

Weekly Cotton Market Review

Vol. 108 No. 7 • September 18, 2026

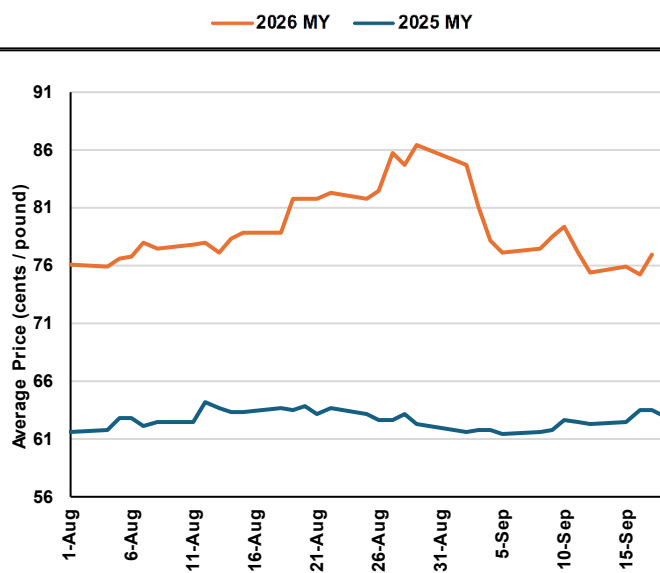
USDA • AMS Cotton and Warehouse Program • Market News Division

Market Performance Highlights

Upland Cotton Price Trends

- 7-Market Weekly Avg. Spot Price (41-4-34):
76.17 cents/pound
- Change vs. Last Week: **down 201 points**
- Change vs. Last Year: **up from 62.98¢/lb**
- Weekly Range: **77.20¢ – 76.99¢**
- ICE DEC Futures Week Ending Settlement
Price: **82.17¢ (down from 88.22¢ last week)**

U.S. Seven Market Average Spot Price (41-4-34)



ICE Futures Settlement Prices

	Oct-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	May-27	Jul-27	Oct-27	7-Market Avg Spot Price	Far Eastern A Index 1/
Sep 11	82.38	86.06	88.56	89.95	89.52	81.69	77.20	98.20
Sep 14	80.64	84.55	87.12	88.50	88.07	80.87	75.46	96.15
Sep 15	81.10	84.48	86.99	88.38	88.04	79.71	75.92	94.65
Sep 16	80.44	84.36	86.89	88.35	88.04	79.65	75.26	94.60
Sep 17	78.41	82.17	84.81	86.31	86.25	79.29	76.99	94.35

1/ Far Eastern A Index furnished by Cotton Outlook of Liverpool.

USDA, Farm Service Agency Cotton Reports

Prices are in effect from Sept 18-24

Adjusted World price 1/	68.92
Fine Count Adjustment '25	0.00
Fine Count Adjustment '26	0.00
Course Count Adjustment	0.00
Loan Deficiency Payment	0.00
ELS Competitiveness Payment, effective Sep. 18-Oct. 15	0.00

Source: USDA, Farm Service Agency
[Upland Cotton Reports](#), [ELS Cotton Announcement](#)

