

COTTON

2008



MISSISSIPPI COTTON

- Mississippi farmers produced 710,000 bales of cotton in 2008.
- Mississippi's cotton crop is estimated at \$168 million dollars.
- Cotton is usually planted between April 28 and May 28 and is harvested between September 15 and November 17.

COTTON FACTS

- No one knows exactly how old cotton is. Scientists searching caves in Mexico found bits of cotton bolls and pieces of cotton cloth that proved to be at least 7,000 years old.
- As America moved toward the 20th century, cotton played a key role in many new products such as:
 - Thomas Edison discovered that charred cotton made the ideal filament for the world's first electric light.

- The Wright Brothers used cotton muslin to cover the wings of their first plane.
- Cotton provided the magic cord for tires that helped put America on wheels.
- Cotton has hundreds of uses, from blue jeans to shoe strings. Clothing and household items are the largest uses, but industrial products account for many thousands of bales.
- All parts of the cotton plant are useful as follows:
 - The fiber or lint – used in making cotton cloth
 - The linters (short fuzz on the seed) – provide cellulose for making plastics, explosives, high quality paper products, batting, etc.
 - The cotton seed is crushed into oil, meal and hulls. The meal and hulls are used extensively in livestock feed and the oil is used in some margarines and salad dressings.
 - The stalks and leaves are plowed under to enrich the soil

**Source: Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service
Mississippi Agricultural Statistics
Mississippi State University**