

Why Keep Planting Cotton?

Management Approaches to Maintain Profitability



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MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

Plant and Soil Sciences

2025 Recap

- Acres harvested in 2024: 520,000 acres
- 2024 NASS estimate - Yield: 1157 lbs./acre

- Acres harvested in 2025: 325,000 (-195,000 Acres)
- 2025 NASS estimate - Yield: 1182 lbs./acre (+25 lbs.)



2025 Recap

- **Long Planting Season (April 27 - June 9+)**
- **Successful Late-Season Crop Overall.**
- **Low Crop Price + Wet Planting Season = A Lot of Prevented Plant Acres**



Variety Trial Shortlist

- <https://www.mississippi-crops.com/2025/12/16/2025-mississippi-cotton-official-small-plot-variety-trials/>
- <https://www.mississippi-crops.com/2025/12/02/2025-mississippi-on-farm-cotton-variety-trials/>



Variety Trial Shortlist

2025 MSU Variety Trial Data (Pieralisi et al., 2025)			
MSU OVT (All Locations)		MS On-Farm Variety Trials (All Locations)	
Variety	Yield (lbs ac ⁻¹)	Variety	Yield (lbs ac ⁻¹)
PX1140H143-04W3FE	1728	DP 2333 B3XF	1355
PX1140H152-04W3FE	1689	PHY 357 W3FE	1329
PX1140F330-04W3FE	1638	DP 2127 B3XF	1324
PHY 357 W3FE	1616	PHY 433 W3FE	1314
DP 2127 B3XF	1589	ST 5931 AXTP	1307
PHY 433W3FE	1563	NG 4626 B3XF	1300
Amor 9371 B3XF	1553	DP 2328 B3TXF	1266
NG 4626 B3XF	1547	DG 4434 B3TXF	1234
PHY411W3FE	1541	ST 4215 AXTP	1212
PX1150H164-04W3FE	1541	NG 4507 B3TXF	1200

*All bold varieties are not significantly different than the highest yielder



Delta

2025 MSU Variety Trial Data (Pieralisi et al., 2025)			
MSU OVT (Delta)		MS On-Farm Variety Trials (Delta)	
Variety	Yield (lbs ac ⁻¹)	Variety	Yield (lbs ac ⁻¹)
PX1140H152-04W3FE	2002	PHY 357 W3FE	1823
PX1140H143-04W3FE	1993	DP 2127 B3XF	1716
PX1140F330-04W3FE	1963	PHY 433 W3FE	1693
PHY 357 W3FE	1951	DP 2333 B3XF	1682
Amor 9371 B3XF	1881	ST 5931 AXTP	1664
DP 2127 B3XF	1861	NG 4626 B3XF	1652
ST 5931 AXTP	1823	ST 4215 AXTP	1640
NG 4611 B3XF	1822	DP 2328 B3TXF	1587
BX 2660 AXTP	1822	DG 4434 B3TXF	1577
PX1140H150-04W3FE	1817	NG 4507 B3TXF	1538

*All bold varieties are not significantly different than the highest yielder



Hills

2025 MSU Variety Trial Data (Pieralisi et al., 2025)			
MS OVT (Hills)		MS On-Farm Variety Trials (Hills)	
Variety	Yield (lbs ac ⁻¹)	Variety	Yield (lbs ac ⁻¹)
PX1140H143-04W3FE	1393	DP 2333 B3XF	1225
PX1140F330-04W3FE	1375	PHY 433 W3FE	1161
NG 4626 B3XF	1341	ST 5931 AXTP	1160
PX1150H164-04W3FE	1331	DP 2127 B3XF	1157
PHY 433 W3FE	1321	NG 4626 B3XF	1156
BX 2634AXTP	1313	DP 2328 B3TXF	1141
PX1140H152-04W3FE	1310	PHY 357 W3FE	1140
PHY 357 W3FE	1303	DG 4434 B3TXF	1092
BX 2665AXTP	1297	NG 4507 B3TXF	1063
DP 2328 B3TXF	1285	ST 4215 AXTP	1026

*All bold varieties are not significantly different than the highest yielder



Outline

- **Why Keep Planting Cotton?**
- **Management Strategies**
- **Economic Impact Examples**
- **Take-Home Points**