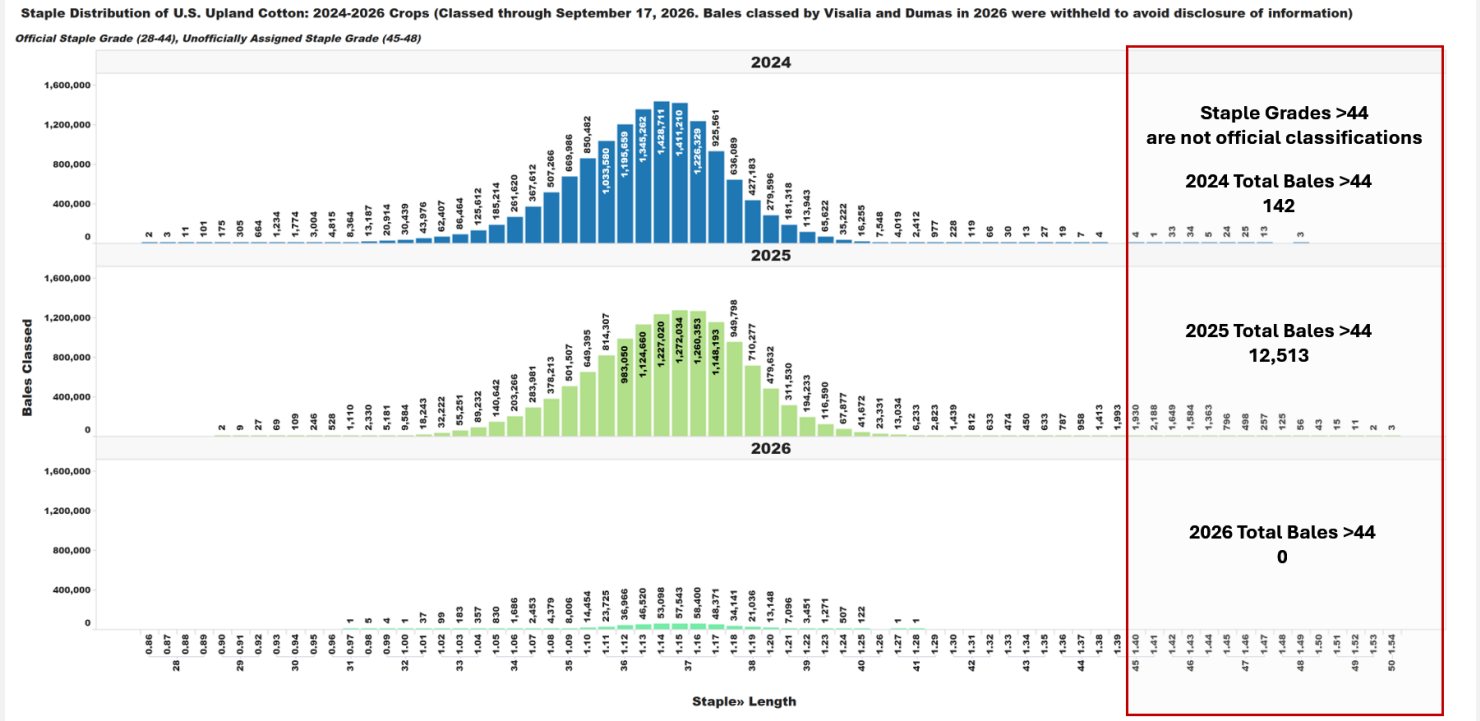
USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service Export Sales Reporting Division Warehouse Cotton Maturity

Description	Through Sep. 10, 2026	
	Week	Mkt. Year
Outstanding sales	-	3,451,200
Exports	142,100	1,052,900
Total export commitments	-	4,504,100
New sales	74,800	-
Net sales	71,200	-
Sales next marketing year	6,200	348,600

