



Organic Cotton Market Summary

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Production

The 2017 organic Upland and American Pima cotton production in the US totaled 20,896 bales according to information collected from organic producers, marketing associations, and gins that process organic cotton. Production increased by 811 bales from the previous year. An additional 546 transitional bales were reported. Production was concentrated in West Texas with additional acreage in New Mexico. Bayer CropScience FM 958 and AFD 2485 were the predominate varieties.

Cottonseed

Organic cottonseed prices ranged from 500 to 550 dollars per ton. This compares to 80 to 175 dollars per ton for conventional cotton. Cottonseed yields ranged 485 to 800 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.

2018 Crop Outlook

Production is expected to increase with Conservation Reserve Program acreage repurposed to organic cotton. The irrigated crop made good progress. A significant number of dryland acres were lost to drought. Producers use organic cotton for a rotation crop with organic peanuts, wheat, sorghum, and corn. Limited availability of non-genetically modified planting seed for organic Upland and American Pima continued to be a concern. Demand was good but limited.