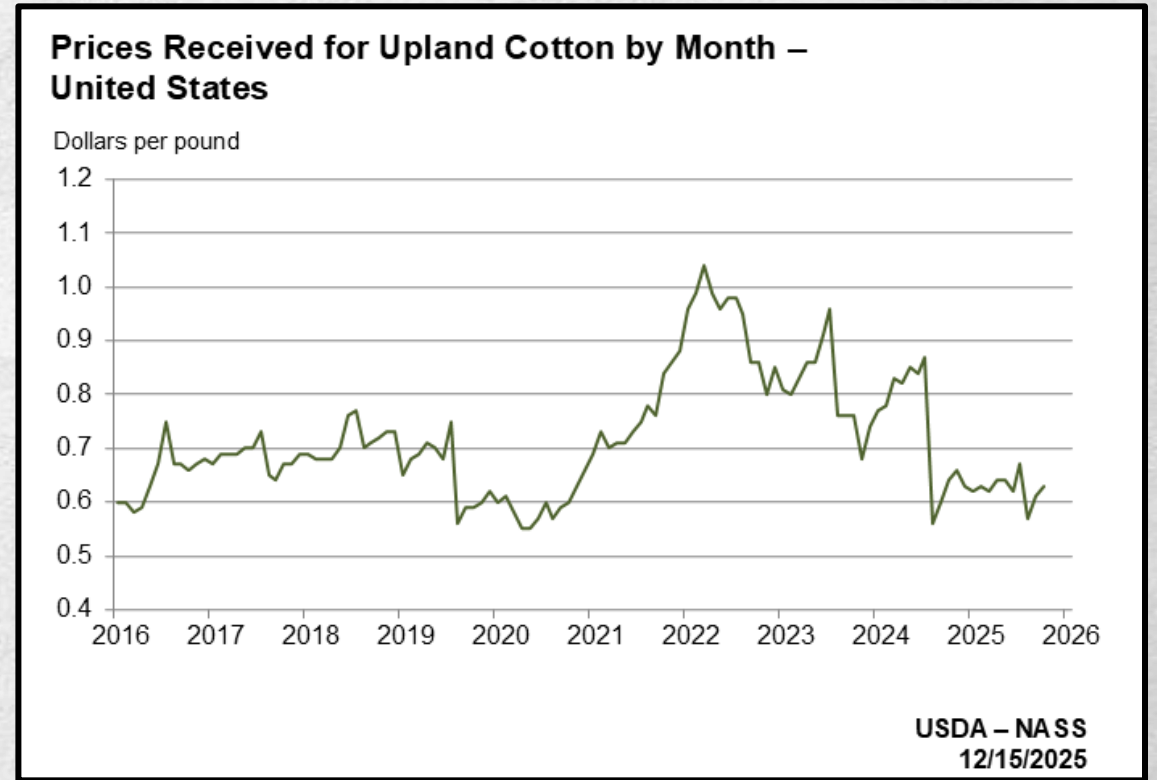
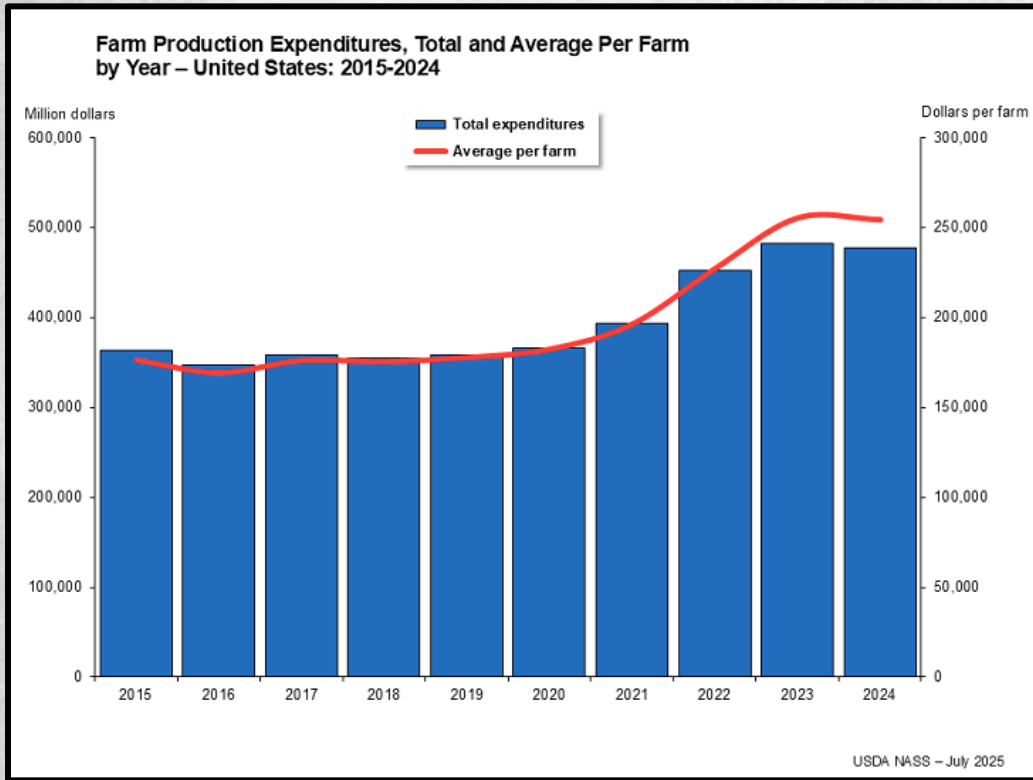


