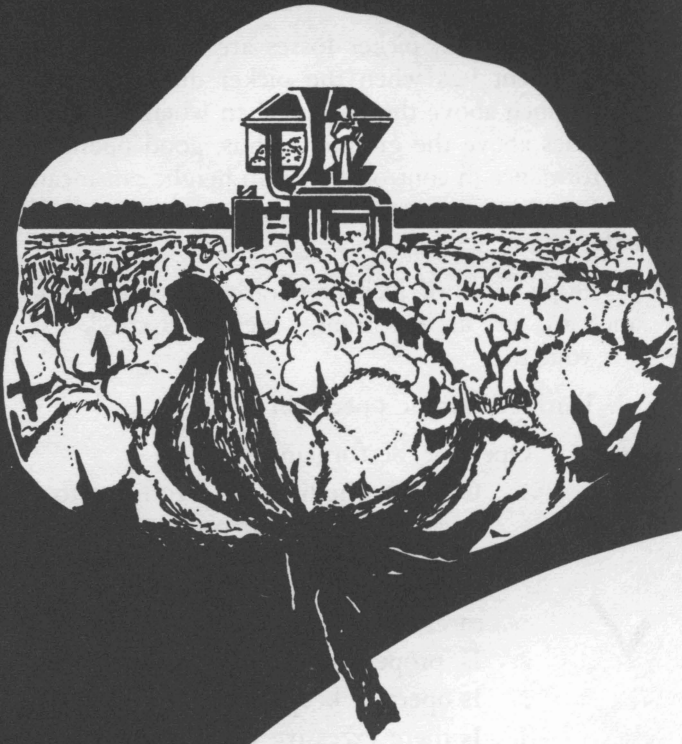


Harvest All You Grow

--- *Increase Profits*



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CHECK PICKER PERFORMANCE

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
J. E. Hutchison, Director, College Station, Texas

✓ CHECK PICKER PERFORMANCE

CHECKING PICKER PERFORMANCE PAYS.

Close observation by you or your field foreman of picker performance and condition and operator performance may easily mean 5 percent more cotton in the trailer.

For example, picker losses are approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent less when the picker drum is operated 1 inch above the ground than when operated 3 inches above the ground. Thus, good operator performance in controlling drum height can mean \$4.62 more profit per acre in one and one-half bale cotton.

Other areas of picker operation and performance are just as important. Here is a check list for your use.

I. During machine operation in field.


A. Operator performance:

1. Observe whether unit is entering row lined up, if it is in picking position and at full throttle. Width and condition of turnrow should be noted carefully.
2. Is proper speed being maintained?
3. Is operator keeping unit on the row?
4. Is there excessive raising and lowering of unit in the row?

B. Machine operation:


1. Note way in which plants enter the units.
2. Observe height and tilt of unit.
3. Observe the plant as it leaves the unit to determine where losses are occurring. Estimate the amount of cotton on the ground and the amount that falls after the plant is released.
4. Observe condition of plant after the machine passes.
5. Listen to sound of power unit to check on uniform speed.

C. Field conditions:


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1. Observe variability in row height and shape.
 2. Observe variation in plant size, shape, maturity, yield, percent open, leaf condition and amount, boll location and condition of opened bolls as to the fluffiness, stringing out, tight lock, etc.
 3. Using seed count method, check efficiency of the machine in an area of the field that represents average condition.
 4. Observe condition of seed cotton in trailer with respect to moisture and trash condition, fluffiness, roping or twisting of fiber.

II. When machine is stopped.

A. Condition and alignment of assemblies in unit:

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1. Check condition of spindles. Are they gummed? Is lint on tip or on rear of spindle?
 2. Check moistener assembly with respect to adjustment to spindle.
 3. Check moistener assembly with respect to amount of water being applied to the spindle.
 4. Check if all cotton is being removed from spindle.
 5. Check condition of unit housing as to dirt, trash and excessive water.

B. Eliminate low performance:

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1. Make necessary adjustments.
 2. Instruct operator on point he may be doing wrong in machine operation.
 3. Point out variation in plant condition in different parts of the field which necessitate changes in adjustments or operation of the machine.

The information in this leaflet was prepared by State and Federal Extension Specialists with the assistance of the National Cotton Council.