

# The Cotton Research & Promotion Program

SDA

• Governs the Program

**USDA** 

# **Cotton Board**

- Administers the Program
- Collects per-bale assessment on cotton & cotton products (cotton checkoff
- Communicates and educates producers and importers about Program activities

Cotton Inc

- Conducts research & promotion activities of Program
- Develops innovative programs/projects to keep cotton demandable among industry and consumers
- Creates consumer marketing programs to increase use of cotton products



#### The Cotton Board Mission

"To serve U.S. producers and importers of cotton and cotton products by effectively and efficiently governing the Research & Promotion Program so that it leads to increased demand and consumption of cotton."



# The Cotton Board Three Key Functions

Oversight & Administration of the Program

Collection of Funds

Communication of Program Activities to Stakeholders



# Program Oversight & Governance

The Cotton Board Members and Alternates and Cotton Incorporated's Board of Directors Govern the Program.

#### **Cotton Board**

- 48 Cotton Producers
- 28 Importers
- 4 Advisors

#### **Cotton Incorporated**

110 Cotton
 Producers



#### Collection of Funds



2020 Cotton Incorporated Budget = \$86 Million



# Cotton Board Producer Outreach & Education

- Producer Tours of Cotton Incorporated
- Regional Communication Managers
- Advertising (Print, Radio, Digital)
- Digital Marketing/ Email Newsletter
- Social Media
- Ag Media Press Releases
- Monthly Articles in Cotton Farming & Cotton Grower



# Cotton Incorporated Producer Tours



2020 Tour Dates:

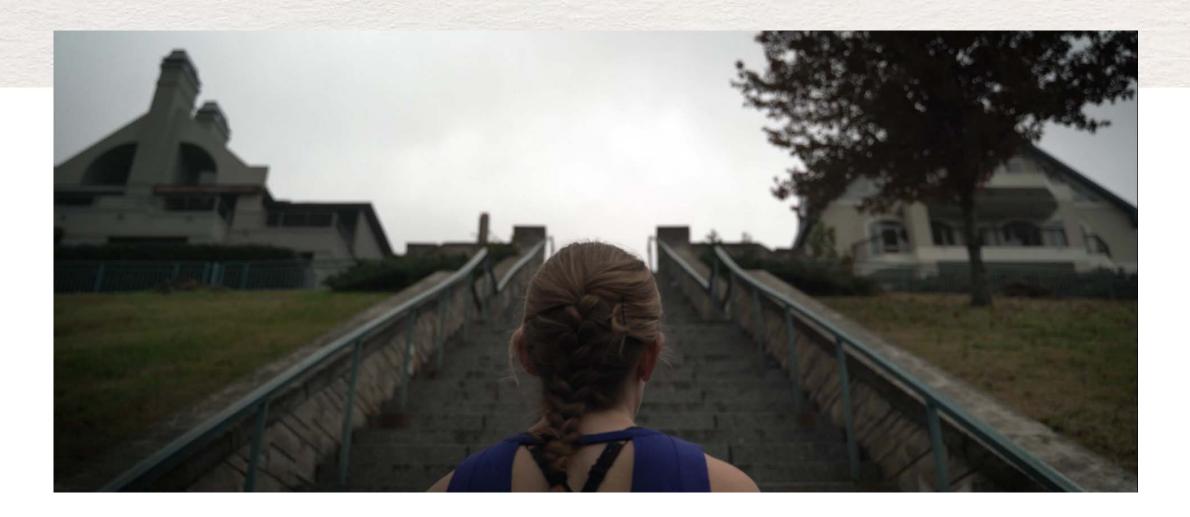
February 9-11- Multiregion tour

March 22-24- Young Producers, multi-region tour

<u>June 7-9 -</u> Women in Ag Tour

September 13-15- Multiregion tour

# New Producer Campaign - Forever Cotton











## 50 Years of Achievements

















# Sustainability

 Consumers continue to put pressure on brands and retailers to be more transparent with their supply chains.

 Cotton Incorporated sees this as a unique and advantageous opportunity for cotton.



# Sustainability

Cotton Incorporated is committed to helping U.S. cotton farmers tell the story of the great work they're doing on their farms.

