litigation risks that are associated with the AEW method, and considering that this is an interim final rule, it is possible that it could evolve based on submitted comments and agency priorities.

The Chairman called on Dusty Findley and others to discuss DOL Wage and Hour audits and recent OSHA inspections. It was noted that so far, activity by the DOL and the Federal OSHA workers had been negligible.

In other business, the committee was reminded that many of the issues, including the challenges that H-2A workers face, are covered in the Ginn's Labor Guide. The committee adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

* * * * *

ADDENDUM



1

1) Why this rule matters (and what we'll cover)

Goal for today

- Translate the October 2025 AEWR Interim Final Rule into practical decisions you'll make on job orders, budgeting, and compliance.
- Show how wage floors changed under the new methodology (with a focus on our region).
- Highlight what's still unchanged (and what to watch next).

Why you should care (even if you "already know H-2A")

- AEWR can change your contract wage *and* your recruitment offers (it's often the binding floor).
- The new system creates two skill levels and ties wages to occupation codes (SOC).
- A housing-related "compensation adjustment" may lower the required wage for H-2A workers only.

Note: Always pay the highest applicable wage rate (AEWR, prevailing wage, CBA rate, federal/state minimum wage, etc.).

2

2) Quick refresher: AEWR in the wage "stack"

You must offer/pay the highest of...

- Prevailing wage (if available)
- Collective bargaining rate (if any)
- Federal minimum wage
- State minimum wage
- AEWR (Adverse Effect Wage Rate)**
- Any higher employer-intended wage

Two common "gotchas"

-  If your job order spans multiple SOCs, DOL may apply the highest applicable AEWR.
- Even if AEWR drops under the IFR, state minimum wage or a prevailing wage can still be the binding floor.

3

3) What changed in the October 2025 Interim Final Rule

Old approach (2010/FLS)

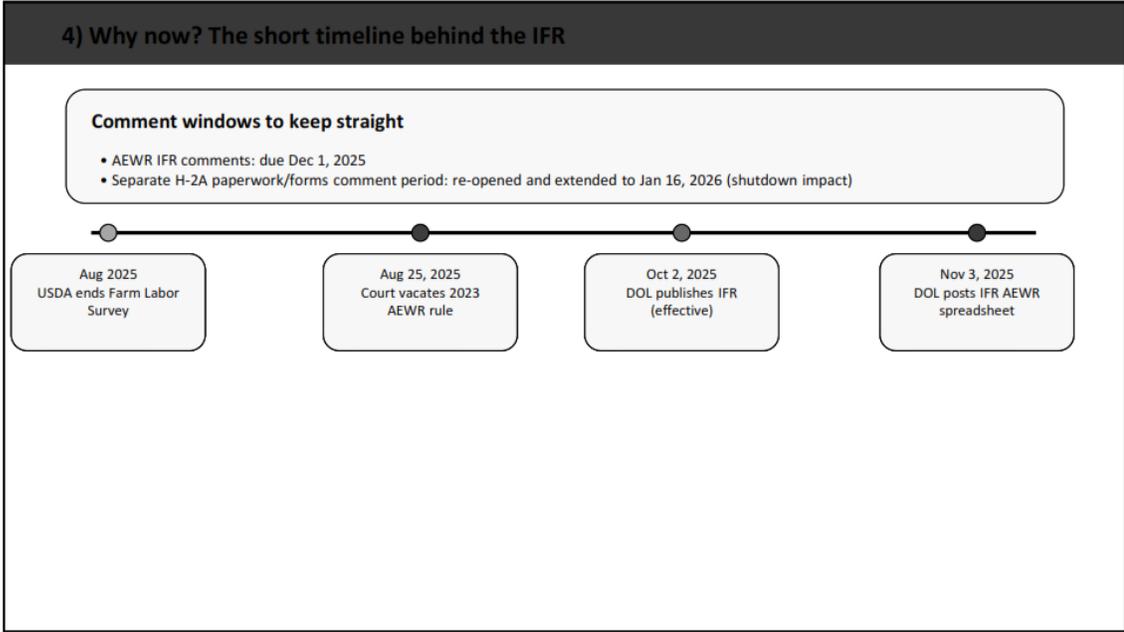
- Single statewide AEWR for most non-range work, based on USDA Farm Labor Survey (field & livestock workers combined).
- Less differentiation by occupation and by experience requirements.

