

**RESEARCH NEEDS OF COTTON GINNING INDUSTRY – SURVEY RESULTS****G.A. Holt****USDA-ARS Cotton Production and Processing Research Unit****Lubbock, TX****H. Ashley****National Cotton Ginners Association****Cordova, TN****R. Isom****Western Agricultural Processors Association****Fresno, CA****A. Neslon****Texas Cotton Ginners Association****Austin, TX****D. Findley****Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association****Dahlonega, GA****T. Price****Southern Cotton Ginners Association****Memphis, TN****Abstract**

A survey was sent out to members of the cotton ginning associations across the United States. The survey asked five questions:

- 1) In what state is your gin located?
- 2) In your estimation, what are the top 3 research needs of the ginning industry?
- 3) What are the top 3 research needs of your gin?
- 4) In your opinion, what is the biggest improvement needed in modern day ginning?
- 5) What is the biggest improvement needed in harvesting cotton?

A majority of the respondents were from the Mid-South (47%) followed by the Southwest (27%), Far West (18%), and Southeast (8%). The responses were broken into the following seventeen answer categories:

1) Automation/Labor	2) Production/Processing Costs	3) Moisture/Drying
4) Quality/Classing	5) Contamination/Plastic	6) Trash/Bark
7) Safety	8) Add Value/Byproducts	9) Air Emissions/Control
10) Module Handling/Unwrapping	11) Variety Issues – smaller seed	12) Energy
13) Marketing	14) When Repairs are Needed	15) Bale Packaging
16) Transportation	17) Miscellaneous	

The following responses were placed in the Miscellaneous category since they did not seem to fit within any of the other answer categories:

- Question 2
  - 1) Cotton Flow & Warehousing Efficiency
  - 2) Online Scarce/Used Parts Directory by Gin
- Question 3
  - 1) How to provide better customer service
- Question 5
  - 1) Informed producers
  - 2) Coordination between gin and field
  - 3) Proper timing of defoliation and harvest

Figures 1 through 4 below show the National breakdown of the responses. Regional responses were similar to national responses with the top three answers being similar, but in a changed order of importance. For example, for Question 2 (Top 3 Research Needs of the Ginning Industry) the National response had Automation/Labor (14.6%) as the top need followed by Module Handling/Unwrapping (11.5%) and

Production/Processing Costs (11%). The Southwest regional response had Module Handling/Unwrapping (20%) as the top need followed by Production/Processing Costs (15%) and Automation/Labor (12%). Comparing the National and Southwest responses for Question 2, both had the same responses in the top three but in different order.

