

FIELDPRINT CALCULATOR: DOCUMENTING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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Abstract

Cotton LEADS™, a program founded by an alliance of industry organizations in Australia and the United States of America, is a program that is committed to responsibly-produced cotton. Promoting and documenting continuous improvement is a major selling point of this program to the supply chain. Continuous improvement benefits the producer in an effort to become more efficient and profitable, but will also help substantiate sustainability claims of the supply chain. The Fieldprint Calculator, an online tool developed by Field to Market: Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, is a tool cotton producers can utilize to evaluate their environmental footprint in an effort to become more efficient. Multiple years of field data may be entered into the calculator. However, the calculator does not make inferences across years. Eight years data for a single field was entered into the calculator. A five-year Olympic moving average calculated outside of the Fieldprint Calculator was successful in documenting continuous improvement. It is recommended that a comparison of this nature be incorporated into the calculator for use when sufficient data exists of this calculation. It is also recommended that an output documenting this improvement be generated by the Fieldprint Calculator for the purpose of sharing with the supply chain upon request of the producer.