

Improving Cotton Fiber Classing and Marketing Clarity

Genetic advancements in upland cotton fiber length have led to greater interest in the extra long staple (ELS) cotton market. In response to industry direction, the National Cotton Council of America created an ELS subcommittee of the NCC Quality Taskforce. This subcommittee's goals are to:

1. Expand opportunities for grower profitability across the U.S. Cotton Belt
2. Promote ongoing innovation in yield and fiber quality across the entire U.S. cotton industry
3. Protect and enhance the market value of the ELS cotton crop

During conversations at the field level and in subcommittee meetings, NCC recognized the need to educate stakeholders concerning the definitions used by the United States Department of Agriculture for cotton classing, marketing, and insuring. The official definitions of ELS and upland cotton recorded in the Federal Register (7 CFR 1427.3) are presented below:

Upland cotton means planted and stub cotton which is produced in the United States from other than pure strain varieties of the *Barbadense* species, any hybrid thereof, or any other variety of cotton in which one or more of these varieties predominate.

Extra long staple (ELS) cotton means any of the following varieties of cotton which is produced in the United States and is ginned on a roller gin:

1. American-Pima;
2. All other varieties of the *Barbadense* species of cotton, and any hybrid thereof; and
3. Any other variety of cotton in which one or more of these varieties predominate.

NCC will continue to advocate for improvements to the production and marketing of U.S. cotton. If you have any questions, please contact:

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