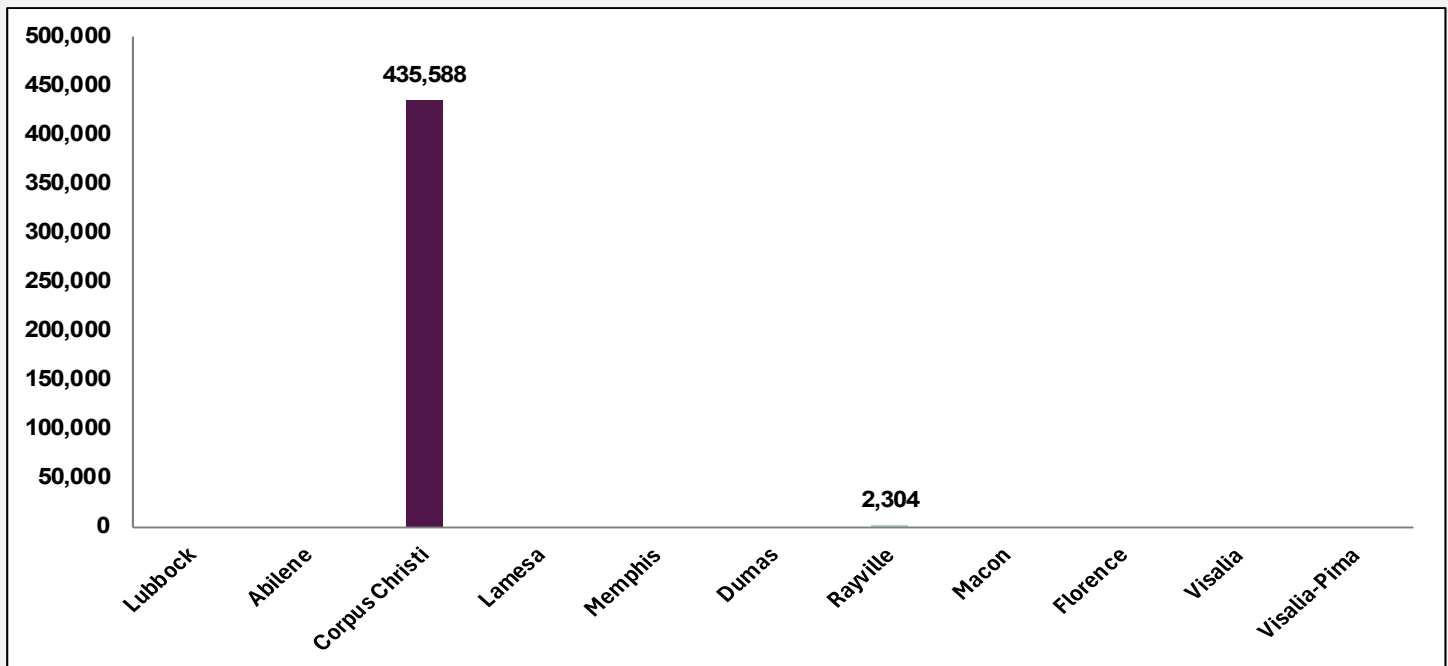
Source: USDA, Foreign Ag. Service,
[U.S. Export Sales Report](#)

USDA, AMS, U.S. Upland Cotton Crop Staple Distribution

The chart below displays the number of bales for each length measurement, shown in increments of 1/100th inch, along with the corresponding staple lengths. Length measurements are grouped by official U.S. Upland Cotton staple lengths, listed in 32nds of an inch, from 24 to 44. For measurements above 1.35 inches (staples longer than 44), implied staple lengths are provided. These implied values are for informational use only and are not official designations. **Bales classed for the 2026 crop by the Visalia and Dumas Office were withheld to avoid disclosure of information.**



USDA, AMS, Bales Classed by Office, Season to Date – September 17, 2026



Weekly Cotton Quality Report by Office: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/cnwwqo.pdf>

Southeastern Market Regional Summary

Danny Pino ◦ Macon, GA ◦ 478.752.3560 ◦ Danny.Pino@usda.gov

Spot cotton trading was inactive. Supplies were light. Demand was moderate. Producer offerings were light. Average local spot prices were lower. Trading of CCC-loan equities was inactive.

Intermittent sunny to overcast conditions prevailed across the lower Southeast during the period. Seasonably hot daytime temperatures were in the 90s with nighttime lows in the 70s. Scattered showers brought moisture to areas throughout the region during the week. The heaviest accumulations of one to three inches were recorded along the Gulf and Atlantic coastal areas throughout the week. Drought degradation was recorded in areas of central and north Alabama and Georgia that experienced limited rainfall, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report. The hot conditions helped to mature bolls at the top of the crop. Insect pressure was manageable; in south Georgia, producers sprayed cotton for whiteflies that were present in neighboring vegetable fields. Producers scouted fields for boll feeding pests and applied sprays where populations exceeded threshold limits. Harvest aid applications were applied and picking had begun in the earliest-planted fields. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) Crop Progress report released September 14, bolls opening advanced to 56 percent in Alabama and 55 percent in Georgia.