- Cotton Inc. Chief Sustainability Officer
- Aggressive 10-year industry-wide sustainability goals
- Cotton LEADS
- US Cotton Trust Protocol



#### U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol

• Pilot program launched in 2019

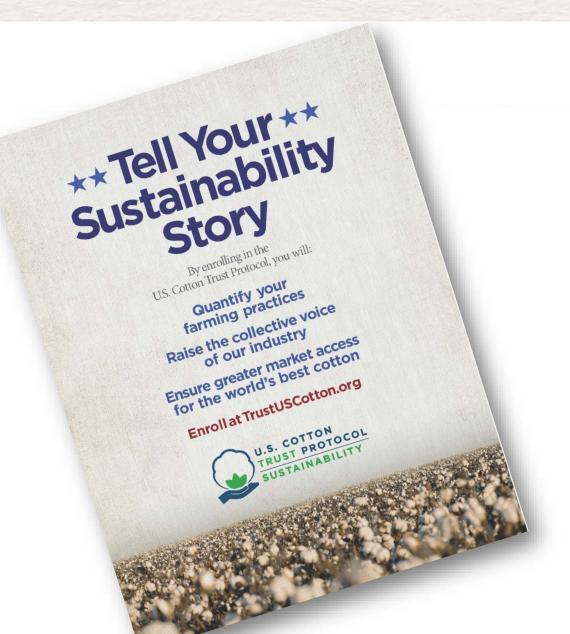
Grower sign ups to start later in 2020

Questions?

Contact: Ken Burton, Executive Director

• Phone: (901) 274-9030

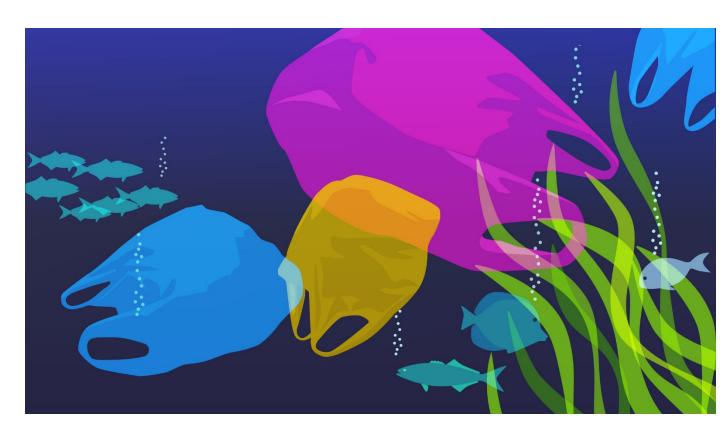
Email: <u>kburton@cotton.org</u>



# Sustainability

#### Microplastic & Microfiber Research

- Synthetic fibers contribute to plastic pollution in the earth's water supply by shedding microplastics into waterways.
- Cotton Incorporated is investing in research that will allow them to point out cotton's advantages over non-renewable synthetic fibers



# Microfiber Digital Burst



## Sustainability

Blue Jeans Go Green™ Denim Recycling Program



# Sustainability

#### Ways to donate your used denim.

 Free mail-in program, partnership with Zappos For Good.

 2<sup>nd</sup> year partnership with Phytogen, denim drives at major ag events.



## Getting Cotton in the Market

Cotton Incorporated works tirelessly to get cotton in products at retail.

- Cotton Incorporated develops new technologies to keep cotton competitive.
- Works with brands and retailers around the world.



