



COTTON QUALITY: FOR THE SPINNER OR THE FARMER? In the May 1987 issue of *Textile Topics* (Vol. XV, No. 9), we carried an article on low micronaire cotton and mentioned that while many spinners are looking for this, the farmer has to take a discount in the price he receives for it. We were hoping to receive some response from the article, and we did. We are always pleased to hear from those who receive *Textile Topics* and we especially appreciate the response to this particular article. Several readers wrote or called to comment about the fact that low micronaire cotton is sometimes desirable for spinning certain types of yarn. Also, most of those responding recognized that the farmer must take a discount on cottons below 3.5 micronaire.

A letter from South Carolina stated, *"As you know, the ideal cotton for open-end spinning should have high fiber strength in grams per tex, lower micronaire, staple can be suited for end use, and good maturity. I think it would be a mistake to overlook the importance of strength and maturity in any revision of the standards."*

"Farmers in your area have been very responsive to the need for better strength, much more so than in other areas of the belt. The reason for penalizing lower micronaire cotton in the first place was because it resulted in immature, wasty yarns which would not dye properly and had lots of neps. Open-End tends to reduce the importance of these detriments but does not eliminate them completely and they are still heavy negatives for ring spinning."

A friend in North Carolina apparently did not read the article very thoroughly and wrote asking if we could direct him to a merchant or farmer who would sell cotton at loan price.

We received a phone call from North Carolina totally agreeing with our statement that, *"Some changes in the grading discounts have to be made or some sort of incentive has to be offered the cotton grower if he is to intentionally produce the fine low micronaire cotton that is in demand for high-speed rotor spinning."*

Space does not permit us to comment on all of the responses received, but we would like to offer one more that came in a letter from Knoxville, Tennessee. This was from Mr. Ed White, Vice President of Spinlab, who wrote, *"When we see different micronaire values, we do not know if the difference is caused by cell wall thickness, fiber perimeter, or both. So discounts of cotton based on micronaire will always be unjust. There is, as should be, a cry for something better. But while we wait for something better to come along, do we have to tenaciously stick to something unfair?"*

"Why can't we simply abolish the micronaire discount? The government hauled off and made weak cotton seem stronger by means of establishing HVI calibration cottons on levels greatly different from the 40-year old established Pressley and Stelometer test; why then can't they haul off and do away with micronaire discounts?"

"Would anybody be really unhappy if micronaire discount were abolished?"

"Does anybody gain by sticking to something that is unjust?"

We are learning there is more interest in this subject than we first thought. Therefore, we feel it is quite appropriate that Mr. Jesse Moore, Director of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, Cotton Division, will be a speaker at our symposium here in Lubbock on November 17-18, 1987. We understand at least a part of his presentation will deal with a study of the development of a total instrument-classing system, giving consideration to the possibility of including fineness and maturity measurements with HVI results. We look forward to hearing what Mr. Moore has to say about this.

SYMPOSIUM PLANS NEAR COMPLETION In last month's issue of *Topics* we gave a preliminary agenda for the symposium on **Recent Developments in Cotton Fiber Testing and Spinning Technology** to be held in Lubbock on November 17-18, 1987. We have found it is necessary to change our schedule slightly, but we do not believe this will create a problem. If anything, it will give a tighter schedule which may be more satisfactory for many of those attending.

The change was brought about by a Texas Tech University decision involving the new facilities of the Textile Research Center. This has necessitated the elimination of the dedication ceremony originally scheduled for the morning of November 18. As a result, we have moved the second technical session from the afternoon of the 18th to the morning of that day, and the visit to the PCCA denim plant at Littlefield has been moved to the afternoon of the 18th rather than the morning of the 19th.

The symposium agenda now has been finalized and is given below. We hope our readers will find this interesting, and we look forward to having a number of our friends participate in this conference.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN COTTON FIBER TESTING AND SPINNING TECHNOLOGY

November 17-18, 1987
Lubbock Plaza Hotel
Lubbock, Texas

November 17

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| 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon | - Registration (We encourage participants to pre-register by mail.) Registration Fee - \$45.00 |
| 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon | SESSION I |
| 8:45 a.m. | - Call to Order and Welcome |
| 9:00 a.m. | - Keynote Address: "Why Must We Be Shackled By The Past?" - Charles G. Scruggs, Editorial Chairman, Southern Progress Corporation, Austin, Texas |
| 9:35 a.m. | - "Maturity of the Cotton Fiber" - H. H. Ramey, Jr., Chief, Fiber Technology Branch, USDA-AMS Cotton Division, Memphis, Tennessee |
| 10:10 a.m. | - Coffee Break |
| 10:30 a.m. | - "The IIC-Shirley High Volume Fineness/Maturity Tester for Cotton" - Russell J. Crompton, Managing Director, Shirley Developments Limited, Manchester, England |
| 11:05 a.m. | - "Effective Utilization of Technology for the Production of High Quality Denim" - Robert L. Hale, Vice President and General Manager, PCCA Textile Division, Littlefield, Texas |
| 12:00 noon | - Lunch - Individual arrangements should be made |
| 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | SESSION II |
| 1:30 p.m. | - Symposium participants depart by bus for a tour of cotton harvesting, module building, ginning, and a visit to USDA's Lubbock classing office |
| 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | - Buses return to Lubbock Plaza Hotel |
| 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | - WEST TEXAS TORNADO PARTY
- Buffet and Beverages
- Music for dancing and listening by Tiny Lynn Band |

