# SMART PHONE APP AIDS GIN IN HANDLING MODULES
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The nearly 400 gins which use EWR Inc.'s eCotton-brand gin software have indicated that they need support: tracking modules in the field; reducing the entry of module data into the gin software; and providing easy access to bale data to growers.  To address these issues, EWR has developed MyModules which is EWR's the first commercial smart phone application offered to cotton producers.  MyModules allows a grower to transmit information to his gin - via his smart phone - indicating that a new cotton module has been created and is in the field awaiting pickup.  The information transmitted includes (optionally) the module's geographic location - latitude and longitude - along with any identifying code(s).

Since MyModules was developed by EWR, Inc., it is integrated with and works well with EWR's eCotton-brand gin software and with EWR's Cotton Host web site used by cotton gins and growers.  MyModules is available for both Android phones and iPhones.  The app is downloaded from the appropriate app store.

Once it is downloaded to the phone, the initial set-up of MyModules is easy.  The grower using the app must enter data about at least one gin and must enter at least one producer name. That data is then stored in MyModules for future reference.

To set-up a gin, the grower must enter the gin's identification code (assigned by USDA), and the gin's method of identifying modules (e.g., alphanumeric ID, numeric ID codes).

At least one gin must be set-up in MyModules in order for the app to function.  However, multiple gins may be set-up.  Likewise, multiple producers may be set-up for each gin but only a single producer per gin is required.

In order to set-up a producer name, the grower identifies the gin, enters the grower's ID code (assigned by the gin), and enters the grower's CottonHost password (assigned by EWR).

Once the initial set-up steps are complete, use of MyModules is straightforward.  From the main MyModules screen on his smart phone the grower selects the "Register New Modules" button to indicate that a module is now ready for pickup.

On the "Register" screen (Figure 1) the user selects the producer ID, the gin, the farm, the field, the module identification and the number of modules.

Figure 1 "Register" New
Modules Screen in MyModules

Instead of manually entering the module ID, it can be scanned from a barcoded module tag using the smart phone's built-in camera. The geographic location is automatically collected (this feature can be deactivated by the user) and saved.  The saved data is immediately transmitted to the gin which receives it in a matter of seconds.  Security checks built-in to the system verify that the sender legitimately can send data to the gin. If the user is out of smart phone coverage area, then MyModules stores the data until the phone enters into a coverage area at which time the data is immediately transmitted.

After transmission the data moves at the speed of the internet to the gin where it is received into the eCotton-brand gin software.  New features in that software allow the module data to easily be tracked and managed by the gin.
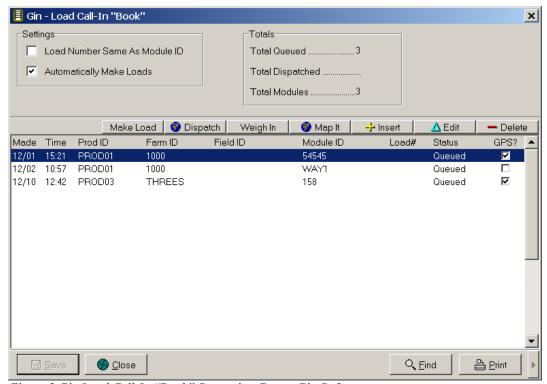


Figure 2 Gin Load Call-In "Book" Screen in eCotton Gin Software

New features in the eCotton-brand software provides the gin staff with the ability to easily make loads, dispatch module trucks, and weigh-in modules. Also, the gin also is provided a map on which the location of the module is shown.

The MyModules smart phone app does more than simply allow growers to inform the gin that modules are ready. It also enables the grower to monitor the status of his modules from his smart phone. By selecting the "View Modules" feature of the app, the user can review - by producer name - the status of all modules. Status includes data transmission status, whether the module has been picked-up by the gin, and whether the module has been ginned. Very detailed information about each module can be obtained.

The grower also can utilize the "View Bale Summary" feature of MyModules to retrieve a report summarizing how many bales have been produced from all modules ginned to date.

MyModules offers the growers a new tool in his arsenal to save time while having fast access to vital data. It puts to use the latest technology to reduce the workload at the gin while enabling the ginner to provide better service to his customer.

The Android version of MyModules became available in mid-September, 2011, while the iPhone version did not become available until late November. Because of its late introduction in the crop year, only a small number of growers (less than 30) were able to use MyModules this past harvest season. Reviews from those producers and ginners have been highly favorable. Expectations are for greatly increased usage during the 2012 harvest. More information about MyModules is available at www.ecotton.com.