Outline

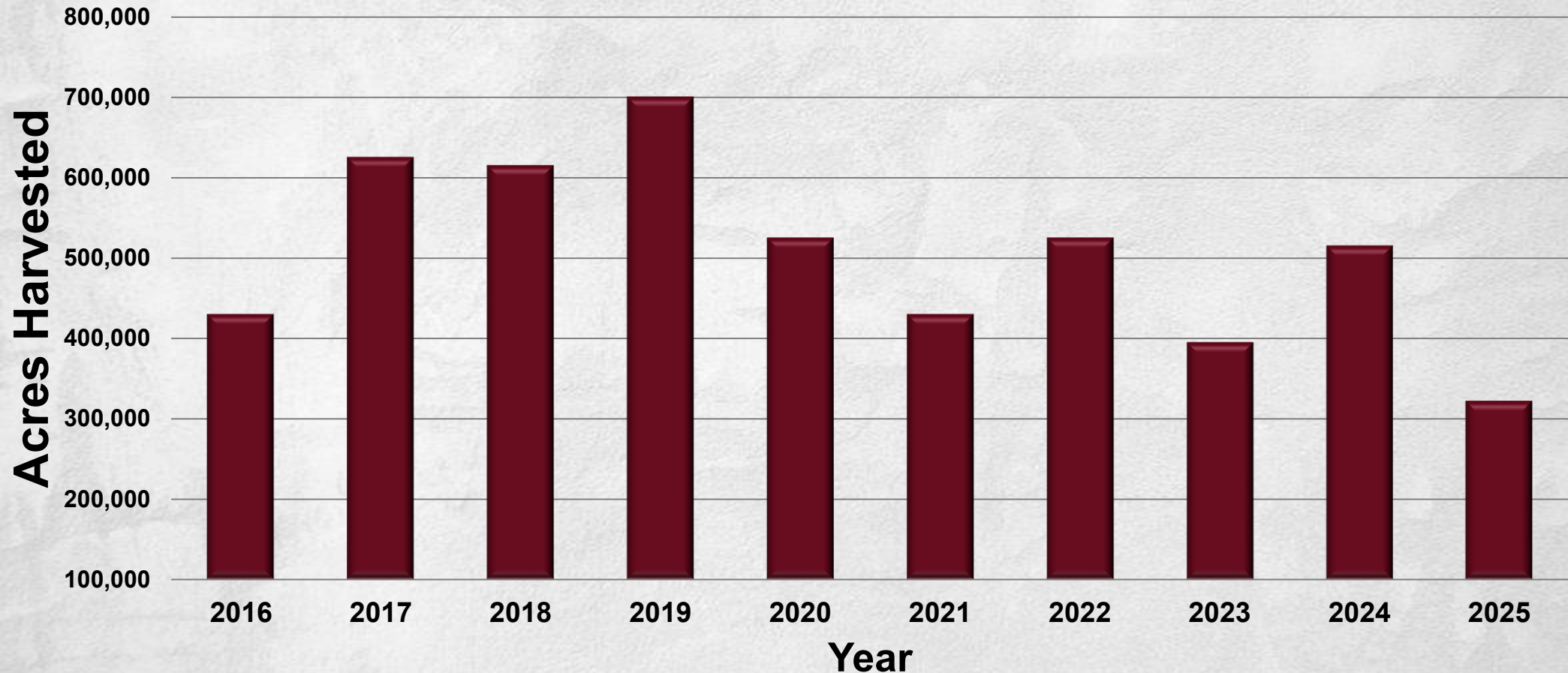
- **Why Keep Planting Cotton?**
- Management Strategies
- Economic Impact Examples
- Take-Home Points



