

BREEDING AND GENETICS

Cotton Improvement Conference 1948-2018 and Cotton Genetics Research Award 1961-2018

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ABSTRACT

The 70th anniversary of the Cotton Improvement Conference (CIC) was celebrated at the 2018 annual meeting. The CIC was organized in 1948 at a meeting held in conjunction with the Southern Agricultural Workers in New Orleans, LA. The structure of the CIC was informal with the purpose of allowing state, federal, and other cotton workers to report on research, exchange ideas and facilitate research program planning. The first meeting was held in Baton Rouge, LA in 1949. Few records remain of the early years of the conference even though mimeograph proceedings were produced. In 1956, the CIC joined the Beltwide Cotton Production Conference and has continued to meet annually with this group. In 1956, the Beltwide Conferences consisted of the Cotton Disease Council, founded in 1936, Cotton Defoliation – Physiology, established in 1942, Cotton Insect Control (1947), and CIC. Through the years members of the CIC have played key roles in the Joint Cotton Breeding Policy Committee, National Cotton Variety Test Program, and the Cotton Winter Nursery. The reporting of research, exchanging of ideas, and cooperation among public and private cotton workers has persisted throughout the 70 years of the CIC and these activities have benefitted the cotton industry. The Cotton Genetics Research Award was established in 1961 by the commercial cotton breeders to recognize scientific achievement in basic research in cotton genetics, cytogenetics and breeding.

Cotton, *Gossypium* spp., is one of the most important field crops grown in the United States. Ninety-five plus percent of production is devoted to upland, *G. hirsutum* L. types, with the remainder of acreage in Pima, *G. barbadense* L. types. Therefore, it is fitting to have a research conference that is

devoted to its improvement through basic and applied research in genetics, cytogenetics, molecular genetics and plant breeding.

In opening remarks at the 1954 Cotton Improvement Conference at the Baker Hotel in Dallas, TX, Dr. R. D. Lewis, Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station said “It was my privilege in January of 1947 to propose to the directors of the Southern Agricultural Experiment Stations that a Cotton Improvement Conference be organized for the purpose of enabling state and federal cotton workers to get together for program planning, reporting on work, and exchanging ideas, experiences and materials.” Dr. Lewis went on to say “this organization is informal. It is guided by an executive committee of five - one of whom represents the Cotton Branch of the Agricultural Research Administration, and serves as secretary of the conference. The other four members are elected by the conference group, with no more than one from a given state. The meetings in alternate years are in connection with the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers – the other meeting at an Experiment Station.” The above information was extracted from a mimeograph copy of the 1954 proceedings.

EARLY HISTORY OF CIC

The organizational meeting for the CIC was held in New Orleans, LA in 1948 in conjunction with the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers (Miller, 1998). Miller (1998) reported those in attendance at the New Orleans meeting included John Green, Tom Richmond, Tom Kerr, J. O. Ware, M. T. Henderson, John Cotton and probably others. According to John Green’s recollection (Miller, 1998), Tom Richmond, Texas A&M and Tom Kerr, Cotton Division, USDA, were leaders in organizing and initiating the annual conference. State, federal and private seed company workers encouraged and supported the activity to establish the conference.

Like Miller (1998), only a few written records of the early years of the CIC were found, even though mimeographed proceedings were produced for the conferences. Most of the early proceedings have been lost due to time as they were not archived in libraries.

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Copies of the 1951 and 1954 proceedings in old literature files, were helpful in developing this report. In searching for information on the first CIC, a mention was found in a paper which stated “Tentative plans for a regional natural-crossing test were formulated at the First Cotton Improvement Conference held at Baton Rouge, LA in February 1949” (Simpson, 1954). The 1950 conference was held in February in Biloxi, MS followed by meetings in February 1951 in Memphis, TN, February 1952 in Atlanta, GA, September 1952 in Raleigh, NC (joint meeting with Southern Regional Project S-1), Dallas, TX 1954, and Atlanta, GA in 1955. In 1956, the CIC joined and met with the Beltwide Production Conferences in Birmingham, AL. The Beltwide Production Conferences in 1956 consisted of: Cotton Disease Council founded in 1936, Cotton Defoliation – Physiology in 1942, Cotton Insect and Control (1947), and Cotton Improvement (1948). Since 1956 the CIC has continued to meet annually with the Beltwide Production Conferences.

