



Organic Cotton Market Summary

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Production

The 2016 organic Upland and American Pima cotton production in the US totaled 20,085 bales according to information collected from organic producers, marketing associations, and gins that process organic cotton. An additional 1,243 transitional bales were reported. Production increased by over 2,000 bales from the previous year. Production was concentrated in west Texas with additional acreage in New Mexico and Missouri. Bayer CropScience FM 958 and AFD 2485 were the predominate varieties. Fifteen saw and roller gins provided ginning services.

Cottonseed

Organic cottonseed prices ranged from 500 to 600 dollars per ton. This compares to 225 to 300 dollars per ton for conventional cotton. Cottonseed yields ranged 600 to 700 pounds of seed per bale of ginned lint. Most of the cottonseed was sold to organic dairies. Some was saved for replanting and organic fertilizer. Other uses include products for human consumption.

2017 Crop Outlook

A shortage of non-genetically modified planting seed for organic Upland and American Pima is a concern moving forward. Producers must request untreated seed far in advance. Demand did not meet with current supply levels, which caused some organic cotton to be sold at conventional prices on the spot market. Inquiries by organic dairies for cottonseed have been heavy and could increase cottonseed prices once contracts are set. Some organic peanut producers turned to organic cotton for a rotation crop. Reports surfaced of herbicidal overspray that voided some acreage certification and forced those into transitional acres. Texas continues to lead organic cotton plantings and production, with additional acreage in southern New Mexico and North Carolina.