Why Keep Planting Cotton?



Why Keep Planting Cotton?



Why Keep Planting Cotton?

- Equipment
- Infrastructure



Outline

- Why Keep Planting Cotton?
- **Management Strategies**
- Economic Impact Examples
- Take-Home Points



Management Strategies

- **Variety Selection**
- **Seeding Rate**
- **Nitrogen Rate**
- **Pesticide sprays**
- **Product Selection**
- **Precision AG / VRA (if equipped)**

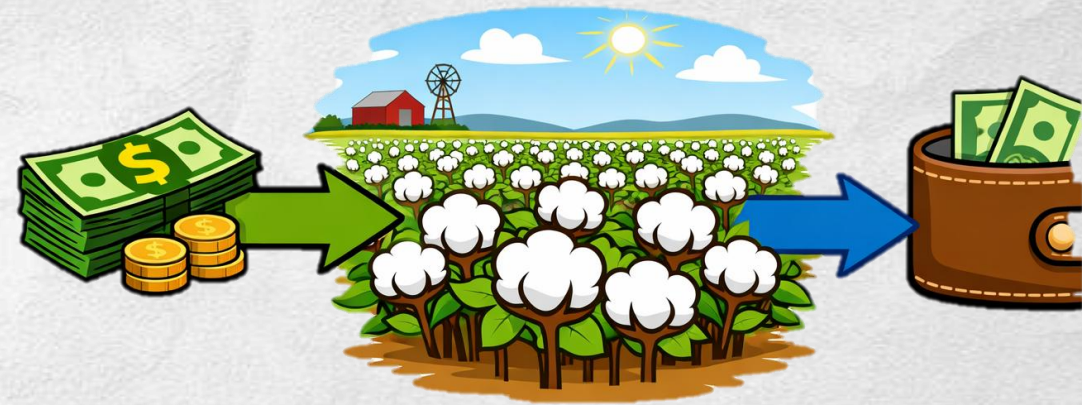


Management Strategies

All Locations	Lint Yield Lbs./Acre	Dollars/Acre @\$0.65
Top Variety	1321	
Bottom Variety	1176	
Difference	145	
		\$94.25

