

# Agriculture Fact Sheet

## Cotton 2023



- Mississippi ranks #4 in the United States in cotton and cottonseed production.
- In 2023, 780 cotton farms grew 850,000 bales of cotton.
- The production value of cotton in 2023 was \$397 million.
- Cotton is usually planted between April 28 and May 28 and is harvested between September 15 and November 17.
- No one knows the exact origin of cotton. Scientists searching caves in Mexico found bits of cotton bolls and pieces of cotton cloth that proved to be at least 7,000 years old.

### Cotton Fast Facts

- Cotton keeps the body cool in the summer and warm in the winter because it is a good conductor of heat.
- One bale of cotton weighs about 500 pounds; the weight of a fully grown grizzly bear.
- Cotton is produced on about 18,600 farms in the United States.
- As America moved toward the 20th century, cotton played a key role in the creation of many new products. Examples include:
  - Thomas Edison discovered that charred cotton made the ideal filament for the world's first electric light.
  - The Wright Brothers used cotton muslin to cover the wings of their first plane.
  - Cotton provided the magic cord for tires that helped put America on wheels.



- Cotton has hundreds of uses from blue jeans to shoestrings. Clothing and household items use the most cotton, but industrial products account for many thousands of bales.
- Cotton is used in:
  - Cotton Cloth
  - Cellulose (For making plastics, explosives, batting, etc.)
  - Livestock Feed
  - Margarines and salad dressings
  - Enrichment of the soil

Source: Mississippi State University & USDA-NASS

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