New IFR approach (OEWS + skill levels)

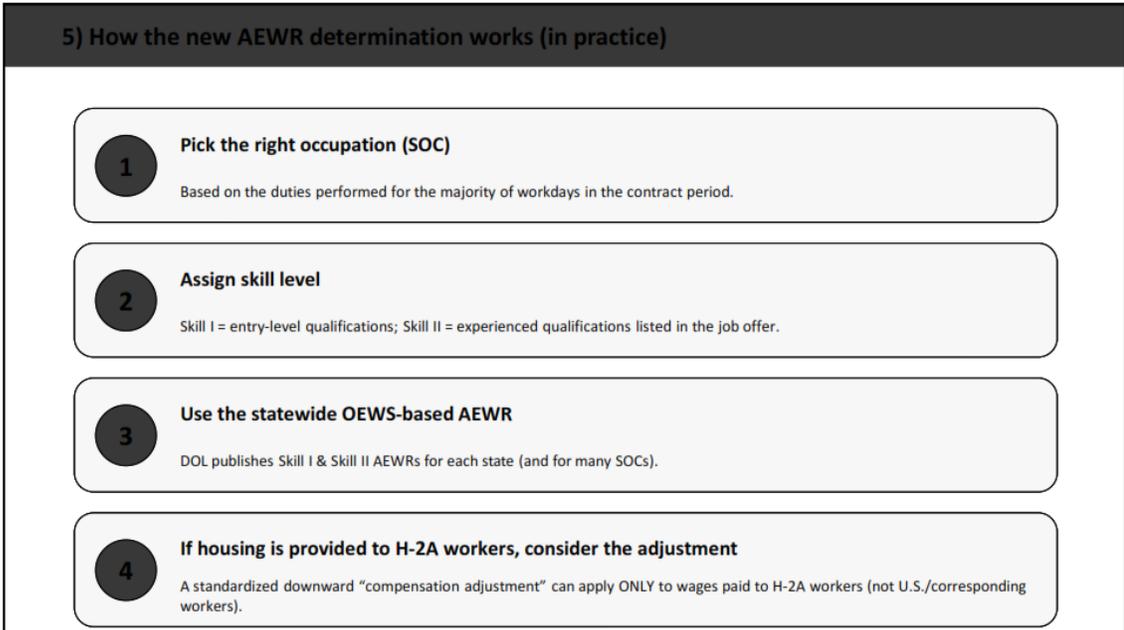
- Uses BLS Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (OEWS) as the wage data source for non-range AEWRs.
- Two wage tiers per occupation in each state: Skill Level I (entry) and Skill Level II (experienced).
- Adds a standardized "compensation adjustment" for employer-provided housing (can apply only to H-2A workers).
- Applies to job orders submitted on/after the IFR effective date; earlier filings stay on the prior wage rules for that contract.

Bottom line: the AEWR floor can now vary by occupation and experience requirements — and the "H-2A with housing" wage may differ from the U.S./corresponding worker wage.

4



5



6

6) Old vs new AEWRs (field & livestock worker category) — selected states

State	Old AEWR (single rate)	New IFR U.S. Skill I	New IFR U.S. Skill II	Adverse adj. (H-2A)	New IFR H-2A Skill I	New IFR H-2A Skill II
North Carolina (NC)	\$16.16	\$12.78	\$16.39	\$-1.69	\$11.09	\$14.70
Georgia (GA)	\$16.08	\$12.27	\$16.22	\$-1.75	\$10.52	\$14.47
Mississippi (MS)	\$14.83	\$9.74	\$14.92	\$-1.15	\$8.59	\$13.77
Arkansas (AR)	\$14.83	\$13.40	\$16.18	\$-1.13	\$12.27	\$15.05
Texas (TX)	\$15.79	\$11.81	\$15.67	\$-1.84	\$9.97	\$13.83

Notes:

- "Old AEWR" is the statewide non-range AEWR posted on FLAG (FLS-based).
- "H-2A" columns reflect applying the IFR's statewide compensation adjustment (only when housing is provided at no cost).
- You still must pay the highest applicable wage (state minimum wage, prevailing wage, etc.).