November 18

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| 8:30 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. | SESSION III |
| 8:30 a.m. | - Symposium Reconvenes |
| 8:35 a.m. | - "Tandem Carding - Benefits for Open-end Spinning" - G. Rodney Pilsbury, Vice President, Customer Service, Crosrol, Inc., Greenville, South Carolina |
| 9:10 a.m. | - Mr. George Blomquist, Vice President of Parkdale Mills, Lexington, North Carolina, will speak on procedures for testing cotton and man-made fibers to assure rotor spinning efficiency and the production of quality yarns. The exact title of Mr. Blomquist's presentation will be announced later. |

November 18 (continued)

- 9:45 a.m. – “The Development of High Quality Cotton” –
Dr. John R. Gannaway, Plant Breeder and Project Leader,
Cotton Improvement Program, Texas Agricultural
Experiment Station, Lubbock, Texas
- 10:20 a.m. – Coffee Break
- 10:45 a.m. – “Cotton Classing In Transition” – Jesse Moore, Director,
USDA-AMS Cotton Division, Washington, DC
- 11:25 a.m. – “The Suitability of Certain American Cottons for the
Production of Fine Count Rotor-Spun Yarn” –
John B. Price, Assistant Director, Textile Research Center,
Lubbock, Texas
- 12:15 p.m. – Lunch – Individual arrangements should be made
- 1:45 p.m. SESSION IV
- Tour of PCCA Textile Division – Denim manufacturing at
Littlefield, Texas (37 miles northwest of Lubbock)
- Buses depart promptly at 1:45 p.m. and will return to
Lubbock Plaza Hotel at 4:45 - 5:00 p.m.
- 5:00 p.m. – SYMPOSIUM CONCLUDED

The primary objective of the Textile Research Center is to conduct research that will produce results beneficial to fiber producers and textile manufacturers. We do not offer seminars and conferences on a routine basis, but conduct such meetings only when we have information that may be useful to industry. In fact, it has been three and one-half years since we have held a meeting of this type.

This conference will be a first experience in several ways. Research results will be presented that have not been released before, and reports will be given on progress made in cotton quality improvement and instrument development.

Another first is that we have set a \$45.00 registration fee. We have never charged a fee before, and we regret this is necessary. However, the various functions of the symposium are such that we will need registration funds to cover expenses. We will send out pre-registration information in the near future.

LODGING FOR SYMPOSIUM We have reserved a block of rooms at the Lubbock Plaza Hotel for use by those attending the symposium. The hotel has requested that each individual make his own reservation and specify that he is attending the **Textile Research Symposium**. This is important, for there is another convention scheduled at the hotel at the same time. That group has also set aside a block of rooms for its use.

Therefore, please specify that you will be attending the Textile Research Symposium. A room reservation form is printed on the next page. Please note that the hotel has given us a flat rate of \$51.00, regardless of how many people use the room. A toll free number is given at the top of the form and should be useful in making reservations.

VISITORS Visitors to the Textile Research Center during July included William F. Lalor, John Turner and Mike Watson, Cotton Incorporated, Raleigh, NC; Roger Bolick, Allied Fibers, Hopewell, VA; Don Brown, Allied Fibers, Petersburg, VA; Barnett Greenberg, North Texas State University, Denton, TX; Trish Alderson, Brit Thomas and Johnnie Lea Hendon, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, HLS&R Productions, Houston, TX; Laurie Robbins Allegheny College, Meadville, PA; Rick Hingson and Fred Pierce, Synthetic Industries, Chickamauga, GA; Dwight Epperson, Pickens, SC; Campbell T. Page, The Wool Bureau, Inc., Atlanta, GA; James G. McElroy, Kirox, Inc., Houston, TX; and Kenneth A. Krismanth, PECO Engineered Systems, Inc., Cleveland, OH.

Also visiting were S. Allan Heap and Jill C. Stevens, International Institute for Cotton, Manchester, England; Steve Ranford, Wool Research Organization of New Zealand (Inc.), Christchurch, New Zealand; nine Japanese high school students; 22 participants in the Shake Hands With Your Future program conducted by the Texas Tech University Department of Continuing Education; seven 4-H members from Dickens County, TX; and 20 residents of the Buckner Children's Home, Lubbock, TX.