



Cottonseed to Cap

For more than 160 years, base-ball style caps have been part of America's favorite pastime as well as a way to show our support for personal interest. From its original material of straw to wool to today's materials, the annual sales of baseball-style caps, now exceeds one million. While many were manufactured overseas, one Texas company wants to put America back in the cap.

American Made Cap Company, in Crowell, Texas makes baseball caps from fabrics grown in America. While they are one of many companies that contribute to the number of caps sold each year, this company make's their caps in America.

Rickey Eavenson and Greg Bednarik purchased American Made Cap Company in 2011. The pair is certain that their baseball caps will succeed, because they believe Americans will choose American made products.

"When my partner and I bought this business last year," Bednarik said, "We were convinced that there is a groundswell of people that prefer to purchase American made products versus imported Pacific Rim goods."

Bednarik said as of right now, the company employs 20 people, but they would like to expand their job opportunities at the cap company. They plan on diversifying their line of caps so they can double or triple their workforce.

American Made Cap Company makes caps for many minor league baseball teams in Texas, along with other organizations and businesses.

"We make caps for customers such as the American Legion, DeLong Sportswear, American Quarter Horse

Association and five minor league baseball teams in Texas," Bednarik said.

Some Plains Cotton Cooperative Association members buy directly from American Made Cap Company, along with independent cotton gins. They also produce promotional caps for Exxon Mobil and companies large and small.


American Made Cap Company wants to have a foundation of locally or regionally grown fabric. Besides supporting fellow farmers, there are many reasons they choose to buy their fabric in America. As such they turned to American Cotton Growers in Littlefield, Texas to supply the fabric they needed.

"We wanted to have a source of local or regional fabric," Bednarik said. "As it turned out the American Cotton Growers fabric grown in the High Plains is arguably the very best fabric we purchase in the production of our goods,"

With an American grown and made product in hand, the cap company said it was natural to sell the caps back to gins for promotional purposes and to give caps to the person who originally grew the cotton used in making the caps.

"It is a pretty novel approach to think that a farmer or producer grew the cotton used in the hat they are wearing, in the same field that they work," Bednarik said.

Bednarik said they are committed to making quality merchandise which will stand the test of time.

"Producing a high quality cap or visor, helps America win," Bednarik said. 

Emily Gallagher
Crowell, Texas