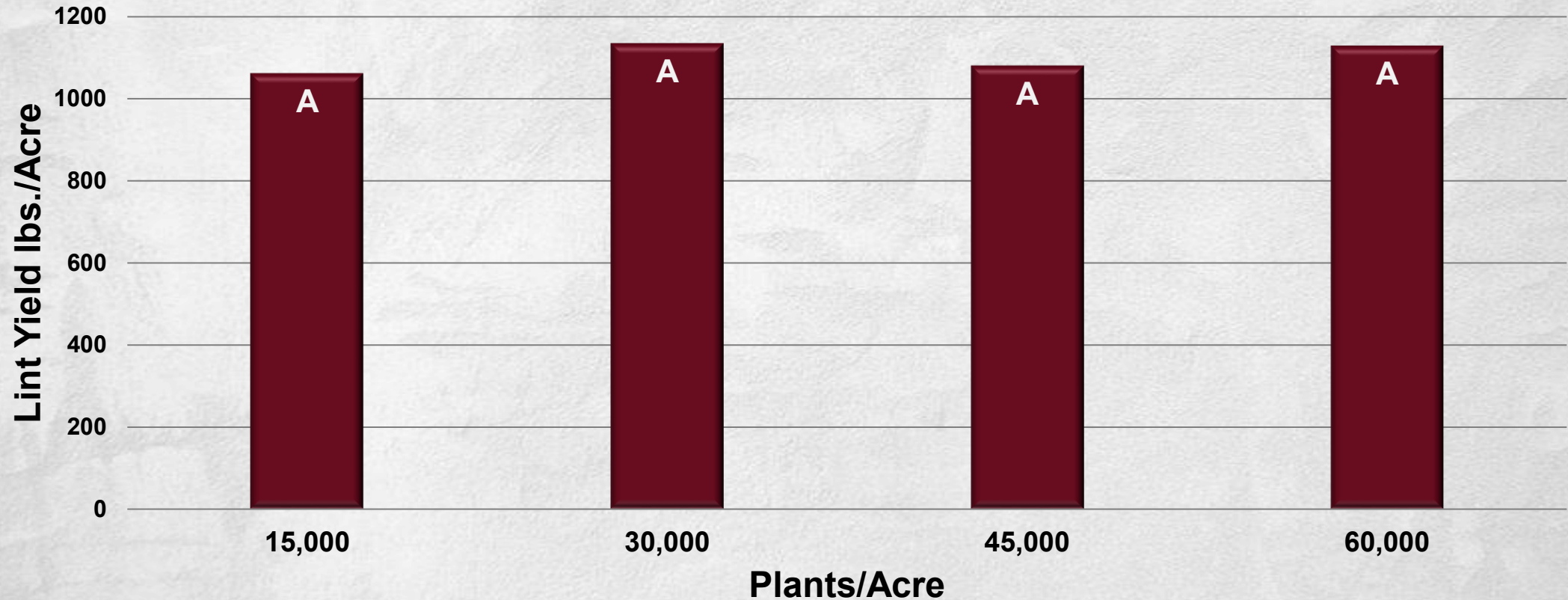
Delta Locations	Lint Yield Lbs./Acre	Dollars/Acre @\$0.65
Top Variety	1823	
Bottom Variety	1538	
Difference	285	
		\$185.25

Hill Locations	Lint Yield Lbs./Acre	Dollars/Acre @\$0.65
Top Variety	1179	
Bottom Variety	1001	
Difference	178	
		\$115.75