In 1947, the National Cotton Council and its partner co-sponsors organized the Beltwide Cotton Mechanization- Conference (Hamilton, 1975). In 1955, the first annual Beltwide Cotton Production Conference was held in Memphis, TN. In 1960, the two conferences were merged and called the Beltwide Cotton Production- Mechanization Conference (Hamilton, 1975). In 1985 the word mechanization was dropped from the title and the name became the Beltwide Cotton Production Conference (Fisher, 1985). The conference is best known simply as the Beltwide Cotton Conference.

A 1950 CIC membership list (Table 1) was found in Delta and Pine Land Company records MSS.101 which were donated to the Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University Libraries. This collection contains records and correspondence of Early C. Ewing, Jr. who was very active in the CIC during the 1950s and 1960s. He served as chairman of the conference in 1955 and his papers were a valuable resource for this report. A list of CIC Chairs and meeting locations is provided in Table 2.

CIC PROCEEDINGS

Prior to 1956, CIC proceedings were either mimeographed copies or compiled from individual papers provided by authors and stapled together without a bound cover. From 1956-1965, proceedings were compiled and published with a bound soft cover by the National Cotton Council, Memphis, TN as a stand-alone publication. Since 1965, proceedings have been combined with other Beltwide Cotton Production Con-

ferences, and published as single or multiple volumes depending on number of pages by the Cotton Council. Beginning in the mid - 1990s, the proceedings were published in digital format and searchable copies were provided on CD rom disc. Currently, all proceedings are published electronically on line at <http://www.cotton.org/beltwide/proceedings> and the most recent copies were distributed on a USB flash drive.

CIC ANNUAL MEETINGS

The CIC meetings through the years generally have been held over a two-day span. During the early years’ night sessions were also scheduled. The chairman and chair-elect (vice-chairman) of the conference are responsible for developing the program with input from the members. A few presentations are given by invitation; however, most talks are volunteer as members are encouraged to present their research findings. The CIC has also held special symposia on emerging topics and joint sessions have been held on common problems usually with the Cotton Disease Council or Cotton Agronomy and Physiology. Media used by speakers has ranged from chalkboards, to over-head projectors, to 35 mm slides, to the currently popular computer Power Point format. To provide additional opportunities to present research findings, poster sessions were initiated in the early 1990s. The graduate student paper competition was instituted at the 1995 CIC at the recommendation of a steering committee chaired by Fred Bourland and approved at the 1994 business meeting. This competition which is supported by industry continues to the present.

Beginning in the early 2000s, the Beltwide Cotton Conference began to shift from its traditional meeting format which had changed little since the first production conference in 1955. More special seminars were being held, hands-on workshops increased, a Consultant’s Conference, along with a New Developments from Industry Session, and Cotton Foundation Exhibits were added to the Production Conferences. From 2010-2013, there was a rapid shift to the new format. After considerable study the National Cotton Council announced that the final meeting (57th) of the Beltwide Cotton Production Conference would be held in 2013. Since 2014, the National Cotton Council continues to support and coordinate the annual meetings of the Technical (Research) Conferences which include the CIC. The Consultants Conference continues to meet prior to the Technical Conferences.

Table 1. Cotton Improvement Conference membership^z, March – 1950.

