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Trading continued slow on spot cotton markets, according to the Cotton Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA. Prices were firm. Merchant demand was weak for the limited supplies of cotton remaining in growers' hands. Domestic and foreign mill buying was slow. Growers had forward contracted about 4 percent of their expected 1985 upland acreage through the end of April. Most of the cotton is planted in Arizona and California. Replanting may be necessary in some localities because of damage from high winds. Planting made good progress in New Mexico. In Texas, cotton in the early producing areas was up and making good progress. Rains were received across much of the Plains area and in Oklahoma and planting increased in dryland areas. Heavy rains continued to hinder planting progress in the south central states. Portions of the southeastern states still need rain. March exports declined from the previous month. The interest rate for CCC loans disbursed in May will be 9.375 percent.

Spot cotton prices for grade 41 staple 34, mike 35-49, in the designated markets averaged 60.17 cents per pound during the week ended Thursday, May 2. Prices ranged from a low of 59.68 cents on Friday to a high of 60.52 cents on Wednesday and ended the week at 60.13 cents. A week earlier, prices averaged 60.94 cents per pound and ranged from 59.60 to 61.82 cents. In the corresponding week a year ago, the average price was 77.52 cents. The New York July 1985 futures settlement price ended the week on Thursday at 64.97 cents per pound compared with 64.35 cents a week earlier. The October settlement price was 64.35 cents against 64.55 cents last Thursday and the December price was 64.33 cents compared with 64.55 cents a week ago.

Trading continued slow on spot cotton markets. Growers were holding limited supplies of uncommitted cotton and this was not offered freely. Merchants had stocks fairly well balanced with commitments and many were out of the market. Domestic mills bought a light volume for both fill-ins and forward delivery. The limited export trading, which came principally from Far Eastern mills, was confined mainly to San Joaquin Valley and California-Arizona growths. Purchases included both 1984 and 1985-crop cotton. Purchases reported by cotton exchanges in the designated markets totaled 45,900 bales in the week ended Thursday, May 2. This compares with 52,800 bales reported a week earlier and 65,600 bales in the corresponding week last season.

Textile mill report. Some mills fixed prices on recent market lows and a few purchased a light volume of new crop; otherwise, activity was limited. Most mills have enough cotton bought to cover immediate to nearby needs and only purchased an occasional truckload for fill-ins. Mills continued to fill orders already sold but report that new business remains slow. Mill operations vary widely but most work schedules were three to five days. Demand for blended yarns and some popular apparel constructions was intermittent. A number of industrial and household items remained slow. Denim sales improved slightly. Lightweight knit fabrics for sportswear, underwear and specialty items continued to trade readily.

Prices received by farmers for upland cotton averaged 55.00 cents per pound in mid April, according to the Statistical Reporting Service, USDA. This compares with 54.50 cents for the entire month of March and 67.20 cents in April 1984. These prices include cotton delivered against forward contracts.

Exports of cotton from the United States totaled 624,800 running bales in March, according to the Bureau of the Census. This was down from 766,000 bales shipped a month earlier and 895,600 bales exported in March 1984. Shipments during the first eight months this season totaled 4,304,300 bales, the second largest August-March volume since 1960-61. This compares with 4,300,900 bales exported through March last season and 3,039,200 bales shipped two years ago. Exports for the 1984-85 season are estimated at 6.49 million bales of 480 pounds net weight. Shipments must average about 497,700 running bales per month for the next four months of this season if the estimate is to be reached.

Contracting of 1985-crop cotton. United States upland cotton growers had forward contracted about 4 percent of their expected acreage by the end of April compared with 20 percent a year earlier. Contracting has been most active this season in the southeastern states where 11 percent of the acreage has been booked, down from 24 percent a year earlier. Growers in south central states had contracted 8 percent this season, down from 30 percent a year earlier. Western states' growers had booked 4 percent against 19 percent the previous year. Growers in southwestern states had contracted 2 percent through April, down from 16 percent last season. These estimates were based on the Crop Reporting Board's February planting intentions report and informal surveys made by the Cotton Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

Forward contracting of upland cotton by growers, as of May 1, crops of 1976-1985 and prospective plantings, 1985 crop ^{1/}

