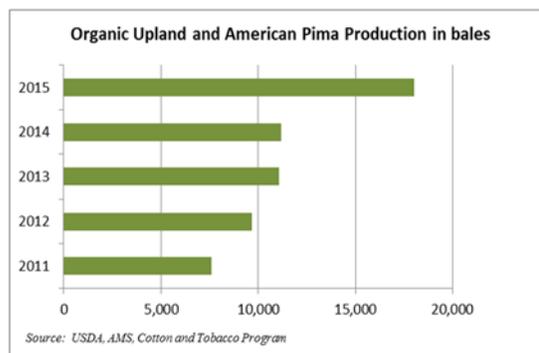


Organic Cotton Market Summary

Volume 7

Production

The 2015 organic Upland and American Pima cotton production in the US totaled 18,030 bales according to information collected from organic producers, marketing associations, and gins that process organic cotton. An additional 1,244 transitional bales were reported. Production was the highest reported since records were established in 2009. Production was concentrated in west Texas with additional acreage in New Mexico and North Carolina. Bayer CropScience FM 958, AFD 2485, and All-Tex 7A21 were the predominate varieties. Other varieties planted include All-Tex LA122 and 8202, Seed Source Genetics CT 210, Downer Cotton Genetics DCG 1374, Acala 1517, and DeltaPine DP 340. Fifteen saw and roller gins provided ginning services.



Prices

Organic cotton prices ranged from 90 to 220 cents per pound. This compares to 125 to 250 cents during the 2014-2015 marketing year and 135 to 200 during 2013-2014. Prices reported were from organic marketing associations and from some producers, who sell directly to mills.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Low	140	135	135	125	90
High	190	225	200	250	220

Source: USDA, AMS, Cotton and Tobacco Program

Cottonseed

Organic cottonseed prices ranged from 555 to 731 dollars per ton. This compares to 175 to 350 dollars per ton for conventional cotton. Cottonseed yields ranged from 600 to 725 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.

2016 Crop Outlook

The 2015-organic crop is the largest according to producers, associations, and gin managers. An increase in certified acreage and some rotations attributed to the production increase. Records include a combination of Upland and American Pima growths. Plant pest populations were generally low, but weeds and drift caused management issues. Demand waned with an increase in supply, and approximately 75 percent of the crop was committed or sold at the end of the marketing year. Some producers planted and delivered on contracts established ahead of the sowing season. Prolonged drought conditions, crop rotation, and competing crops interfered with organic production in Arizona and California. Transitional acreage was reported in North Carolina and Texas. New Mexico and Texas experienced an increase in planted acres and bale production. The 2016 production is expected to be lower as current price levels are not encouraging additional production.