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DATE: July 17, 2012

TO: NCGA Member Associations

FROM: NCGA Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Benefits of Longer Gin Runs and Module Averaging as Recommended by the Vision 21 Cotton Flow Study

The National Cotton Ginners' Executive Committee would like to remind ginner and cotton producers that financial and logistical advantages may exist in making longer gin runs of customer's cotton and in module averaging of cotton bales. Recommendations, which are related to gin runs and to module averaging, came out of the Vision 21 Cotton Flow Study, and these recommendations included:

- Longer gin runs i.e. block ginning: utilizing a systems approach to better coordinate grower merchandizing /ginning / warehousing processes so that a shipper's bales can be segregated within a warehouse (concentrate shipper's cotton into fewer shipping bays)
- Pre-storage sorting of bales (based on ownership and classing data) prior to placing bales in general inventory.
- Broaden bale selection processes i.e. use four bale merchandizing blocks and/or module averaging.

It is a reasonable assumption that cost savings are found in faster filling of shipping orders. Additionally, it has been determined that the level of cost savings is a function of how sequential the locations of bales may be in a shipping order. Making longer gin runs of cotton from a farm consisting of a single cotton variety cottons, grown under like conditions, and soil types will assist in segregating like qualities.

Module averaging has been around for twenty years, and we now have millions of data points, which indicate that module averaging is a more accurate means for assigning classing data than single-bale averaging has been in the past. USDA-AMS staff members have given several presentations that indicate that, first and foremost, module averaging improves accuracy in quality measurements to customers. Furthermore, these reports reveal that quality measurements are more consistent, more reproducible, and more repeatable. Each year, the Cotton Program's studies ultimately show overall positive economic results for those bales using module averaging. If you have not tried module averaging, the NCGA suggests that you visit with your classing office to discuss implementing this program. In addition, the National Cotton Ginners' website has included the AMS slideshow presentation, with an analysis of the benefits of module averaging: www.cotton.org/ncga/upload/Module-Averaging-Benefits.pdf