

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide everyone with an update on the new gin project. Since our decision in late February to build a new 50 bale per hour gin, we have been working diligently to make that dream a reality. The facility consists of a gin, shop, shed, loading dock, bale warehouse, and office. It has been a tremendous journey. While it has been tiring, the excitement of knowing that I am working on a project that means so much to each of you, and the industry I love, has been my reward and motivation to maintain my steadfast commitment to this project and its successful completion.

I am blessed to work alongside an experienced, knowledgeable, and dedicated crew. All the employees and management of Cherokee Gin as well as the many independent contractors working on the job have shown a passion for successfully completing the project. As with any project, there have been obstacles. As many of you are aware, we encountered much more rock than anticipated and the gin site has been blessed with an abundance of rain. While these issues have slowed progress with certain parts of the project, we have been able to manage them and continue work.

Everywhere I go, someone asks, "When will the gin be finished?" I'm sure that this question is in all your minds as well. Because the rain and rock have delayed certain aspects of the project and not others, it is hard to project an exact date. Our crews work every day trying to complete the project by October 8th, our original target date. However, realistically we are hoping for a late October or early November start-up.

Fortunately, as soon as we finished ginning the 2017 crop, our crew went to work performing repairs on the gin at the 200 Maple Street location. Before we ever started work at the new gin site in early April, the old gin was repaired and ready to go. We have expanded the crew to include enough personnel to run two shifts at the old gin and continue work at the new facility. We will run the old facility until the new facility is up and running and all the "bugs" are worked out. We are committed to getting your cotton ginned in a timely manner!

As of today, we have completed the shop building and parts room, and the shed. We are 75% complete on the loading dock, about 40% complete on the office, about 30% complete on the bale warehouse and started the seed house last weekend. The gin basement is complete and the gin foundation is being poured as I write this email. The electricians have begun laying conduit under the gin foundation and several pieces of equipment, along with the motor control center, have already arrived on-site. Lastly, the gas and power lines are in and power is expected to be turned on today.

Many of you have stopped by and checked out the new gin. If you have not had the opportunity to do so, please come by anytime. We will be happy to give you the grand tour. I have included a few pictures that Nick McMichen made from his drone. To see more snapshots from the entire project simply click on the link provided: www.cherokeegin.com/photos or visit our website. It is truly an honor and pleasure to serve all the customers of Cherokee Gin. It is with sincere gratitude that I say, "Thank You!" to all of you, as well as my partners, for allowing me the privilege to manage this monumental project!

Sincerely,

Richard "Rich" J. Lindsey Jr.
Partner/Manager
Cherokee Gin and Cotton Co.