Mostly sunny to partly cloudy conditions were observed across the upper Southeast during the period. Seasonably hot daytime high temperatures were in the 90s with nighttime lows in the 60s and 70s. Isolated shower activity brought moisture to cotton-growing areas of the eastern Carolinas and Virginia during the week. Accumulated moisture totals measured from trace amounts to around one inch of moisture with heavier recordings along coastal South Carolina. Despite the moisture, areas of the coastal Carolinas remained in extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The hot conditions helped advance the crop and insect pressure was light and easily controlled. According to NASS, cotton bolls opening reached 60 percent in Virginia, 48 in South Carolina, and 47 percent in North Carolina.

Textile Mill

Domestic mill buyers inquired for a light volume of color 41, leaf 4, and staple 34 and longer for first quarter 2027 delivery. No sales were reported and no additional inquiries were reported. Yarn demand remained slow to moderate. Mill buyers maintained a cautious undertone as they balanced raw cotton needs with finished product orders.

Demand through export channels was slow to moderate. Agents throughout the Far East inquired for any discounted styles of cotton. No sales were reported.

Trading

No trading activity to report.

South Central Market Regional Summary

Aerielle McDaniel ◦ Memphis, TN, 901.384.3016 ◦ Aerielle.McDaniel@usda.gov

North Delta

Spot cotton trading was inactive. Supplies and producer offerings were light, and demand was very light. Trading of CCC-loan equities was inactive. Average local spot prices were lower. No forward contracting was reported. Business was very slow.

Weather conditions varied, with intervals of sunny and cloudy skies during the reporting period. Daytime highs were in the lower to upper 90s. The U.S. National Weather Service issued heat advisories, with heat indexes reaching 107 to 109 degrees. Nighttime lows were in the 70s. A widespread rainfall event accompanied by scattered thunderstorms moved through the region on September 11–12, producing precipitation totals from trace amounts up to approximately three-quarters of an inch. Moisture from intermittent rains helped alleviate heat stress in localized areas. Producers monitored crop maturity across both earlier and later-planted cotton to determine the appropriate timing for defoliation. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Crop Progress report released on September 14, cotton bolls opening was at 78 percent in Arkansas, 43 in Missouri, and 64 percent in Tennessee. Gin yards remained quiet as cleaning and pre-season preparations continued, and meter readings were anticipated to begin on October 1. Both virtual and in-person meetings were scheduled and attended at state and national levels.

South Delta

Spot cotton trading was inactive. Supplies and producer offerings were light. Demand was light. Trading of CCC-loan equities was inactive. Average local spot prices were lower. No forward contracting was reported. Business was very slow.

A mix of sunny to cloudy skies varied throughout the reporting period. Daytime highs were mostly in the 90s. Overnight lows were in the 70s. Heat advisories were issued by the U.S. National Weather Service in Clarksdale, MS with heat indexes reaching 107 degrees. Heavy downpours entered the Mississippi territory on September 11 and carried over into the early morning hours of September 12, bringing more than three-quarters to one inch of rainfall. In Louisiana, most producers continued to monitor crop maturity, although a few growers had initiated defoliation. In Mississippi, defoliation and harvesting were underway, and cotton modules were transported to gin yards. Local experts anticipated strong yields. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Crop Progress report released on September 14, cotton bolls opening had advanced to 78 percent in Louisiana and 71 percent in Mississippi. Several gins in Louisiana had begun pressing operations, while remaining facilities in both Louisiana and Mississippi were projected to begin between September 21 to October 1. All meter readings were expected to be completed by October 1. Both virtual and in-person meetings were planned and attended at state and national levels.