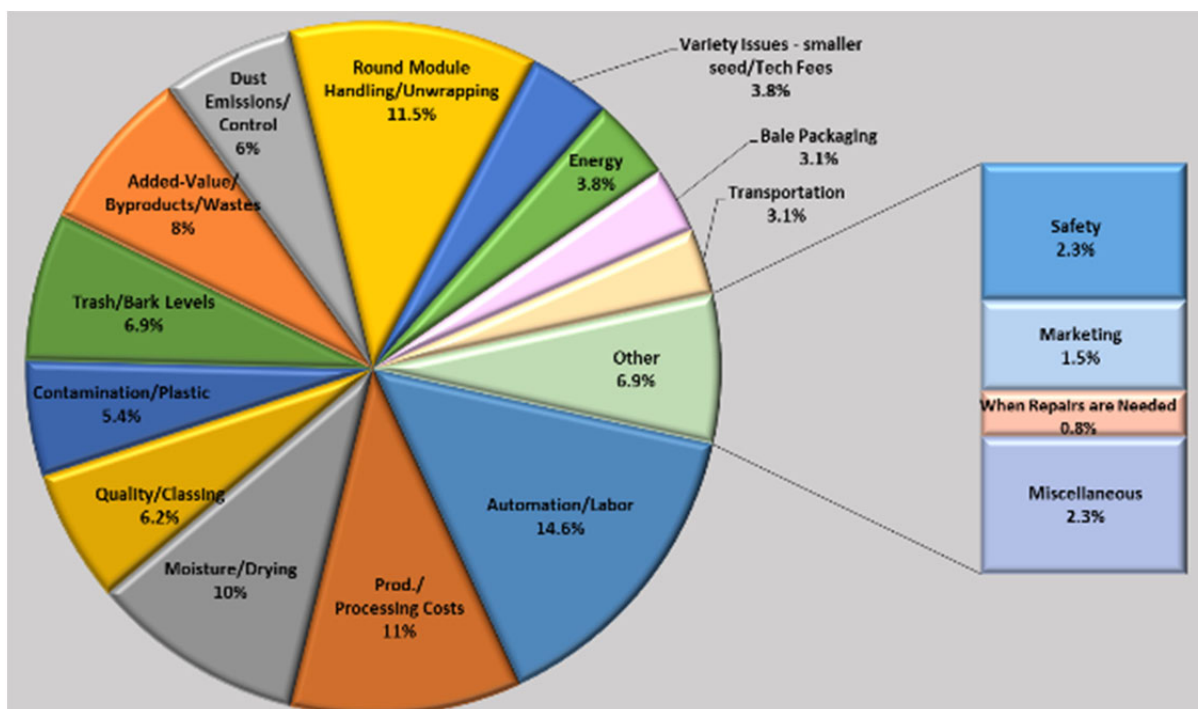


Figure 1. National response to question about the top 3 research needs of the cotton ginning industry.

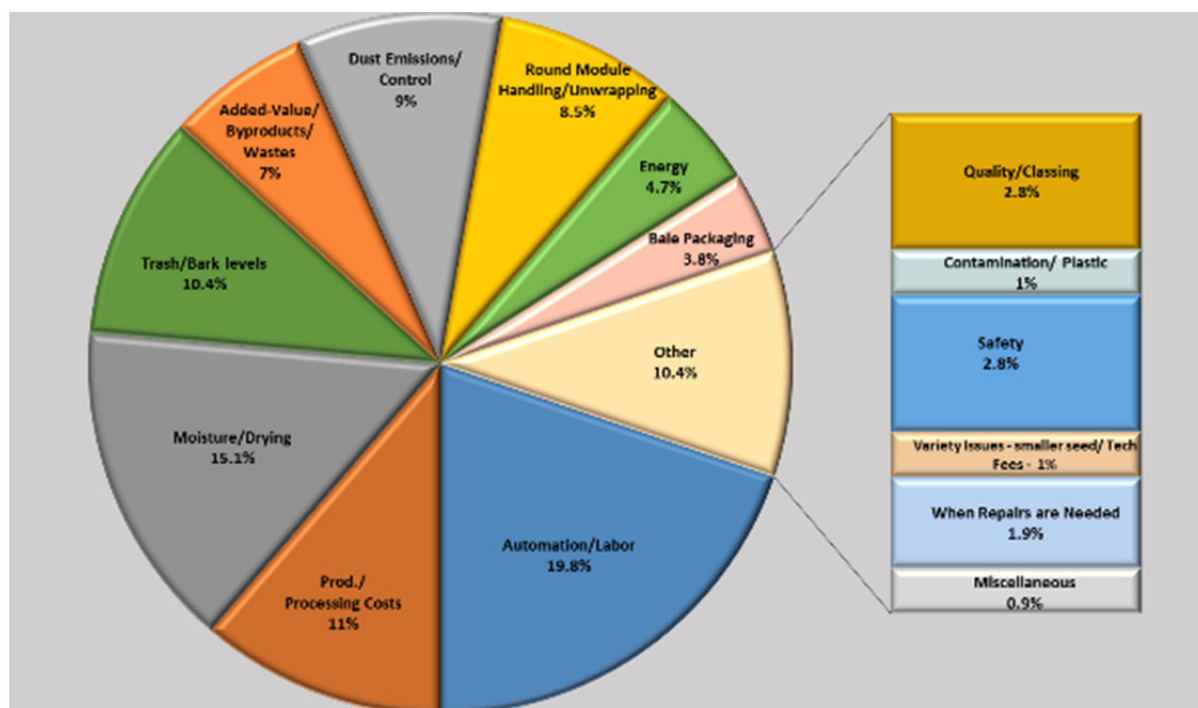


Figure 2. National response to question about the top 3 research needs of your cotton gin.

