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GIN TRASH

DEFINITION

Gin trash is composed of the burrs, leaves, stalks and other residue of the plant, seeds, twigs and dirt left at the gin after the cotton has been processed. (It does not include whole seed.)

DETAILS

- Until recently, burning gin trash was seen as the easiest way of removing it; however, today more profitable uses have been found.
- Gin trash can be sterilized, ground and processed to be developed into a variety of products.
- After this processing, gin trash can be made into a pelleted form or may remain loose (like a mulch).
- Gin trash can be used as an additive to livestock feed (both in a raw and sterilized form) and is especially beneficial in areas where feed may be in shortage.
- It contains proteins and fiber essential to livestock, especially cattle.
- Processed gin trash can also be used for building materials, pelleted fuels and gardening mulches.
- Gin trash is also being tested as a possible source for ethanol processing.

STORY IDEAS

- Talk to local gin owners about how they remove of gin trash and if any alternative uses are being used in your area.
- Talk with livestock owners or feed lots who use gin trash as additives in their livestock feed.

IMPACT

- Large economic advantages may occur once research is concluded and gin trash products are proven to be beneficial.
- As of now, the biggest impact is seen in areas where feed is in shortage or is very expensive.
- Gin trash is cheaper than traditional livestock feeds and can reduce feed costs for livestock owners.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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