State	Name	Affiliation
Alabama	A.L. Smith	Agronomy Dept., Alabama Agric. Exp. Sta., Auburn
	H.B. Tisdale	Alabama Exp. Sta., Auburn
Arizona	R.H. Peebles	U.S. Cotton Field Sta., Sacaton
	E.H. Pressley	Plant Breeding Dept., Univ. of Arizona, Tucson
	W.L. Thomas	Agronomy Dept., Univ. of Arizona, Tucson
Arkansas	G.A. Hale	Hale Seed Farms, Burdette
	C.A. Moosberg	Cotton Branch Exp. Sta., Marianna
	Robert Thomas	Arkansas Agri. Exp. Sta., Fayetteville
	J.O. Ware	Arkansas Agri. Exp. Sta., Fayetteville
California	George J. Harrison	U.S. Cotton Field Sta., Shafter
	Scott C. McMichael	U.S. Cotton Field Sta., Shafter
Florida	W.D. Hanson	Agronomy Dept., Univ. Exp. Sta., Gainesville
Georgia	W.W. Ballard	Georgia Exp. Sta., Experiment
	George H. King	Georgia Coastal Plain Exp. Sta., Tifton
	Harold D. Loden	Agronomy Dept. Univ. of Georgia, Athens
	J.H. Turner	Georgia Coastal Plain Exp. Sta., Tifton
Louisiana	M.T. Henderson	Agronomy Dept. Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge
	Ferd W. Self	Agronomy Dept. Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge
Maryland	H.D. Barker	Div. of Cotton & Other Fiber Crops & Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Beltsville
	Thomas Kerr	Div. of Cotton & Other Fiber Crops & Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Beltsville
	C.R. Sayre	Div. of Cotton & Other Fiber Crops & Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Beltsville
Mississippi	James B. Dick	Delta Branch Exp. Sta., Stoneville
	E.C. Ewing	Delta & Pine Land Co., Scott
	E.C. Ewing, Jr.	Delta & Pine Land Co., Scott
	D.A. Guravich	Delta Branch Exp. Sta., Stoneville
	J.E. Hite	Box 1328, Jackson
	James R. Meyer	Delta Branch Exp. Sta., Stoneville
	J.W. Neely	Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Co., Stoneville
	J. Fred O'Kelly	Agronomy Dept., Mississippi State College, State College
C.A. Tate	Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Co., Stoneville	
Missouri	W.R. Langford	Univ. of Missouri, Columbia
New Mexico	A.R. Leding	Agronomy Dep., New Mexico A&M College, College Station
	G.N. Stroman	Agronomy Dep., New Mexico A&M College, College Station
North Carolina	Morris D. Finkner	Agronomy Dept., N. Carolina State College, Raleigh
	S.G. Stephens	Agronomy Dept., N. Carolina State College, Raleigh
	P.H. Kime	Agronomy Dept., N. Carolina State College, Raleigh
Oklahoma	L.A. Brinkerhoff	Botany Dept., Okla. A&M College, Stillwater
	John M. Green	Agronomy Dept., Okla. A&M College, Stillwater
	I.M. Parrott	Okla. Cotton Exp. Sta., Chickasha
South Carolina	H.W. Barre	Clemson Agri. College, Clemson
	D.C. Harrell	Pee Dee Exp. Station, Florence
	W.H. Jenkins	Pee Dee Exp. Station, Florence
	W. T. McClure, Jr.	Marett Farm & Seed Co., Westminister
	C. Hoyt Rogers	Coker's Pedigreed Seed Co., Hartsville
Tennessee	George J. Wilds	Coker's Pedigreed Seed Co., Hartsville
	Burt Johnson	National Cotton Council, Memphis
	Leonard Lett	National Cotton Council, Memphis
	D.M. Simpson	U.S. Cotton Field Sta., Knoxville
Texas	Meta S. Brown	Agronomy Dept., Texas A&M College, College Station
	D.R. Hooton	U.S. Cotton Field Sta., Greenville
	Don Jones	Texas Substation No. 8, Lubbock
	C.F. Lewis	Agronomy Dept., Texas A&M College, College Station
	C.W. Manning	Agronomy Dept., Texas A&M College, College Station
	D.D. Porter	U.S. Cotton Field Sta., Greenville
	J.R. Quinby	Texas Substation No. 12, Chillicothe
	T.R. Richmond	Agronomy Dept., Texas A&M College, College Station
	B.M. Waddle	Agronomy Dept., Texas A&M College, College Station

^z This membership list was found in the Delta and Pine Land Company records MSS.101, Series 4, Early C. Ewing, Jr., Box numbers 28-32, Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University Libraries.

Table 2. Cotton Improvement Conference Chairperson, their affiliation and meeting location from 1948-2018.

