Volume 6

Production
The 2014 organic cotton production in the US totaled 11,169 bales according to information collected from organic producers, marketing associations, and gins that process organic cotton. An additional 1,057 transitional bales were reported. Production was higher compared to the previous year. Production was concentrated in West Texas with additional acreage in New Mexico. The varieties planted were AFD 2485, Bayer CropScience FM 958, All-Tex 7A21, and Deltapine DP 340.

Prices
Organic cotton prices ranged from 125 to 250 cents per pound. This compares to 135 to 200 cents during the 2013-2014 marketing year and 135 to 225 during 2012-2013. Prices reported were from organic marketing associations and from some producers, who sell directly to mills.

Cottonseed
Organic cottonseed prices ranged from 600 to 725 dollars per ton. This compares to 170 to 350 dollars per ton for conventional cotton. Cottonseed yields ranged 600 to 750 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.

2015 Crop Outlook
The production areas include New Mexico and Texas. In New Mexico, organic plantings and production remain stable. Monsoon activity in New Mexico helped to lessen drought conditions. Western New Mexico is under a moderate drought status, while eastern New Mexico is drought free. Crop rotation and prolonged drought conditions, which forced producers to fallow land, will limit organic production in the far west. The New Mexico crop is 100 percent irrigated. In Texas, transitional acres were planted and moving toward certification. The prolonged drought ended and above average rainfall was expected to improve yields at harvest. The moisture caused severe weed problems and additional input expenses. The Texas crop is approximately 70 percent dryland.