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Organic Cotton Market Summary

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Production

The 2018 organic Upland and American Pima cotton production in the US totaled 23,483 bales according to information collected from organic producers, marketing associations, and gins that process organic cotton. Production increased by 2,587 bales from the previous year. An additional 329 transitional bales were reported. Production was concentrated in West Texas with additional acreage in New Mexico. Bayer CropScience FM 958 and AFD 2485 were the predominate varieties.

Cottonseed

Organic cottonseed prices ranged from 400 to 525 dollars per ton. This compares to 155 to 225 dollars per ton for conventional cotton. Cottonseed yields ranged from 500 to 800 pounds of seed per bale of ginned lint. Most of the cottonseed was sold to organic dairies. Some was saved for replanting and organic fertilizer. Other uses include products for human consumption.

2019 Crop Outlook

Rain in the spring delayed planting, and a significant amount of acres were replanted. Subsoil moisture was adequate and benefited the crop. Weed flushes and insect populations were prevalent from the wet spring conditions. Hot, dry conditions persisted in the summer that built heat units, which allowed the crop to catch up and mature. Although an August rain would be beneficial, dryland stands were able to grow root systems tapping into the subsoil moisture. The irrigated crop made good progress. Limited availability of non-genetically modified planting seed for organic Upland and American Pima continued to be a concern. A light volume was planted in California. Demand was good but limited.