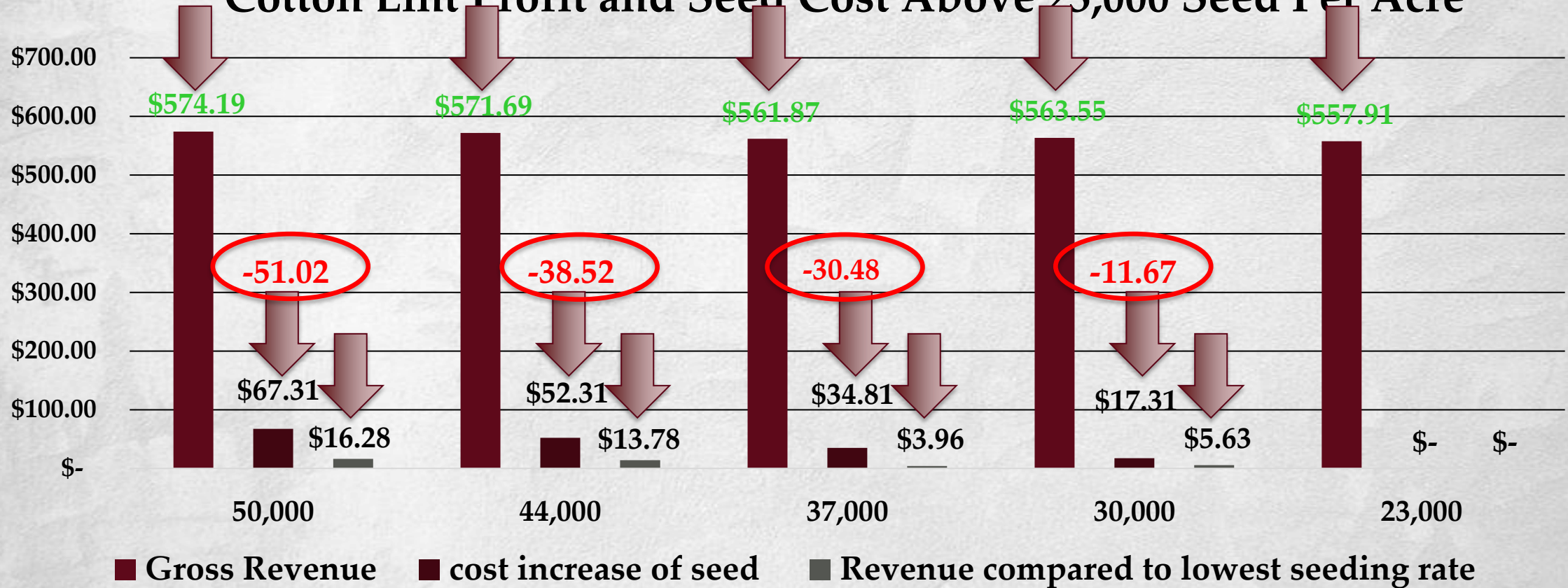
Seeding Rate

Yield by Population



Seeding Rate

Cotton Lint Profit and Seed Cost Above 23,000 Seed Per Acre



Nitrogen

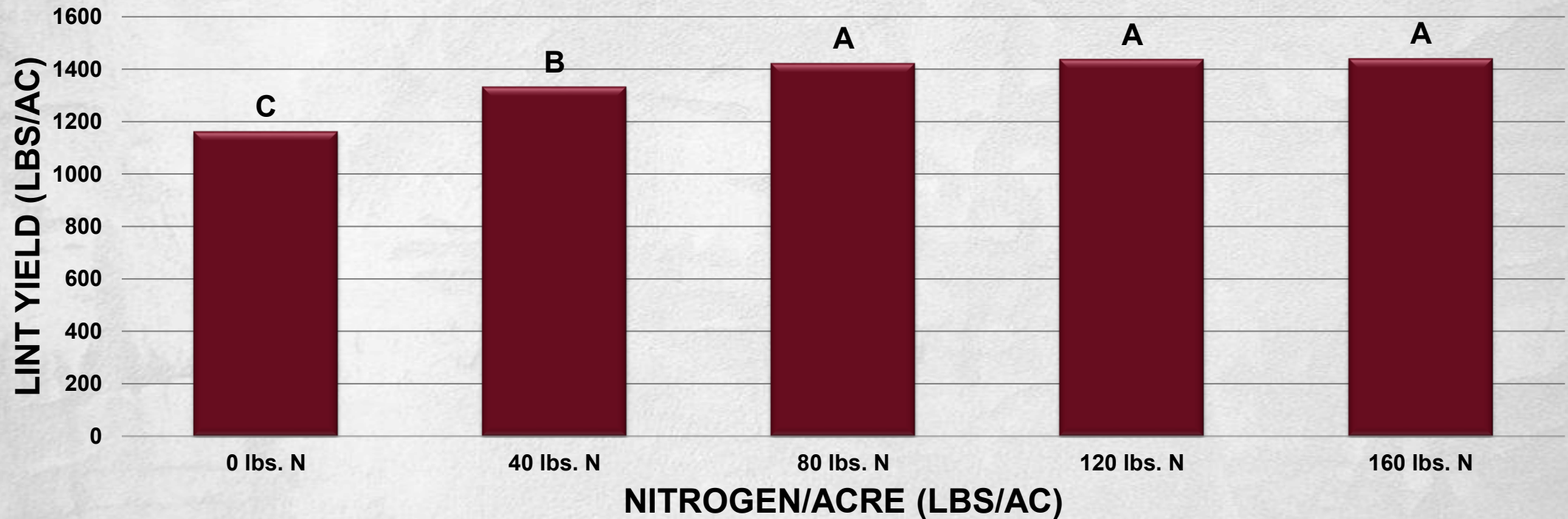
- **Fertilize to your realistic yield potential**
- **Penalty of over-applying:**
 - **Cost**
 - **Increased TPB Pressure**
 - **Defoliation Trouble**
 - **Leaching / Runoff**



Nitrogen

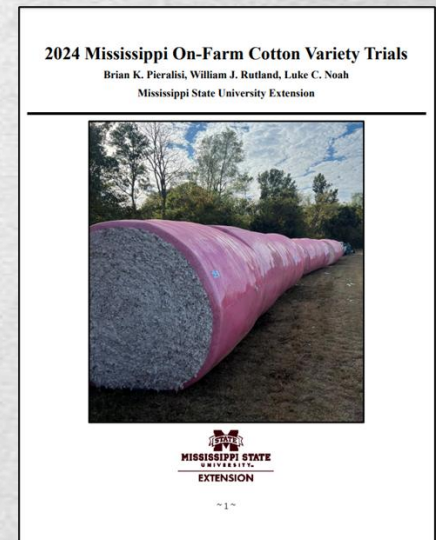
Average Lint Yield: 1359 lbs.

