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Organic Cotton Market Summary

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Production

The 2023 organic Upland and American Pima cotton production in the U.S. totaled 39,259 bales, according to information collected from organic producers, marketing associations, and gins that process organic cotton. Production decreased by 3,624 bales from the previous year. An additional 795 transitional bales were reported. Texas continues to lead organic cotton plantings and production, with additional acreage in Arizona, California, Georgia, and New Mexico.

Cottonseed

Organic cottonseed prices ranged from 400 to 660 dollars per ton. This compares to 225 to 375 dollars per ton for conventional cotton. Cottonseed yields ranged from 580 to 880 pounds of seed per bale of ginned lint. Most of the cottonseed was sold to organic dairies. Some was saved for replanting, organic fertilizer, and livestock feed.

2024 Crop Outlook

Planting seed variety options improved, and producers enhanced crop health and development through natural ingredients including composted steer manure and raw chicken manure, fish by-products, and garlic oil. Different skip-row and partial pivot planting patterns have been successfully tested to make the most efficient use of irrigation and rainfall. Some stands have comparable yield potential to conventional cotton. A lack of August rain in West Texas has been concerning and plants showed signs of heat stress. Most of the U.S. crop was used in non-woven materials. Demand is light. Certification standards have changed, and industry is navigating application of the new requirements.





Source: USDA, AMS Cotton and Tobacco Program