No.	Year	Chairperson	Affiliation	Meeting Location
1	1948	Organizational Meeting of CIC held in New Orleans, LA		
2	1949			Baton Rouge, LA
3	Feb1950	Albert L. Smith	USDA and Ala. Exp. Stn., Auburn, AL	Biloxi, MS
4	Feb1951	John M. Green	Oklahoma A&M, Stillwater, OK	Memphis, TN
5	Feb1952	John H. Turner	UGA, Tifton, GA later joined USDA	Atlanta, GA
6	Sep1952 ²	T. R. Richmond	TAES, College Station, TX	Raleigh, NC
7	1954 ³	Harold D. Loden	Paymaster Farms, Plainview, TX	Dallas, TX
8	1955	Early C. Ewing, Jr.	D&PL, Scott, MS	Atlanta, GA
9	1956 ^x	B. A. Waddle	Univ. AR, Fayetteville, AR	Birmingham, AL
10	1957	Henry W. Webb	Coker, Hartsville, SC	Memphis
11	Dec1958	Charles F. Lewis	USDA, Beltsville, MD	Houston, TX
12	1960	C. W. Manning	Stoneville Seed Co., Stoneville, MS	Memphis, TN
13	1961	W. P. Sappenfield	Univ. MO, Portageville, MO	Greenville, SC
14	1962	G. A. Niles	TAMU, College Station, TX	Memphis, TN
15	1963	C. V. Feaster	USDA, Tempe, AZ	Dallas, TX
16	1964	James B. Pate	USDA, Knoxville, TN	Memphis, TN
17	1965	H. H. Ramey	Nat'l Cotton Coun., Memphis, TN	Atlanta, GA
18	1966	Warner D. Fisher	Univ. Arizona, Tucson, AZ	Memphis, TN
19	1967	Hugh A. Peacock	USDA, Experiment, GA	Dallas, TX
20	1968	Levon L. Ray	TAES, Lubbock, TX	Hot Springs, AR
21	1969	P. A. Miller	NCSU, Raleigh, NC	New Orleans, LA
22	1970	Keith R. Jones	D&PL, Scott, MS	Houston, TX
23	1971	Lee S. Stith	Univ. AZ, Tucson, AZ	Atlanta, GA
24	1972	Russell J. Kohel	USDA, College Station, TX	Memphis, TN
25	1973	Raymond L. Shepherd	USDA, Auburn, AL	Phoenix, AZ
26	1974	Lavel M. Verhalen	OSU, Stillwater, OK	Dallas, TX
27	1975	H. B. Cooper, Jr.	USDA, Shafter, CA	New Orleans, LA
28	1976	Robert R. (Bob) Bridge	Delta Branch Exp. Stn., Stoneville, MS	Las Vegas, NV
29	1977	E. L. (Ed) Turcotte	USDA, Phoenix, AZ	Atlanta, GA
30	1978	Delbert C. Hess	ACCO Seed, Plainview, TX	Dallas, TX
31	1979	Jack E. Jones	LSU, Baton Rouge, LA	Phoenix, AZ
32	1980	Thomas W. Culp	USDA, Florence, SC	St. Louis, MO
33	1981	Dick D. Davis	NMSU, Las Cruces, NM	New Orleans, LA
34	1982	William R. Meredith, Jr	USDA, Stoneville, MS	Las Vegas, NV
35	1983	James B. Weaver, Jr.	UGA, Athens, GA	San Antonio, TX
36	1984	F. Douglas Wilson	USDA, Phoenix, AZ	Atlanta, GA
37	1985	P. E. Hoskinson	UT, Jackson, TN	New Orleans, LA
38	1986	Jerry E. Quisenberry	USDA, Lubbock, TX	Las Vegas, NV
39	1987	C. Wayne Smith	TAMU, College Station, TX	Dallas, TX
40	1988	Johnie N. Jenkins	USDA, Mississippi State, MS	New Orleans, LA
41	1989	John R. Gannaway	TAMU, Lubbock, TX	Nashville, TN
42	1990	James M. Olvey	Chembred, Inc., Arizona	Las Vegas, NV
43	1991	F. M. Bourland	Univ. AR, Fayetteville, AR	San Antonio, TX
44	1992	Jack C. McCarty, Jr.	USDA, Mississippi State, MS	Nashville, TN
45	1993	Daryl T. Bowman	NCSU, Raleigh, NC	New Orleans, LA
46	1994	Steven R. Oakley	CPCSD, Shafter, CA	San Diego, CA
47	1995	Shelby H. Baker	Univ. GA, Tifton, GA	San Antonio, TX
48	1996	Cynthia C. Green	D&PL, Hartsville, SC	Nashville, TN
49	1997	Richard G. Percy	USDA, Maricopa, AZ	New Orleans, LA
50	1998	D. Steve Calhoun	Delta Branch Exp. Stn., Stoneville, MS	San Diego, CA
51	1999	Charlie G. Cook	UAP, Santa Rosa, TX	Orlando, FL
52	2000	Gerald O. Myers	LSU, Baton Rouge, LA	San Antonio, TX
53	2001	O. Lloyd May	Univ. GA, Tifton, GA	Anaheim, CA
54	2002	Peggy M. Thaxton	TAMU, College Station, TX	Atlanta, GA
55	2003	Don L. Keim	D&PL, Scott, MS	Nashville, TN
56	2004	Sukumar Saha	USDA, Mississippi State, MS	San Antonio, TX
57	2005	Joseph J. (Jeff) Gwyn	Bayer Cotton Seeds, Leland, MS	New Orleans, LA
58	2006	Jodi A. Scheffler	USDA, Stoneville, MS	San Antonio, TX
59	2007	Dawn E. Fraser	D&PL, Hartsville, SC	New Orleans, LA
60	2008	Maurico Ulloa	USDA, Shafter, CA	Nashville, TN
61	2009	Joseph T. Johnson	BCSI, Leland, MS	San Antonio, TX
62	2010	Peng W. Chee	Univ. GA, Tifton, GA	New Orleans, LA
63	2011	John W. Pellow	Phytogen Seed Co., LLC, Leland, MS	Atlanta, GA
64	2012	Lori L. Hinze	USDA, College Station, TX	Orlando, FL
65	2013	Joel F. Mahill	PhytoGen Seed Co., Corcoran, CA	San Antonio, TX
66	2014	Jane K. Dever	TAMU, Lubbock, TX	New Orleans, LA
67	2015	E. Margaret Shields	Bayer CropScience, Lubock	San Antonio, TX
68	2016	Steve S. Hague	TAMU, College Station, TX	New Orleans, LA
69	2017	Thomas D. (Tom) Brooks	Americot, Inc., Lubbock, TX	Dallas, TX
70	2018	B. Todd Campbell	USDA, Florence, SC	San Antonio, TX