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7) AEWR Jobs

SOC Codes Included

- Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery and Greenhouse Workers (45-2092)
- Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals (45-2093)
- Agricultural Equipment Operators (45-2091)
- Packers and Packagers, Hand (53-7064)
- Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products (45-2041)

SOC Codes Commonly Used NOT INCLUDED

- Truck Drivers – Particularly Tractor-Trailer Drivers (53-3032)
 - Example Texas
 - Skill Level 1 - \$18.47
 - Skill Level 2 - \$27.15
 - Adverse Wage Compensation Adjustment - \$1.84
 - H-2A Skill 1 - \$16.63
 - H-2A Skill 2 - \$25.31

Note: Always pay the highest applicable wage rate (AEWR, prevailing wage, CBA rate, federal/state minimum wage, etc.).

8

8) Practical impacts for cotton ginners (what changes on your end)

Budgeting & bids

- Expect more variation by occupation and by stated qualification requirements.
- Don't assume the statewide "old AEWR" is the right planning number anymore for new filings.

Job order drafting

- SOC selection matters; mixed-duty jobs can trigger a higher SOC wage.
- Your stated requirements can move a job from Skill I → Skill II.

Housing adjustment (H-2A only)

- If you provide housing at no cost, the IFR allows a standardized downward adjustment.
- U.S./corresponding workers must still be paid the unadjusted AEWR.

State minimum wage backstop

- In some states/occupations, the new Skill I AEWR can fall below state minimum wage.
- In those cases, minimum wage becomes the floor.

9

9) A quick compliance checklist (what to do before your next filing)

Use this as your "pre-flight" list:

- Confirm filing date: job orders submitted on/after the IFR effective date use the new AEWR methodology.
- Map your duties to the correct SOC(s); avoid "kitchen-sink" duties that can push you into a higher-wage SOC.
- Be intentional about qualification requirements — they can move the job to Skill II.
- If you plan to apply the housing compensation adjustment, document housing provided at no cost and apply the published state adjustment only to H-2A wages.
- Re-check the other wage floors (state minimum wage, prevailing wage, CBA wage) — pay the highest.
- Keep internal documentation of your wage decisions (SOC rationale, skill level rationale, wage-floor comparison).

10

Executive Committee Recommendations:**March 27, 2025***Regarding the selection of Peary Wilemon Scholarship recipients:*

1. Selected the following individuals to receive Peary Wilemon scholarships in the amounts listed:

Blake Bradbeer	\$1,000
Kyle Hampton	\$2,000
Zoe Meeks	\$1,000
Jake Price	\$2,000

July 7, 2025*Regarding the phaseout for woven polypropylene and wire ties:*

2. The NCGA Executive Committee recommends that the marketplace be the driver of packaging changes rather than recommending the banning of woven polypropylene and wire ties. However, if a date certain is necessary, it should be the crop year after the 2031 ginning season for woven polypropylene and the crop year after the 2033 ginning season for wire ties.

August 14, 2025*Regarding the proposed Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging phase-out period:*

3. Recommends that the marketplace be the driver of packaging changes and remain with a seven and nine-year phase-out period, with the phaseout becoming effective on the crop year after the 2031 ginning season for woven polypropylene and the crop year after 2033 for wire ties.

September 22, 2025*Regarding the Texas Cotton Association and the American Cotton Shippers Association's rule change for light and heavyweight bale penalties:*

4. Recommends that the National Cotton Ginners Association oppose the rule change and that a letter be written to ACSA, expressing our concerns.

January 8, 2026*Regarding committee recommendations:*

5. Recommends that the Safety and Labor and Technology Committees' recommendations be forwarded to the board as presented.
6. Recommends that the two recommendations from the Technology Committee concerning round module wrap and trade rules be forwarded to the National Cotton Council and that the two recommendations be considered as policy inclusions by the Packaging & Distribution and Research & Education program committees.

