

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

***Bold and italicized print*** represents text which has been added or modified.

## RESOLUTION USDA COTTON GINNING LABORATORY - STONEVILLE

The USDA Cotton Ginning Laboratory at Stoneville has been vitally important to the fiber quality and economics of cotton production and processing in all upland cotton-growing areas, especially the 10 states in the Mid-South and Southeastern U.S. (Memphis Territory Growths). The advances in technology for cotton ginning that have been produced by the Stoneville-based USDA Cotton Ginning Laboratory have enabled gins to remain compliant with air quality standards of EPA while at the same time, constantly improving the management of fiber quality.

Delta Council urges the Stoneville USDA Cotton Ginning Laboratory to continue to emphasize the study of all aspects for reducing costs and increasing marketable cotton lint which possesses characteristics that respond to prevailing market signals. Special attention should continue to be focused on the behavior and quality of newer and higher-yielding cotton varieties at the point of ginning. Contamination issues concern Delta Council and we wish for the Ginning Laboratory to work with the Extension Service to address this persistent problem through education and outreach on the farm and at the gin.

~~USDA should focus emphasis on cottonseed research aimed at ensuring the future market share in the oil and meal marketplace.~~

Delta Council praises former U.S. Senator Thad Cochran for including his longstanding support of the Mid-South Ginning Laboratory in the FY'17 and FY'18 Appropriations process, ***as well as the current proposal in the FY'19 Senate Appropriations measures***. We regret that the Executive Branch has not placed priority on the base funding for the laboratory since 2007. ~~Delta Council requests that the Mississippi Congressional Delegation continue to take the necessary steps to increase funding at the laboratory that serves the Memphis Territory cotton growing areas.~~

~~Delta Council expresses gratitude for the actions taken by the Congress in fiscal years 2017 and 2018 to increase funding at the Stoneville USDA Cotton Ginning Laboratory, which serves all Memphis Territory (12 Mid-South and Southeastern cotton growing States) cotton. The funds made available to increase cotton ginning research and quality assurance will contribute toward the world-price competitiveness and market share of quality cotton grown in these 12 States.~~

In recognition of the pressing changes in cottonseed breeding, production, harvesting, and end-use technologies that are rapidly advancing, Delta Council views that USDA-ARS must place a higher priority on post-harvest technology and specifically, additional resources at the Stoneville-based Cotton Ginning Laboratory, in order for the full production system of Mid-South-Southeast cotton to move to the marketplace without being discounted due to the lack of equivalent advancements in ginning technology. In this regard, Delta Council urges the National Cotton Council, Southern Cotton Ginners Association, and other Mid-South-Southeastern certified producer organizations to join with Delta Council in a meeting with the National Program Staff of USDA-ARS in order to address these critical issues with a sense of urgency.

Adopted by: Delta Council Ginning and Cotton Quality Improvement Committee  
July 12, 2018

