

Efficient Cotton Cleaning in a System Framework

Blake K. Bennett

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Sukant Misra, Advisor

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This study analyzes the cost-minimizing mix of cotton cleaning practices across the harvesting, ginning, and textile mill stages for irrigated, stripper harvested cotton produced in the Southern High Plains of Texas. Results suggest that currently practiced cotton cleaning methods contribute to excessive cost that follows the cotton as it moves through each sector of the cotton industry - from the farm, to the mill. The study recommends a mix of cotton cleaning methods that would save the cotton industry between \$0.53 and \$1.03 per bale of cotton. Given that Texas farmers produce about 5 million bales of cotton per year, a conservative estimated saving of \$0.50 per bale would save the Texas cotton industry about \$2.5 million per year.