² Joint meeting of the CIC and S-1 Technical Committee (No meeting in 1953)³ A second meeting was held at Greenville, MS, 13-14 October 1954.^x CIC joined and met with the 2nd annual Beltwide Cotton Production Conference

BRIEF SUMMARY AND PERSPECTIVE OF CIC

The CIC was organized in 1948 and continues to meet annually. The informal structure, reporting research findings openly, exchanging ideas, and cooperation among cotton workers (both public and private) has persisted throughout the 70 years of the CIC. The structure of the CIC remains informal with a chair and chair-elect who work together to develop the program for the current year's meeting. A short business meeting is held during the conference to discuss meeting program structure, joint sessions with other conferences, and desires for special symposia on hot topics. The nominating committee (chair, chair-elect, and appointed member by the chair) seek a candidate that is willing to serve as the new chair-elect. The chair-elect rotates between scientist from the public sector (University/AES and USDA) and private sector cotton seed breeding companies. The nomination for chair-elect is presented to the membership for approval. The conference offers a great opportunity for scientists to present and share data with colleagues that are interested in cotton improvement (both basic and applied), particularly in plant breeding, genetic and related disciplines. The conference also allows young scientists and graduate students the opportunity to network and interact with researchers who have been working for decades to improve all aspects of cotton production. The CIC and its members have had a positive impact on the cotton industry during its existence.