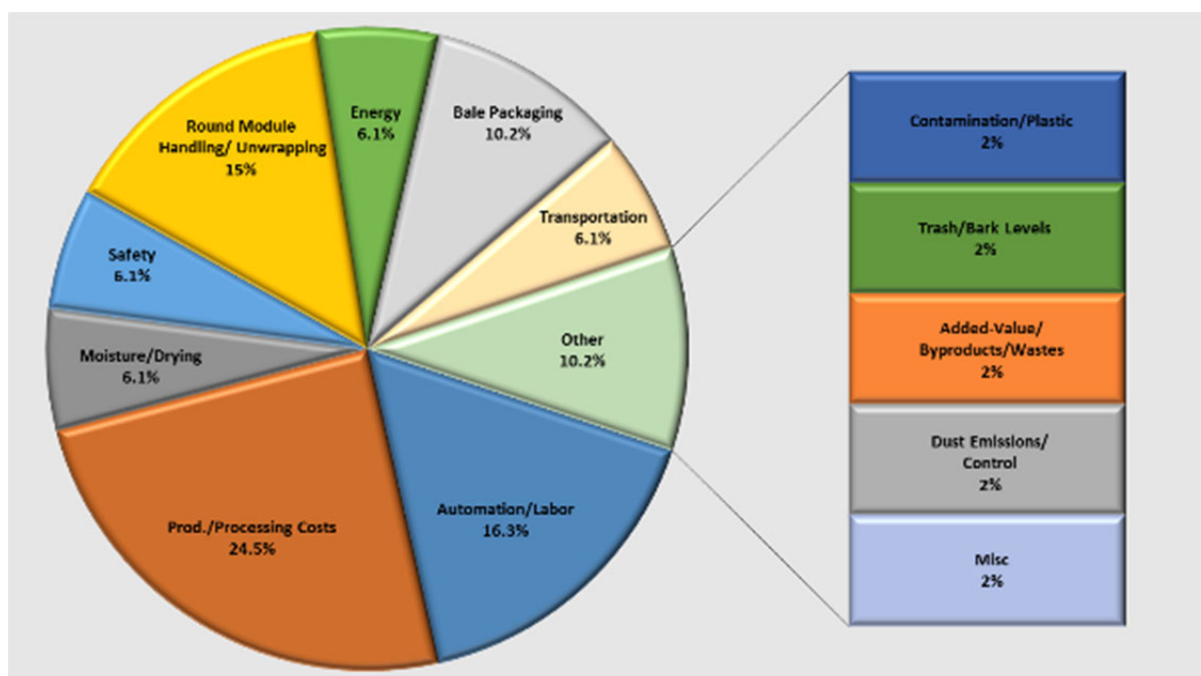


Figure 3. National response to question about the biggest improvement needed in modern day ginning.

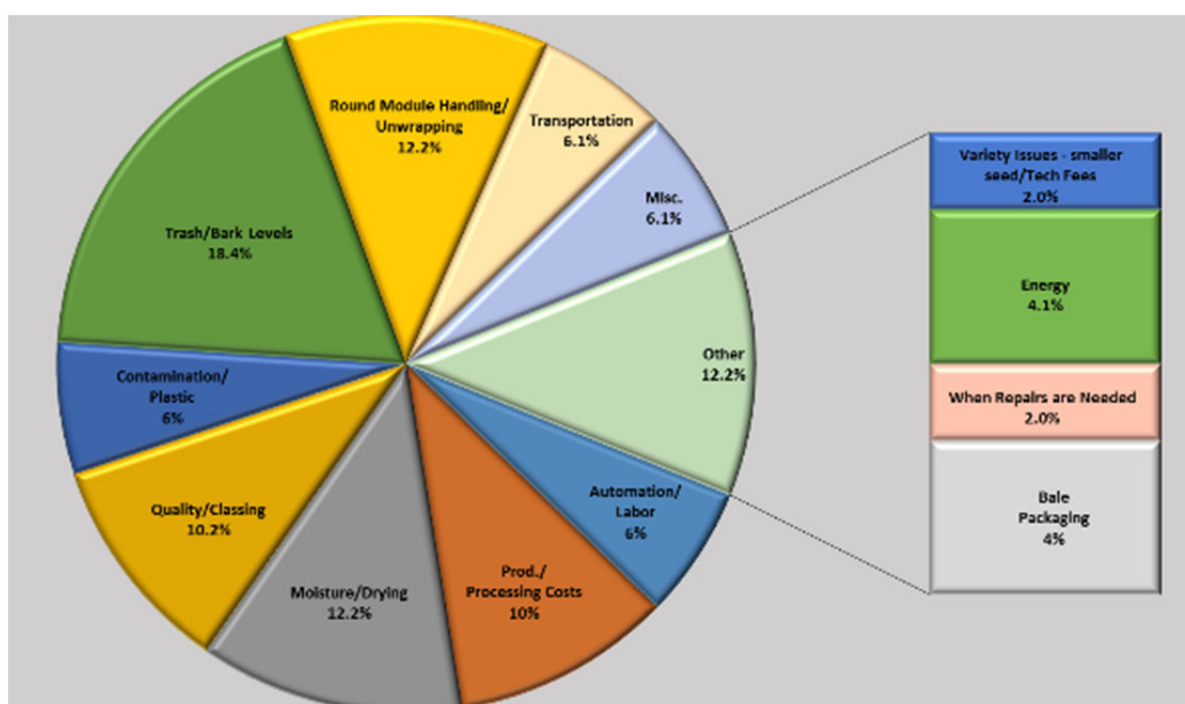


Figure 4. National response to question about the biggest improvement needed with harvesting cotton.