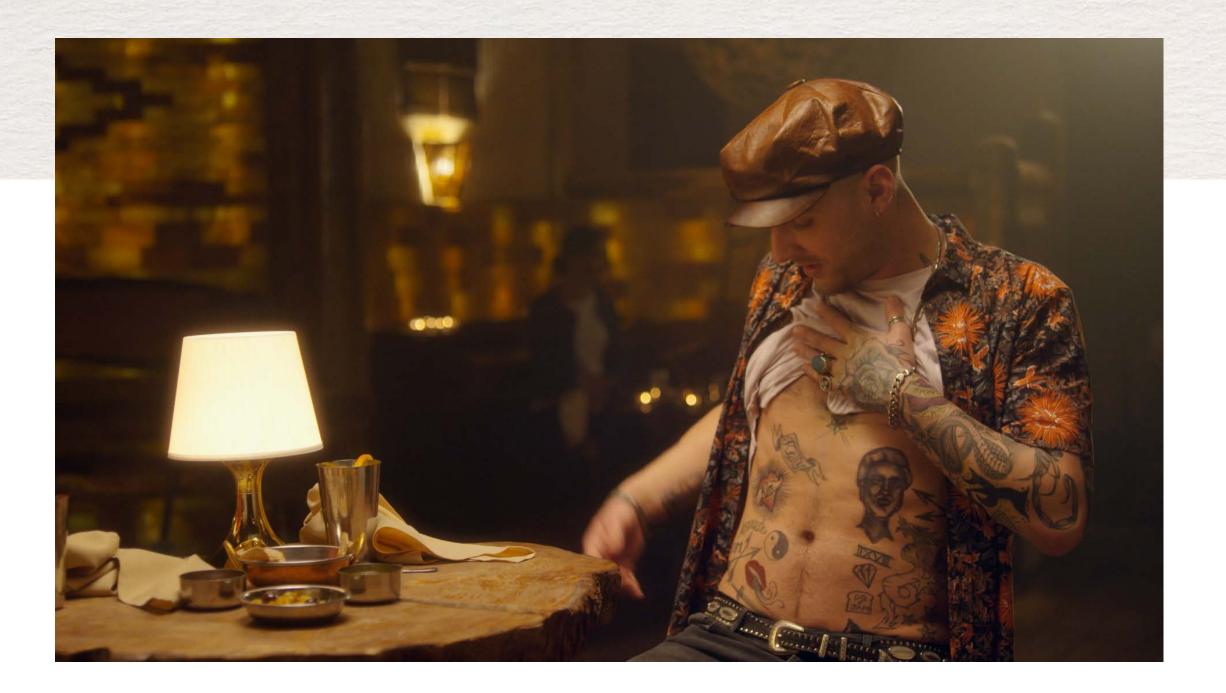


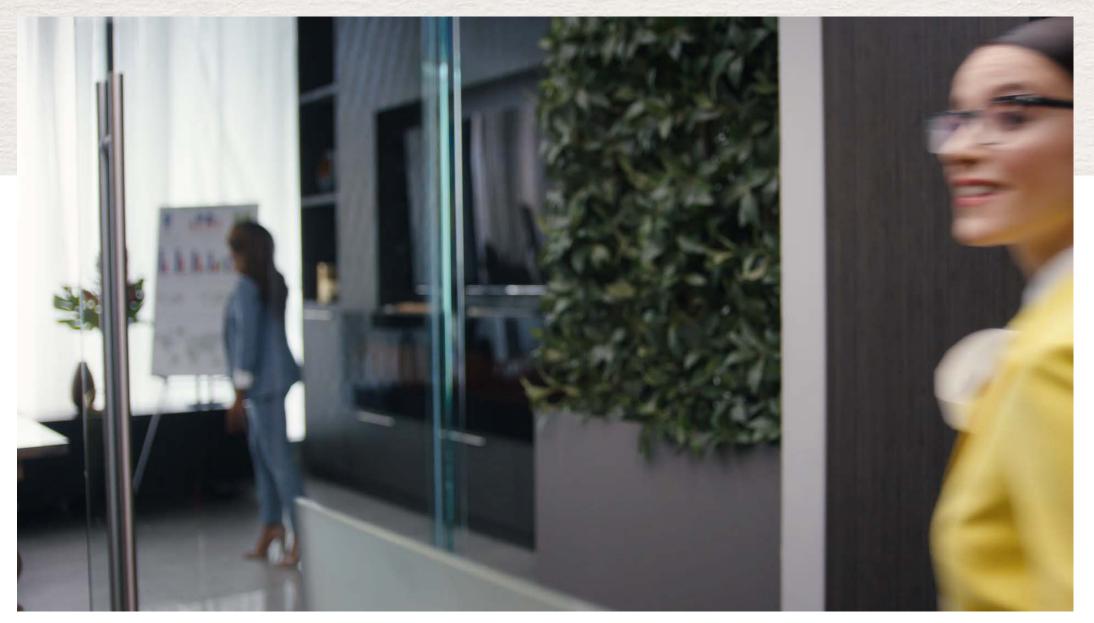
# Consumer Marketing

Cotton Incorporated is charged with increasing demand for cotton with consumers.

