

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
Marketing Research Division and Cotton Division

May 1956

CHARGES FOR GINNING COTTON, COSTS OF SELECTED SERVICES INCIDENT TO  
MARKETING, AND RELATED INFORMATION, SEASON 1955-56 <sup>1/</sup>

Ginning charges. The average charge to growers for ginning and wrapping a 500-pound gross-weight bale of upland cotton in the United States during the 1955-56 season was \$12.75 as compared with \$12.83 in 1954-55. Charges for bagging and ties averaged \$3.69 per bale this season, or about 29 percent of the total charge. By States, average ginning charges ranged from \$9.08 per standard-weight bale in Alabama to \$17.05 in Missouri. Average charges were practically unchanged from last season in Georgia, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Texas and were from 16 to 63 cents lower per bale in Arkansas, California, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Virginia. Charges were higher in 1955-56 than in 1954-55 in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, and Tennessee, but these increases were relatively small except in Arizona. At roller gins, charges for ginning and wrapping the 1955 American-Egyptian crop of about 41,460 bales averaged \$21.27 per 500-pound bale as against an average of \$20.24 per bale for the 1954 crop. This increase was due mainly to higher rates at some gins and smaller proportions of hand-picked cotton.

Methods of harvesting. For the Belt as a whole, 54 percent of the 1955 crop was hand-picked, 23 percent was hand-snapped, 17 percent was machine-picked, and 6 percent was machine-stripped. Most of the cotton was harvested by hand-picking in all States except California, Oklahoma, and Texas. Hand-snapping was the predominant method only in Texas and Oklahoma, where about three-fifths and three-fourths, respectively, of the crop was harvested in this manner. About two-thirds of the California crop was machine-picked as was 39 percent of Arizona production. In 1955-56, use of machine pickers increased significantly in Arkansas, Mississippi, and New Mexico as compared with previous seasons. Mechanical stripping was confined chiefly to the Southwest where about one-fifth of both Texas and Oklahoma production was harvested by machine strippers.

Pounds of seed cotton required for a 500-pound gross-weight bale. A standard weight bale of upland cotton in 1955-56 required 1,381 pounds of hand-picked seed cotton, 1,489 pounds when machine-picked, 1,934 pounds if hand-snapped, and 2,284 pounds when machine-stripped. This season 1,453 pounds of hand-picked American-Egyptian seed cotton provided a 500-pound gross-weight bale as against 1,552 pounds in 1954-55 and 1,759 pounds in 1953-54.

Purchases of cotton by ginner. Growers disposed of only 19 percent of the 1955-56 crop by sale to ginner in contrast to 27 percent in 1954-55. This decreased use of ginner as an outlet by growers apparently was caused by the larger proportion of cotton marketed through the Government loan program this season as compared with the previous season.

Selected services incident to marketing. Average charges in 1955-56 by public storage establishments of 70 cents per bale for receiving and 43 cents per bale per month for storage were about unchanged from the previous season. Charges for standard density and high density compression this season were \$1.20 and \$1.46 per bale, respectively, a reduction of 11 and 6 cents per bale, respectively, from charges prevailing during the previous season. As in 1954-55, average charges for compression and most other warehousing services at plants located in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee were again reduced in 1955-56.

<sup>1/</sup> Primary data were collected by field representatives of the Cotton Division, and were tabulated in the Fibers Section, Market Organization and Costs Branch, Marketing Research Division. The report was made possible by the belt-wide cooperation of ginner, compressmen, and warehousemen.

(See reverse side of this sheet for more detailed information by States.)

Average charges for ginning upland cotton, average charges for selected services incident to marketing, and related information, by States, season 1955-56

Item	U. S.	Ala.	Ariz.	Ark.	Calif.	Fla.	Ga.	La.	Miss.	No.	N. Mex.	N.C.	Okla.	S. C.	Tenn.	Tex.	Ya.
<b>CHARGES FOR GINNING AND WRAPPING UPLAND COTTON:</b>																	
Total charge per 500-pound gross-weight bale.....dollars	1/ 2.75	9.08	1/ 13.68	14.08	1/ 13.84	11.32	1/ 9.71	12.77	11.30	17.05	12.71	10.48	14.61	9.60	11.86	14.02	9.22
Charge per bale for bagging and ties when assessed separately.....dollars	3.69	3.10	3.72	3.81	3.33	3.29	3.03	3.82	3.75	4.61	3.77	3.30	3.50	3.06	3.89	3.78	2.50
<b>METHOD OF HARVESTING:</b>																	
Hand-picked.....percent	54	92	52	63	30	75	95	69	75	60	98	97	3	98	78	19	100
Hand-snypped.....percent	23	6	9	12	3	19	2	3	22	16	2	1	77	2	20	57	--
Machine-picked.....percent	17	2	39	25	67	6	3	28	23	24	16	2	2/	2	2	3	--
Machine-stripped.....percent	6	2/	--	2/	--	--	2/	--	--	--	4	--	20	--	--	21	--
<b>WEIGHT OF SEED COTTON PER 500-POUND BALE:</b>																	
Hand-picked.....pounds	1.381	3/	1.152	1.403	1.449	3/	3/	3/	1.340	1.486	1.357	3/	1.412	3/	1.457	1.428	5/
Hand-snypped.....pounds	1.934	3/	2.406	1.989	2.528	3/	3/	3/	1.887	2.195	2.134	3/	1.832	--	2.083	1.906	--
Machine-picked.....pounds	1.089	3/	1.461	1.476	1.956	3/	3/	3/	1.464	1.954	1.446	3/	1.47	3/	1.601	1.489	--
Machine-stripped.....pounds	2.284	3/	--	1/	--	--	3/	--	--	--	2.174	--	1.952	--	--	2.283	--
<b>PROPORTION OF PRODUCTION PURCHASED FROM GROWERS BY GINNERS:</b>																	
Purchased as seed cotton.....percent	1	1	--	1	--	5	2/	1	2/	1	2/	7	6	2/	5	1	14
Purchased as baled lint.....percent	18	33	--	17	--	91	31	21	3	55	1	40	13	45	56	12	21
<b>CHARGES FOR WAREHOUSING AND RELATED SERVICES:</b>																	
Charge per bale for receiving cotton at public cotton storage establishments.....cents	70	66	100	53	100	5/	60	60	58	50	88	44	75	38	56	82	5/
Charge per bale per month for storage 5/.....cents	43	47	40	38	42	5/	51	42	39	35	49	45	50	47	37	47	5/
Charge per bale for compressing cotton to-- Standard density.....dollars	1.20	1.20	1.60	.82	1.67	5/	1.16	1.13	.95	.88	1.63	5/	1.30	1.19	.82	1.45	--
High density.....dollars	1.46	1.25	1.70	1.07	1.77	3/	1.25	1.28	1.19	1.22	1.85	--	1.75	1.25	1.06	1.46	--

1/ Includes separate charges for drying seed cotton or for use of lint cleaners. 2/ Less than 0.5 percent. 3/ Seed cotton customarily not weighed. 4/ Insignificant proportion of cotton harvested by this method. 5/ Insufficient data. 6/ Approximately 86 percent of storage firms included insurance in the storage charge.