JOINT SESSION: COTTON ENGINEERING-SYSTEMS AND GINNING
CONTAMINATION FREE COTTON

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Abstract

Cotton contamination is a persistent problem that results in economic losses starting at the mill's opening rooms and ending at the retail counter. The types of non-lint material found in raw cotton take many forms. Some recent additions to the list of contaminants found in raw cotton are agricultural mulches and module wraps. Cotton ginners need to be aware that their cotton growers' bales are closely scrutinized at modern spinning mills and some of those mills use cutting edge technology to detect contamination in their opening room. Mills are adding expensive contamination detection equipment in response to the demands of their downstream customers. Heavy contamination discounts for yarn and textiles mean that these mills are looking closely at their raw cotton sources. Mills do not hesitate to change their historical buying patterns if they believe cotton from traditional sources is likely to be contaminated. Those are some of the reasons the National Cotton Council believes that it is important to keep cotton ginners and others informed about the consequences of lint contamination and to solicit their assistance in getting the contamination prevention message in front of U.S. cotton growers. Beltwide attendees are encouraged to view and listen to this recorded presentation on the Confex Podium web site. Other contamination prevention resources can be downloaded from the National Cotton Council's Quality Preservation web page (URL: http://www.cotton.org/tech/quality/index.cfm). In addition to National Cotton Council material, the quality preservation page includes links to contamination prevention publications from Cotton Incorporated, USDA ARS and others.