- Television
- Digital
- Social Media
- Strategic Alliances
- Public Relations





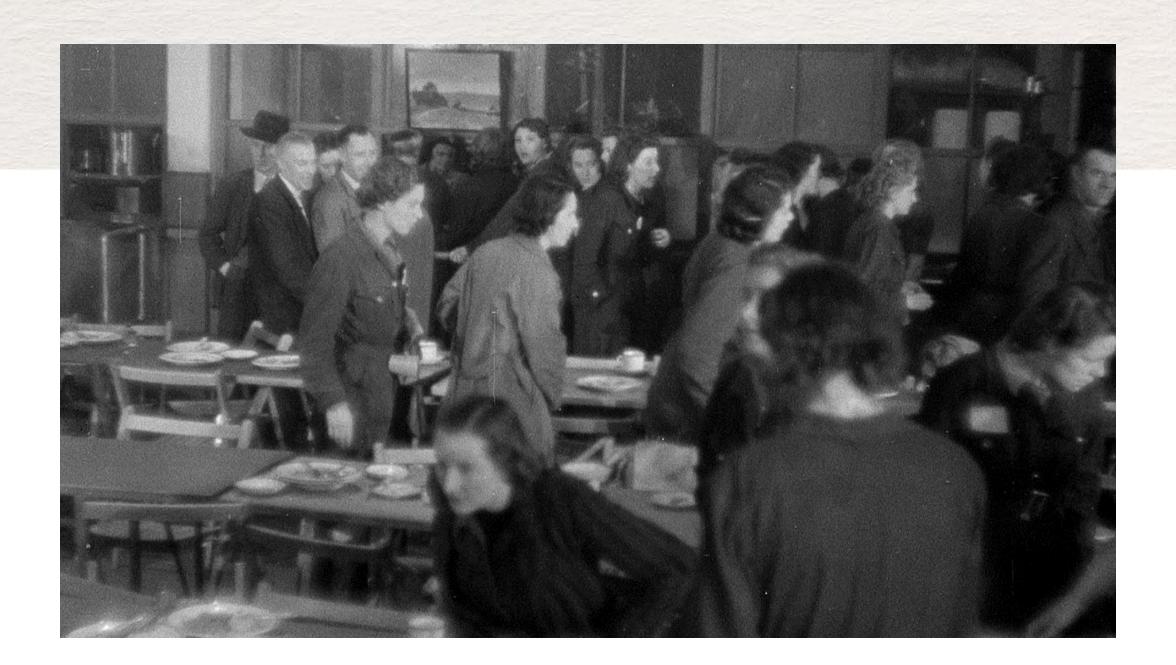




# Digital Marketing Short Bursts

Cotton
starts off as a
flower.





# YOU'VE HEARD OF A plant-based diet.





# Classroom Teaching Kits

#### Elementary & Middle School In-Classroom Cotton Curriculum

 STEM-based teaching kits engage students with handson classroom lessons and activities about cotton science and sustainability.

 Cottoninc.com/consumermarketing/lesson-plans/



#### Thank You!

#### Stay Connected

- cottonboard.org
- cottoninc.com
- cottoncultivated.cottoninc.com
- Facebook, Instagram & Twitter







#### **People and Disciplines**



Vice President, all disciplines



Precision agriculture, irrigation, ginning



Plant Pathology



#### **People and Disciplines**



**Breeding and Genetics** 



**Entomology and Outreach** 



Weeds, Nutrient Management, Soil Health, and Cotton Specialist





#### **People and Disciplines**

Cotton seed



Chief Sustainability Officer

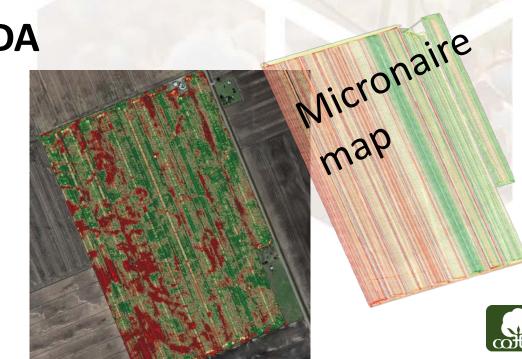


**Economist** 



## Directing and Leveraging your funds

- Funding priorities State Support Committees
- Research areas are directed by our BOD
- Over 400 projects in 2019
- Primarily with universities and USDA



## What are your priorities?





# Thank you for your support!!!!!!!



#### Resources

- Cotton Cultivated
   https://cottoncultivated.cottoninc.com/
- Focus on Cotton

http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/infocenter/topic/focusoncotton/



# AERD Research Directors Are Globally Recognized & Respected

**Don Jones** –Crop Science Society of America

Ed Barnes – National Cotton Ginners of America

**Bob Nichols** –Southern Weed Science Society of America

Kater Hake – American Association for Advancement of Science

Gaylon Morgan – Beltwide Researcher of the Year & Texas A&M Superior Service Award

**Tom Wedegaertner** – National Agricultural Marketing Association

Ryan Kurtz – Adjunct Professor at North Carolina State University