State	Cotton crops										Prospective plantings ^{2/} 1,000 acres
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	
Alabama ^{3/}	35	5	5	9	13	7	7	10	25	20	300
Georgia	17	1	-	5	9	6	1	-	10	2	230
North Carolina	6	14	1	6	22	2	3	15	36	-	100
South Carolina	24	15	*	8	36	1	9	37	32	16	115
Southeastern states	27	7	3	8	17	5	6	12	24	11	745
Arkansas	62	14	5	9	40	10	6	15	32	8	475
Louisiana	41	6	12	8	34	9	4	10	22	1	620
Mississippi	49	19	22	29	56	22	13	21	29	15	1,050
Missouri	80	21	14	14	76	5	9	22	49	*	160
Tennessee	40	2	6	4	17	1	4	23	37	4	340
South central states	54	14	14	17	46	13	8	18	30	8	2,645
Oklahoma	*	19	20	3	4	-	*	-	13	-	370
Texas	8	15	5	8	11	2	1	3	16	2	5,300
Southwestern states	7	15	6	8	10	2	1	2	16	2	5,670
Arizona	34	47	29	13	25	6	14	7	3	3	380
California	45	28	30	17	14	4	7	8	24	4	1,350
New Mexico	3	12	7	6	1	-	-	-	1	1	77
Western states	40	31	28	16	16	4	8	7	19	4	1,807
United States	29	16	12	11	19	5	4	7	20	4	10,867

^{1/} Contracting estimates for 1976 through 1980 based on January prospective plantings report; 1981 based on March; 1982-1985 based on February. Estimates do not include cotton consigned to marketing organizations but do include cotton contracted by marketing organizations.

^{2/} February 1985, Crop Reporting Board, Statistical Reporting Service, USDA.

^{3/} Includes Florida, 1984 crop.

* Less than 0.5 percent.

Exports of cotton from the United States, running bales,
by months and seasons, 1945-1984

Season beginning August 1	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Season 1/
	1,000 bales												
1945	188	244	195	297	215	293	250	319	318	457	410	367	3,553
1946	413	242	104	455	361	290	385	383	275	249	303	84	3,544
1947	37	124	133	165	230	214	163	261	155	205	133	149	1,968
1948	115	171	246	428	522	403	497	582	590	464	508	221	4,747
1949	168	211	415	434	657	530	655	686	469	539	741	267	5,771
1950	356	373	284	372	449	317	429	354	471	371	204	129	4,108
1951	146	356	587	805	980	676	588	419	334	316	264	48	5,519
1952	107	241	296	337	466	292	259	246	208	261	220	115	3,048
1953	193	200	217	243	375	297	385	430	422	336	435	228	3,761
1954	190	199	351	390	497	334	307	369	240	231	281	59	3,447
1955	60	116	192	137	159	78	99	294	362	344	238	135	2,215
1956	423	505	598	538	939	791	809	787	603	662	525	418	7,598
1957	336	379	484	526	609	517	449	480	501	535	434	468	5,717
1958	209	212	181	314	298	222	211	284	245	248	236	129	2,789
1959	98	230	392	651	726	1,109	839	767	669	524	502	675	7,182
1960	113	193	439	720	981	976	845	841	585	387	248	304	6,632
1961	644	322	301	402	537	381	381	392	302	361	425	465	4,913
1962	139	163	157	298	383	211	522	440	299	310	244	183	3,351
1963	274	361	386	501	628	587	570	490	400	381	388	697	5,662
1964	120	184	290	388	747	244	181	584	407	251	398	266	4,060
1965	117	226	304	370	447	278	254	236	177	214	176	142	2,942
1966	341	348	306	518	607	458	458	401	288	416	299	228	4,669
1967	244	277	275	298	331	474	447	436	406	383	277	357	4,206
1968	213	262	152	185	276	55	55	130	568	363	194	278	2,731
1969	147	141	167	123	176	382	325	246	308	299	269	186	2,768
1970	84	89	180	251	362	439	455	562	467	327	307	213	3,737
1971	162	310	195	272	417	337	402	437	275	163	147	110	3,229
1972	58	82	191	352	534	654	528	677	607	437	500	381	5,000
1973	329	266	259	257	592	545	598	778	638	561	496	426	5,746
1974	261	125	120	272	350	409	380	346	371	364	392	356	3,746
1975	325	258	226	176	237	214	141	381	302	327	315	276	3,178
1976	274	342	217	265	376	354	509	536	548	400	462	282	4,565
1977	181	200	149	333	496	521	502	704	640	510	528	456	5,219
1978	524	388	283	355	464	517	577	574	602	542	614	410	5,850
1979	463	428	390	630	902	737	1,025	1,150	916	911	686	540	8,779
1980	402	393	237	436	541	669	688	733	498	458	320	264	5,639
1981	233	211	262	478	732	653	754	873	676	484	498	396	6,263
1982	342	351	293	382	377	438	368	487	612	464	435	409	4,961
1983	367	322	261	441	632	663	719	896	723	607	422	365	6,419
1984 2/	452	264	292	484	629	793	766	625					