Regarding the Budget and Dues Rate Proposal for 2026/2027

7. Recommends the following budget and dues rate for 2026/2027.

Operations:

Office	\$ 3,000
Meeting	14,000
President's Travel	12,000
Publications	600
Special Projects	4,000
Insurance/Dues	5,500
Miscellaneous	<u>250</u>
Total	39,350

Activities:

Gin School	45,500
NCGA Web Page	1,300
Receptions	<u>20,000</u>

Total	66,800
TOTAL	<u>\$ 106,150</u>

Proposed Dues Rate: \$.002

Regarding the nomination for the 2026-2027 3rd Vice President:

- 8. Recommends that Chris Berry from Wellman, Texas serve as the NCGA’s 3rd Vice President.

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Cotton Ginning Technology Committee Recommendations:

Regarding 2026 gin schools and course levels:

1. Recommends the following dates and class levels for the 2026 gin schools:
 Lubbock School – April 6-8 Mon. – Wed. (Levels I, II, III, CE)
 Western School – May 5-7 Tues. – Thurs. (Levels I, II, III, CE)
 Stoneville School – June 2-4 Tues. – Thurs. (Levels I, II, III, CE)

Regarding the course curriculum:

2. Recommends that the curriculum be developed by Research Leaders and the school coordinators.

Regarding developing options to allow for a gin school in Tifton:

3. Recommends that USDA and NCGA Staff work together to develop potential options to allow for a Tifton School and that the subcommittee reconvene to consider these options prior to the Technology Committee meeting in San Antonio.

Regarding a gin school being held in Tifton:

4. Recommends that the Stoneville Gin School be held in Tifton every three years and that when the school is held in Tifton, the school should be designated the Southeast Gin School.

Regarding the development of a best practices for handling seed coat fragments:

5. Recommends that a best practices document for handling seed coat fragments be developed.

Regarding new and existing trade rules:

6. Recommends that revisions to existing trade rules and the development of new trade rules be performed in collaboration with all affected parties, and include merchants, cooperatives, ginners, producers, and warehousemen.

Regarding the ASABE field testing for round module wrap:

7. Recommends that round module wrap that is undergoing testing to pass the ASABE S615.3 Cotton Module Cover Material Performance Standard must have field testing performed in the United States and be available for review during the testing period.

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Safety and Labor Committee Recommendation:

Regarding the use of truck dash cameras and the Department of Transportation's regulations:

1. Recommends that during the three gin schools, module truck dash cameras be emphasized and DOT regulations be reviewed.

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Budget Committee Recommendations:

**NATIONAL COTTON GINNERS ASSOCIATION
2025-2026 Budget Information and Proposed 2026-2027 Budget**

<i>2025-2026 Budget:</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
<u>Expense Item</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
Operations:		
Office	\$3,000	\$3,000
Meeting	\$14,000	\$14,000
President's Travel	\$12,000	\$12,000
Publications	\$600	\$600
Special Projects	\$4,000	\$4,000
Insurance/Dues	\$5,500	\$5,500
Miscellaneous	\$250	\$250
Total Operations Budget	\$39,350	\$39,350
Activities:		
Gin School	\$45,500	\$45,500
NCGA Web Page	\$1,300	\$1,300
Reception	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total Activities Budget	\$66,800	\$66,800
Total Budget	\$106,150	\$106,150

**NATIONAL COTTON GINNERS ASSOCIATION
Budget Information**

2026-2027 Proposed Dues Rate and Income Estimate (@ 0.0020)

Dues from ginnings:

	2024-25	2025-26*	Average	@ 0.0020
West	783,495	692,233	737,864	\$1,476
Southwest	4,301,942	5,466,019	4,883,981	\$9,768
Midsouth	4,781,553	4,184,466	4,483,010	\$8,966
Southeast	3,966,019	3,538,835	3,752,427	\$7,505
Totals	13,833,010	13,881,553	13,857,282	\$27,715

Income from activities:

Ginner Schools	\$45,500
Reception Contributions	\$20,000
Interest Income	\$13,305
 Total	 \$78,805

TOTAL INCOME ESTIMATE **\$106,519**

**Based on USDA's December 2025 Crop Estimate*

Nomination Recommendations:*For 2026- 2027:*

President-	Brad Williams Burlison, Tennessee
1st Vice President-	Tom Pires Riverdale, California
2nd Vice President-	Ben Evans Douglas, Georgia
3rd Vice President-	Chris Berry Wellman, Texas
Chairman-	Larry Black Roscoe, Texas

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