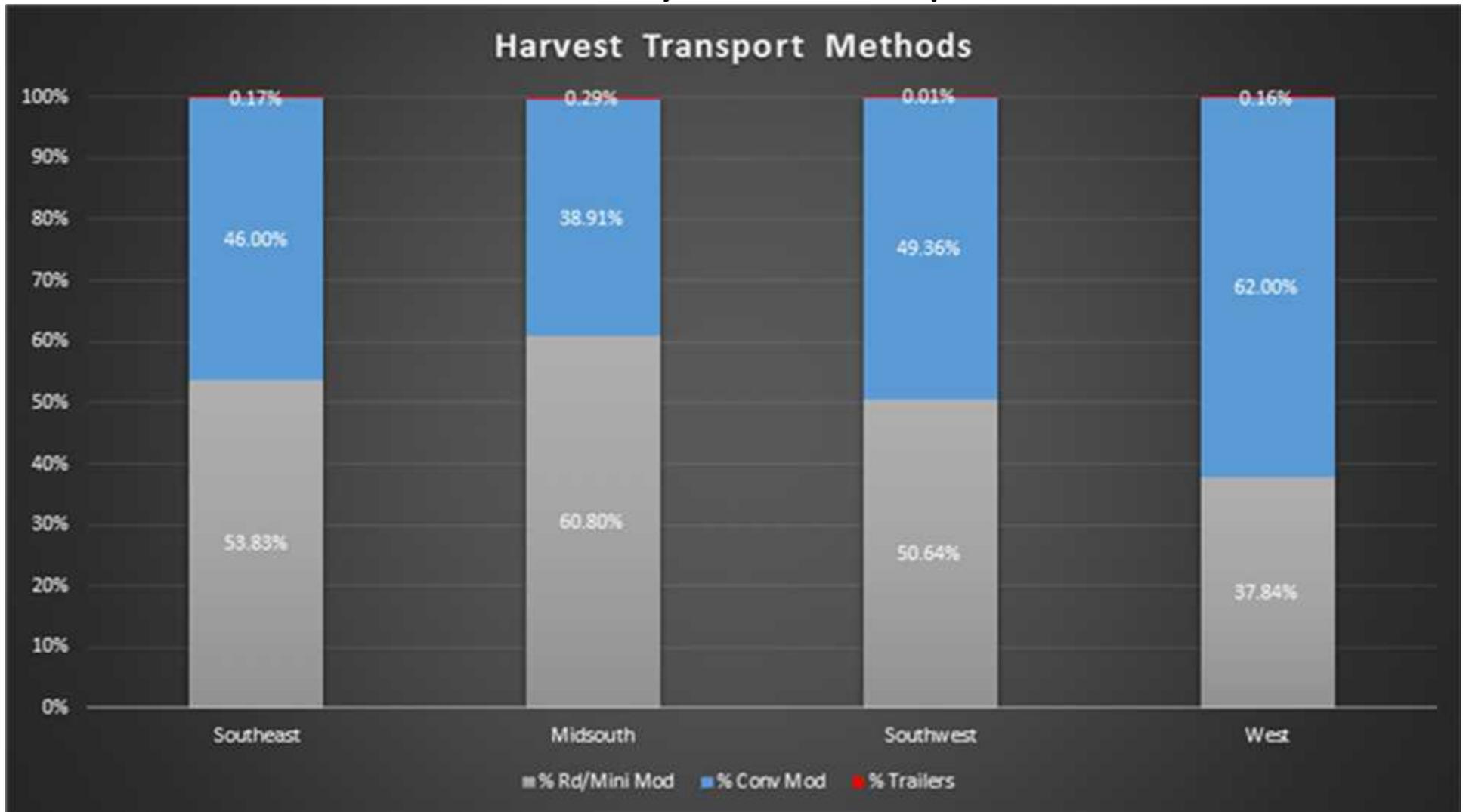


National Cotton Council December 2016 Gin Survey of Harvest Transport Practices.



436 cotton ginning operations were surveyed in early December 2016 in an effort to determine current transport practices of harvested seed cotton from fields to gins. A total of 152 responses were received encompassing responses across all four production regions of the U.S. Gins were asked to provide the percentage of seed cotton received by 1) Trailers, 2) Conventional Modules or 3) Round or Mini-modules. If trailer use was indicated, an additional request was to estimate the percentage of trailers that were not packed, manually packed or packed mechanically.

National Cotton Council

December 2016 Gin Survey of Harvest Transport Practices.

The survey revealed high adoption of new harvest technologies utilizing on-board moduling into either round or mini modules. A large number of growers continue to utilize basket harvesters and conventional module builders. Looking at the total U.S. cotton crop, trailer transport is only used for a very small fraction of a percent of cotton and most cotton transported in trailers is not packed. Manual packing of trailers is used by a few producers on a very small number of bales, primarily in the Southeast production region.

According to survey respondents (n=152):

- 0.17% of the harvested cotton is transported in trailers in the Southeast
- 0.29% of the harvested cotton is transported in trailers in the Midsouth
- 0.01% of the harvested cotton is transported in trailers in the Southwest
- 0.16% of the harvested cotton is transported in trailers in the West

Of the 0.17% of cotton transported in trailers in the Southeast, 18.57% is manually packed and 81.43% is not packed. Of the 0.29% of cotton transported in trailers in the Midsouth, 20% is mechanically packed and 80% is not packed. In the Southwest and West regions, 0% of the cotton transported in trailers is packed. The Southeast was the only region reporting the use of trailers and manual packing.

Applying these results to 2016 production to estimate the amount of manually packed trailer usage:

- An estimated 3,891,000 bales were produced in the Southeast in 2016
- 0.17% of 3,891,000 bales = 6,615 bales of production transported in trailers
- 18.57% of 6,615 bales = 1,228 bales of production
- $1,228/16,524,000 = 0.00743\%$ of total U.S. production transported in trailers and manually packed.

These results were obtained with no weighting of percentages by gin facility volume. (i.e., No actual gin volumes were reported, only percentages. Larger gins typically utilize smallest percentage of trailers, thus trailer use is most likely over-stated.)