Yield x N Rate



Variety Selection

- Look At 3rd Party Data
- Don't Just Pick The “Most Popular”
- Lower Seed Cost May Offer More Value



Product Selection

- No silver bullet products
- Reach out to third-party testers
- Be skeptical, try before going all in



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Economic Impact Examples

DIRECT EXPENSES				
<i>CUSTOM SPRAY</i>				
App by Air (5 gal)	appl	\$ 8.05	2.5	\$ 20.13
App by Air (3 gal)	appl	\$ 7.50	5.25	\$ 39.38
<i>HARVEST AIDS</i>				
Thidiazuron 4lb	oz	\$ 1.09	2.3	\$ 2.51
Ethephon 6E	pt	\$ 3.01	2.3125	\$ 6.96
Tribufos 6lb	pt	\$ 7.75	0.5	\$ 3.88
Module Wrap	port.	\$ 41.25	1.41	\$ 58.16
<i>GROWING</i>				
Gin & Haul	lb	\$ 0.11	1200	\$ 132.00
<i>FERTILIZERS</i>				
Potash (60% K2O)	cwt	\$ 25.56	1.5	\$ 38.34
UAN (32%)	gal	\$ 2.63	34.3582	\$ 90.36
<i>FLOWERS</i>				
Cotton Seed Trt.	acre	\$ 20.00	1	\$ 20.00
<i>HERBICIDES</i>				
Clarity	pt	\$ 15.00	0.5	\$ 7.50
Glyphosate 3lbs a.e	oz	\$ 0.12	96	\$ 11.52
Select Max	pt	\$ 11.55	1	\$ 11.55
Gramoxone SL 2.0	oz	\$ 0.32	48	\$ 15.36
Cotoran	pt	\$ 7.34	2	\$ 14.68
Engenia	oz	\$ 1.06	25.6	\$ 27.14
Dual Magnum	pt	\$ 7.79	2	\$ 15.58
<i>INSECTICIDES</i>				
Acephate 90%	lb	\$ 7.97	2	\$ 15.94
Bidrin 8EC	oz	\$ 1.77	5.2	\$ 9.20
Centric 40WG	oz	\$ 7.29	2	\$ 14.58
Diamond .83EC	oz	\$ 2.25	6	\$ 13.50
Imidacloprid 4F	oz	\$ 0.51	2	\$ 1.02
Bifenthrin	oz	\$ 0.42	12.8	\$ 5.38
LambdaT	oz	\$ 1.75	1	\$ 1.75
Incidental Pest Trt \$15	acre	\$ 15.00	1	\$ 15.00
Transform WG	oz	\$ 11.63	1.5	\$ 17.45

ITEM
INCOME
Cotton Lint
Cotton Seed
TOTAL INCOME

	Landlord	Tenant
	Share	Share
0.0%	\$ -	\$ 816.00
0.0%	\$ -	\$ 178.20
	\$ -	\$ 994.20

