

Need for Continuing Education in Cotton Ginning Industry

- The National Cotton Ginners' Association offers a cotton ginners' certification program for employees of cotton gins. The program includes classroom instruction, safety training, industry experience, a certification exam, and a requirement of at least 12 hours of continuing education every three years.

AgriLife Extension's Response

- The Cotton Ginners' Schools are a cooperative effort between the National Cotton Ginners' Association and its member associations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, the National Cotton Council, Cotton Incorporated, gin equipment manufacturers and suppliers, select land-grant universities, and Cooperative Extension agencies, including the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- The schools consist of Level I, II, and III coursework, along with a two-day continuing education course for certified ginners and gin managers.
- The schools educate producers and other industry personnel in such areas as cotton ginning and industry basics; efficient

operation, adjustment, and maintenance of gin equipment; purpose and operating principles of individual gin machines and systems; and functions of a ginning system.

- The continuing education course focuses on timely and relevant issues affecting cotton ginning operations, such as efficiency, safety, product quality, regulatory requirements, and other emerging concerns.

Economic Impacts

- Average annual wages for agricultural (farming) professionals were used to estimate the salary impact of these trained participants to sustain jobs and businesses in the state.
- The Cotton Ginners' Schools directly support more than 250 cotton-ginning jobs, with an estimated annual salary base of \$7.2 million (2021).