COTTON GENETICS AWARD

Industry members of the Joint Cotton Breeding Policy Committee (JCBPC) made a tentative suggestion at their 1960 meeting for the Recognition of Scientific Achievement. Phil Miller gave a brief history of JCBPC at the 1998 CIC (Miller, 1998). In the summary report of the January 12, 1961 meeting of JCBPC Dr. Harold D. Loden, cotton breeder, Anderson Clayton & Company/ Paymaster Seeds reported on the Recognition of Scientific Achievement. (This summary report was found in the Delta and Pine Land Company records MSS.101, Series 4, Early C. Ewing, Jr., Box numbers 28-32, Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University Libraries). Dr. Loden reported that commercial cotton breeders will sponsor an annual award for outstanding individual achievement in basic cotton genetics and breeding research. He covered the following points in his report

to the JCBPC: "1) the first award would be made in January 1962 at the Beltwide Cotton Production-Mechanization Conference in Memphis, 2) the award will consist of a suitable plaque and \$250 in cash, 3) the exact name of this award has not been decided but 'Cotton Genetics Research Award' is among those recommended, 4) eligibility for the award is limited to public employees in basic cotton genetics and breeding research, 5) an award will be made annually only if merited on the basis of published work, and 6) a committee of appropriate industry and agency representatives should be established to screen award nominations and select the recipient when, in its judgement, an award is merited." The public agency representative on the JCBPC endorsed the decision of commercial cotton breeders and indicated that the award program would be a positive force in stimulating needed basic research.

Dr. R. D. Lewis, Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and Chairman of the JCBPC, appointed a committee to develop by 1 July 1961, specific plans and procedures for implementing the award program. The committee was composed of Dr. M. W. Parker (Chairman), Director, Crops Research Division, USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD, Dr. R. L. Lovvorn, Director, North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, Raleigh, NC, and Dr. E. V. Smith, Director, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn, AL. This committee was tasked to: 1) development of a statement announcing the award program, 2) selecting a name for the award, 3) designing a suitable plaque, 4) developing criteria for eligibility, 5) establishing a procedure for nomination, 6) establishing a procedure for selecting recipients, and 7) establishing any other needed "ground rules".

Dr. Parker's committee developed the procedures which were reviewed and approved by the JCBPC to implement the award. Early Ewing, Jr. of Delta and Pine Land Company, volunteered to help with the award plaque by contacting Russell Farley of Bryan and Bryan advertising agency. Farley designed the emblem and plaque using mahogany wood and sterling silver for engraving to cost about \$75. This committee also approved the design of the plaque. An information brochure was developed based on the committee's guidelines to seek nominations. The brochure that is used today is essentially the same as the one developed in 1961. The purpose of the award is to recognize and encourage basic research in cotton genetics, cytogenetics, and breeding. In general, the award is made to an

individual, but in special cases it may be shared by two or more co-workers. During the history of the award there have been three times when the award has had multiple recipients: 1962, 1976, and 2008 (Table 3). Awards have been presented each year except for 1973 and 1978.

Table 3. Cotton Genetics Research Award recipients.