1/ Season totals are adjusted data as reported in Supply and Distribution of Domestic and Foreign Cotton in the United States by Bureau of the Census.

2/ Preliminary.

Average prices received by farmers for upland cotton, in cents per pound, net weight, United States, calendar years, 1984-1985

Month	Year beginning January 1		Month	Year beginning January 1		Month	Year beginning January 1	
	1984	1985		1984	1985		1984	1985
	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
January	62.70	52.10	June	68.00		November	61.80	
February	65.00	48.90	July	65.90		December	55.80	
March	70.10	54.50	August	67.40				
April	67.20	55.00 ^{1/}	September	64.60		Calendar		
May	72.70		October	64.60		year avg.	62.40	

^{1/} Mid-month price.

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, USDA

New York futures contract settlement, designated spot market average for grade 41 staple 34 and 'A' Index cotton prices in cents per pound

Date	Grade 41 Staple 34						Designated 8-Market Avg.	Grade 31 Staple 35 'A' Index ^{1/}
	Futures Settlement							
	May '85	Jul '85	Oct '85	Dec '85	Mar '86	May '86		
Apr. 25	65.17	64.35	64.55	64.55	65.85	66.52	59.60	66.10
26	65.15	64.45	64.42	64.68	65.90	66.68	59.68	66.10
29	66.28	65.25	64.80	64.81	65.97	66.57	60.34	66.05
30	66.40	65.02	64.76	64.82	65.97	66.52	60.17	66.10
May 1	67.75	65.49	64.80	64.82	65.97	66.63	60.52	66.10
2	67.35	64.97	64.35	64.33	65.30	65.82	60.13	66.05

^{1/} C.I.F. Northern Europe price furnished by Cotton Outlook of Liverpool.

Chicago futures contract settlement and designated spot market average for grade 42 staple 31 in cents per pound

Date	Grade 42 Staple 31					Designated 5-Market Average ^{1/}
	Futures Settlement					
	May '85	Jul '85	Oct '85	Dec '85	Mar '86	
Apr. 25	57.00	56.72	-	56.80	-	49.48
26	57.00	56.72	-	56.80	-	49.54
29	57.00	56.90	-	56.95	-	50.12
30	57.00	56.96	-	56.95	-	49.98
May 1	57.00	57.20	-	57.10	-	50.26
2	57.00	56.91	-	56.70	-	49.95

^{1/} Greenville, Montgomery, Memphis, Dallas and Lubbock.

U.S. upland cotton export sales and exports, in running bales, for week and year, marketing years 1983-84 and 1984-85

Description	Marketing Year			
	1983-84		1984-85	
	Through April 26		Through April 25	
	Week	Marketing Year	Week	Marketing Year
Outstanding sales	-	1,868,200	-	1,519,200
Exports	142,700	4,987,100	70,200	4,760,100
Total export commitments	-	6,855,300	-	6,279,300
New sales	85,100	-	48,200	-
Buy-backs and cancellations	65,900	-	15,000	-
Net sales	19,200	-	33,200	-
Sales next marketing year	87,000	1,095,900	42,900	477,100

Source: Export Sales Reporting Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA

Upland cotton export sales for the current marketing year totaled 33,200 running bales during the week ended April 25, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA. Japan was the predominant buyer with 26,100 bales followed by South Korea with 7,200 bales. Sales for the 1985-86 marketing year totaled 42,900 bales and were primarily to Japan with 15,800 bales and South Korea 20,900 bales. Exports for the week were 70,200 bales, the smallest volume in more than six months. Asian destinations accounted for 66 percent of the week's shipments, Western Europe 25 percent and the USSR 7 percent.