



COTTON LINK

MEDIA GUIDE
TO THE
COTTON INDUSTRY

Box 42131
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
LUBBOCK, TX 79409-2131
PHONE: 806-742-2816 FAX: 806-742-2880
E-MAIL: COTTONLINK@TTU.EDU
WWW.COTTONLINK.ORG

COBY

DEFINITION

COBY (short for cotton by-products) is a value-added version of cotton by-products currently being researched and developed at the USDA-ARS station in Lubbock, Texas.

DETAILS

- COBY is developed from gin trash and other cotton by-products left at the gin after the cotton has been processed.
- The major problem of disposing of this gin trash caused USDA researcher Greg Holt to begin studying possible ways to turn it into something useful.
- COBY is made through a process of cooking, grinding, sterilizing and adding a starch to the gin trash.
- COBY can be further processed into pelleted or loose mixtures for a variety of uses such as mulches, ground covers, fuel, livestock feed, building material and possibly a source of ethanol.
- As a livestock feed, researchers are finding that COBY may improve the digestibility of the animal.
- COBY fuel pellets are able to produce a heat value equal to wood, burn cleaner with no odor and may be cheaper when put on the market.
- As a mulch and ground cover, COBY is attractive and can have other important nutrients added to it to enhance its value to landscapers.
- COBY as a building material is strong, yet lightweight and is being tested for heat resistance, flaking, peeling and sun effects.
- COBY is not currently being manufactured, but research continues to determine its profitability and usefulness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Greg A. Holt, Ph.D.
USDA - ARS, Cotton Production and Processing Research Unit
806-746-5353
gholt@lbk.ars.usda.gov

<http://www.cotton.org/journal/2005-09/3/>
<http://www.cotton.org/journal/2003-07/4/>

STORY IDEAS

- Interview gin owners about the cost of waste removal and what impact COBY production would have on their operation.
- Find local connections or operations that currently benefit from COBY or could in the future.
- Interview local farmers about how COBY could impact the price their cotton brings at the gin and in the market.

IMPACT

- Gin owners across the state report the cost of removing gin wastes to be between \$4-\$6 million annually.
- The production of COBY would significantly reduce waste removal costs to local gins and help them gain profits.
- Some COBY products have the potential to be very profitable and beneficial to the local and state economy.