



Do you know
someone who's
In High Cotton?



Cotton growers who earn the respect of their peers are the ones who consistently produce profitable, high quality crops.

Those in the company of such overachievers are said to be

“In High Cotton.”

We believe these “high cotton” growers deserve special recognition.

So, Farm Press, in cooperation with the National Cotton Council and the Cotton Foundation, has created the High Cotton award program.

We hope you will be a part of this special program by nominating a grower you feel is deserving of a High Cotton award.

Farm Press Salutes High Cotton Winners for 2023

RUSTY DARBY, Southeast
CODY BEAVERS, Delta
WILLIAMS FAMILY FARMS —
RYAN, WILLIAMS, Southwest
AARON BARCELLOS, West

There's more to the High Cotton Award than simply honoring top growers.

The objective of the High Cotton award program closely follows the philosophy of the Farm Press Publications — to help growers produce more profitable, higher quality crops, by providing them with timely, hard-hitting information about technological advances, governmental regulations, and marketing opportunities.

Our goal is to identify the top cotton producers in each major growing region and to share their successful production methods with the readers of *Southeast Farm Press*, *Delta Farm Press*, *Southwest Farm Press*, and *Western Farm Press*.

That's where the High Cotton Awards come in.

Who qualifies for a High Cotton Award?

Nominees will be cotton growers who meet three important criteria:

1. The High Cotton nominee must be a full-time grower who gets a profitable return from producing cotton in one of the four Cotton Belt regions (Southeast, Mid-South, Southwest, and West).
2. The nominee must produce cotton of consistently high quality.
3. The nominee must use environmentally sound production methods.

High Cotton Award judging begins in September.

The deadline for nominations is August 31, 2023. In November, High Cotton Award finalists will be chosen for each of the four major cotton growing regions, based on their profitability, the consistent quality of their cotton, and their environmental stewardship.

A grower's contributions to his community and the cotton industry will also be a determining factor.

Each of the four regional High Cotton

Award winners will receive an expense-paid trip for two to the Mid-South Farm and Gin Show at Memphis, Tenn., where they will be honored.

How can you make a nomination?

This is not a yield contest, nor are we asking for specific financial information from nominees. However, it is necessary that nominees meet all of the criteria listed at left.

Nominations should begin with these three points and then expand on how the nominee accomplishes these objectives.

Unlike other “contests,” we are not interested in the quantity of material provided about the grower. Rather, we're looking for a basic narrative about what the nominee has done to improve the environmental aspects of his farming operation, while producing a high quality, profitable cotton crop.

To make your nomination for a High Cotton Award, simply complete this form and return it to the address below before August 31, 2023.

You may obtain additional forms and further information from:

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FarmPress®

Farm Press publishes:
Southeast Farm Press
Delta Farm Press
Southwest Farm Press
Western Farm Press
Delta Agricultural Digest
Farm Press Daily e-Newsletter

FARM PRESS

Publisher of *Southeast Farm Press, Delta Farm Press, Southwest Farm Press, Western Farm Press*

2024 HIGH COTTON AWARD NOMINATION FORM

I nominate _____ for the 2024 High Cotton Award from the (please circle one) Southeast / Delta / Southwest / Western region. I have notified the person named here that I am nominating him/her for this award, and he/she understands that he/she may be contacted for interviews and photographs that will appear in the Farm Press publications and other media outlets, and that he/she will be expected to attend the Mid-South Farm and Gin Show at Memphis, Tenn., to accept the award (with specified travel expenses paid by Farm Press).

Farm name _____

Mailing address _____ Number of years in farming _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Principal crops and acres of each _____

Name/address of ginner _____

On a separate sheet(s) of paper (or on the back of this form), please describe how this farmer merits consideration for the 2024 High Cotton Award for your region, by answering these questions:

1. Without going into specific numbers for yields, selling prices, or profits, indicate whether the farmer has produced a profitable crop in four of the last five years. (Example: His yields have consistently been above the county average and he has sold his crop through the XYZ cooperative seasonal pool, etc.)
2. What production practices help this grower to consistently produce a high quality cotton crop? (Example: He closely monitors his fields for weed problems and applies low rates of herbicides where possible. He uses the University of Arkansas COTMAN program to schedule irrigation on a timely basis. He matches defoliant with environmental conditions as closely as possible in order to harvest a very clean crop.)
3. What does this grower do that exemplifies the environmental stewardship embodied in the High Cotton Award? (Please see examples below.)
4. Please also provide a brief statement outlining any participation by the nominee in projects/programs related to the advancement of the cotton industry and/or community and farm organization programs. (If you need more space than this form allows, you may attach additional sheets; however, please limit your comments to no more than two typewritten pages.)

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Example 1: Farmer Joe Smith has set up an extensive training program for his workers who apply pesticides. The training is designed to make sure they shut off spray booms at row ends so pesticides are not needlessly dumped on turnrows where they can be washed into ditches and eventually into streams. Workers have been taught the importance of applying the correct rate of pesticides and to check the calibration of spray rigs at frequent intervals. When the Worker Protection Standard was announced, Farmer Smith was a step ahead because his workers already knew, from the training they had previously received, that he is

concerned about their safety.

Example 2: Farmer John Brown has long made a practice of monitoring the quality of water leaving his farm, checking it at frequent intervals for pesticides and plant nutrients. He has asked for and received assistance from the Soil Conservation Service in implementing practices that reduced soil loss on some highly erodible land he farms. Although he had some reservations initially about reduced tillage practices, he now uses these methods to control soil loss and because he believes they are helping to improve the soil structure in his fields.