<i>SEED PLANTS</i>				
Cotton Seed B3TXF	thous	\$ 2.94	45	\$ 132.30
<i>GROWTH REGULATORS</i>				
Mepiquat Chloride	oz	\$ 0.06	48	\$ 2.88
<i>ADJUVANTS</i>				
Surfactant	pt	\$ 3.30	0.4	\$ 1.32
<i>CUSTOM FERTILIZE</i>				
Custom Apply Fert	acre	\$ 9.00	1	\$ 9.00
<i>ERADICATION FEE</i>				
Eradication	acre	\$ 1.00	1	\$ 1.00
<i>CUSTOM LIME</i>				
Lime (Spread)	ton	\$ 63.67	0.666	\$ 42.40
<i>CROP CONSULTANT</i>				
Cotton Consultant	acre	\$ 8.00	1	\$ 8.00
<i>SOIL TEST</i>				
Soil Test	acre	\$ 10.00	0.333	\$ 3.33
<i>OPERATOR LABOR</i>				
Tractors	hour	\$ 19.28	0.4847	\$ 9.35
Self-Propelled	hour	\$ 19.28	0.2076	\$ 4.00
<i>HAND LABOR</i>				
Implements	hour	\$ 9.06	0.1236	\$ 1.12
Self-Propelled	hour	\$ 9.06	0.1899	\$ 1.72
UNALLOCATED LABOR	hour	\$ 19.30	0.5538	\$ 10.69
<i>DIESEL FUEL</i>				
Tractors	gal	\$ 2.94	7.4853	\$ 22.01
Self-Propelled	gal	\$ 2.94	4.8836	\$ 14.36
<i>REPAIR & MAINTENANCE</i>				
Implements	acre	\$ 12.26	1	\$ 12.26
Tractors	acre	\$ 5.97	1	\$ 5.97
Self-Propelled	acre	\$ 30.28	1	\$ 30.28
INTEREST ON OP. CAP.	acre	\$ 30.88	1	\$ 30.88
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				\$ 951.74
RETURNS ABOVE DIRECT EXPENSES				\$ 42.46



Economic Impact Examples

DIRECT EXPENSES				
<i>CUSTOM SPRAY</i>				
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<i>FERTILIZERS</i>				
Potash (60% K2O)	cwt	\$ 25.56	1.5	\$ 38.34
UAN (32%)	gal	\$ 2.63	22.86	\$ 60.12
<i>FUNGICIDES</i>				
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<i>HERBICIDES</i>				
Clarity	pt	\$ 15.00	0.5	\$ 7.50
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<i>REPAIR & MAINTENANCE</i>				
Implements	acre	\$ 12.26	1	\$ 12.26
Tractors	acre	\$ 5.97	1	\$ 5.97
Self-Propelled	acre	\$ 30.28	1	\$ 30.28
INTEREST ON OP. CAP.	acre	\$ 30.88	1	\$ 30.88
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				\$ 889.16
RETURNS ABOVE DIRECT EXPENSES				\$ 105.04

- Standard Management
 - Seed - \$132.30
 - UAN - \$90.36
 - Total Expenses- \$951.74
- Reduced Input Management
 - Seed - \$99.96
 - UAN - \$60.12
 - Total Expenses- \$889.16
- Savings- \$62.58 / ac
- \$62.58 / \$0.68 cotton = 92 lbs.



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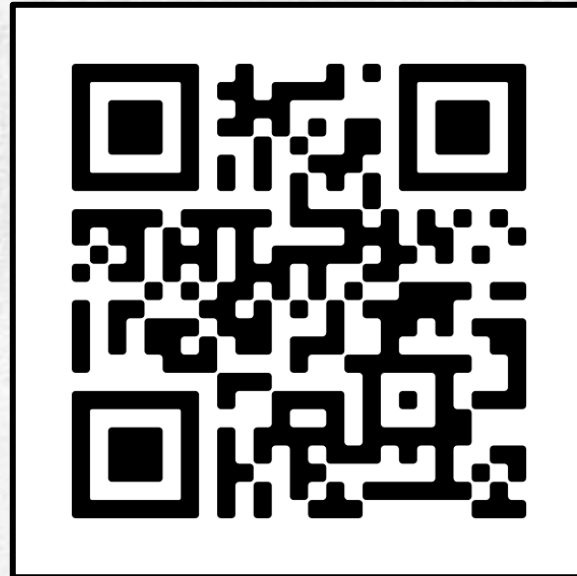


Take-Home Points

- **Farm For a Profit, Not Bragging Rights**
- **Be Intentional in Variety Selection**
- **Reducing Seeding Rate and Nitrogen May Increase Profit Margins.**
- **Promote and Wear Cotton**



Cotton and Coffee



- 3rd Tuesday of every month 7:30 am CST
- 30-minute presentation from a cotton-industry leader with Q&A after
- Upcoming sessions:
 - 2/17/26 - Performance Technologies & New FABRICAST™ Collection
 - 3/17/26 - Practical On-Farm Strategies – Pre-Planting
 - 4/21/26 - CMO Update – New Marketing Approach





Cotton
Incorporated

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Questions?



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