Name	Affiliation	For Year
S.G. Stephens	North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC	1961
T. R. Richmond & Tom Kerr	Richmond USDA-ARS, College Station, TX and Kerr USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD	1962
James R. Meyers	USDA-ARS, Stoneville, MS	1963
Meta S. Brown	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	1964
Charles F. Lewis	USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD	1965
Lyle L. Phillips	North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC	1966
Paul A. Fryxell	USDA-ARS, College Station, TX	1967
Phillip A. Miller	NC State & USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD	1968
John E. Endrizzi	University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ	1969
Russell J. Kohel	USDA-ARS, College Station, TX	1970
Joshua A. Lee	USDA-ARS, Raleigh, NC	1971
Johnie N. Jenkins	USDA-ARS, Mississippi State, MS	1972
No Award Given		1973
Vesta G. Meyer	Miss. State Univ., Delta Branch Exp. Sta., Stoneville, MS	1974
David Cuttino Harrell	USDA-ARS, Pee Dee Exp. Sta., Florence, SC	1975
W. R. Meredith & E. L. Turcotte	Meredith USDA-ARS, Stoneville, MS and Turcotte, USDA-ARS, Phoenix, AZ	1976
Robert R. (Bob) Bridge	Miss. State Univ., Delta Branch Exp. Sta., Stoneville, MS	1977
No Award Given		1978
Brad A. Waddle	University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR	1979
Levon L. Ray	Texas A&M, Lubbock, TX	1980
Thomas W. (Tom) Culp	USDA-ARS, Pee Dee Exp. Sta., Florence, SC	1981
James B. (J.B.) Weaver	University of Georgia, Athens, GA	1982
G.A. Niles	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	1983
W.P. (Bill) Sappenfield	University of Missouri, Delta Center, Portageville, MO	1984
Jack E. Jones	Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA	1985
Raymond L. Shepherd	USDA-ARS, Auburn, AL & Mississippi State, MS	1986
Laval M. Verhalen	Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK	1987
Jerry E. Quisenberry	USDA-ARS, Lubbock, TX	1988
John R. Gannaway	Texas A&M University, Lubbock, TX	1989
Jack C. McCarty, Jr.	USDA-ARS, Mississippi State, MS	1990
F. Douglas Wilson	USDA-ARS, Phoenix, AZ	1991
Dick D. Davis	New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM	1992
Kamal M. El-Zik	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	1993
Luther S. Bird	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	1994
David M. Stelly	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	1995
W. R. (Bill) Meredith, Jr.	USDA-ARS, Stoneville, MS	1996
Glen Staten	New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM	1997
A. Edward Percival	USDA-ARS, College Station, TX	1998
James McD. Stewart	University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR	1999
Norma Lee Trolinder	USDA-ARS, Lubbock, TX	2000
Freddie M. (Fred) Bourland	University of Arkansas, NE Research Sta., Keiser, AR	2001
Roy G. Cantrell	New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM	2002
Peggy M. Thaxton	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	2003
C. Wayne Smith	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	2004
Daryl T. Bowman	North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC	2005
Richard G. Percy	USDA-ARS, Maricopa, AZ & College Station, TX	2006
Andrew H. (Andy) Paterson	University of Georgia, Athens, GA	2007
Al Bell, Forest Robinson and David M. Stelly	Bell and Robinson, USDA-ARS, College Station, TX, Stelly, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	2008
Carl V. Feaster	USDA-ARS, Phoenix, AZ	2009
Sukumar Saha	USDA-ARS, Mississippi State, MS	2010
Keerti S. Rathore	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	2011
Jane K. Dever	Texas A&M University, Lubbock, TX	2012
Wesley J. Malloy, Jr.	Cotton Winter Nursery, Iguala & Tecoman, Mexico	2013
Jodi A. Scheffler	USDA-ARS, Stoneville, MS	2014
David B. Weaver	Auburn University, Auburn, AL	2015
Peng W. Chee	University of Georgia, Tifton, GA	2016
B. Todd Campbell	USDA-ARS, Pee Dee Exp. Sta., Florence, SC	2017
Eric F. Hequet	Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX	2018

A Canvassing and Screening committee was appointed in 1961 by the Chairman of the JCBPC to screen nominations for the Cotton Genetics Research Award and present names to the Selection Committee (two to three candidates). The award selection committee would select the winner. On-behalf of the Canvassing and Screening Committee, Dr. H. H. Ramey, National Council, forwarded on September 21, 1961, copies of the announcement of the Cotton Genetics Award to the directors of the Agricultural Experiment Stations of all cotton producing states and to appropriate officers of USDA. Dr. Harold Loden was also provided 25 copies for commercial cotton breeders. Nominations were due to the Canvassing and Screening Committee by November 15, 1961. There were three nominations for the first award, Dr. S. G. Stephens, Dr. Tom Richmond, and Dr. J. O. Ware. Dr. S. G. Stephens was selected as the winner and was presented the award at the January 1962 Beltwide Cotton Conference held in Memphis, TN. Photographs of the award plaque and recipients can be found in Jack C. McCarty's presentation (McCarty, 2018) that was given at the 2018 Cotton Improvement Conference (http://cottongen.org/data/community_archives). In summary the procedure for the nomination and selection of the Cotton Genetics Award winner has remained essentially the same since its inception. The secretary of the JCBPC, a staff member of the National Cotton Council, continues to administer the award on-behalf of the commercial cotton breeders. The award winner continues to receive a plaque and the current cash value of the award has increased to one-thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

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DISCLAIMER

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