Trading

North Delta

No trading activity to report.

South Delta

No trading activity to report.

Southwestern Markets Regional Summary

Bethany Lindgren ◦ Memphis, TN, 901.384.3016 ◦ *Bethany.Lindgren@usda.gov*

Jane Byers-Angle ◦ Lubbock, TX, 806.283.9389 ◦ *Jane.Byers-Angle@usda.gov*

East Texas-South Texas

Spot cotton trading was active. Supplies and producer offerings were light. Demand was light. Average local spot prices were lower. Trading of CCC-loan equities was inactive. Forward contracting activity was light. Foreign mill inquiries were light. Interest was best from Korea, Peru, and Vietnam.

Conditions in the region varied from mostly sunny and dry in the Brazos River Bottoms to partly cloudy skies and stray thunderstorms that brought rainfall to cotton-producing areas of central Texas. Daytime high temperatures lingered in the 90s to the 100s, with nighttime lows in the 70s. Total accumulated moisture totals ranged from trace amounts up to one inch of rainfall in some areas. Defoliant was applied in fields, and producers prepared to begin harvest, which is expected to begin in the coming days for the most mature fields. In South Texas, windy conditions persisted, with portions of the Upper Coast and Coastal Bend receiving spotty, light rainfall mid-week. Daytime high temperatures were in the 90s to the 100s, with nightly low temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Picker harvesting continued in South Texas and was nearing completion in the lower Rio Grande Valley (RGV) and areas of the Coastal Bend for some producers. Modules lined the fields, awaiting transport to gins for processing. Ginning continued. Some gins in the lower Rio Grande Valley are nearing the end of their season. Post harvest activities were also underway in completed locales, this included stalk destruction and preparing fields and equipment for winter.

West Texas-Kansas-Oklahoma

Spot cotton trading was slow. Supplies and producer offerings were light. Demand was very light. Average local spot prices were lower. Producer interest in forward contracting was light. Trading of CCC-loan equities was inactive. Foreign mill inquiries were light. Interest was best from Korea, Peru, and Vietnam.

Hot and dry conditions persisted across West Texas, with daytime highs in the lower 90s to mid-100s and nighttime temperatures in the 60s to 70s. On September 10, the High Plains received scattered storms that delivered up to one inch of rainfall, accompanied by large hail and wind gusts near 70 miles per hour. Additional showers followed. The moisture helped interrupt extended dry spells exceeding 50 days in some areas. Irrigated stands continued to progress, and recent rainfall supported the completion of remaining acres. Concerns regarding boll size increased, as some fields showed smaller than expected development following periods of sustained heat and limited moisture. Dryland abandonment was expected to rise; however, producers planned to harvest based on field appraisals and favorable market opportunities. Insurance adjusters began counting bolls and making determinations. Final irrigation was applied, and a few producers initiated boll opener and defoliant treatments in preparation for harvest. Ginning was expected to commence the first week in October.

In Kansas, daytime temperatures ranged from the lower 90s to lower 100s, while nighttime lows varied in the 60s and 70s. Rainfall brought up to one and one-half inches of precipitation. Bolls cracked open and producers will advance harvest preparations by applying boll openers and defoliant in approximately two weeks. Yield projections will vary, but recent estimates were 1,200 to 1,500 pounds per irrigated acre, and 500 pounds per dryland acre. Local sources indicated that the boll size was undesirable. Harvesting activities commenced at three percent, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Crop Progress report released on September 14.

Across Oklahoma, extreme heat and clear skies persisted, with daytime highs consistently in the 100s and nighttime lows in the 70s to 80s. While a few areas received light rainfall, the prolonged high temperatures and lack of meaningful moisture continued to cause havoc on cotton stands and quickly push the crop toward harvest. Bolls were popping open and overall quality remains mixed. Producers primed equipment and supplies in preparation for harvest. Yield estimates were variable.

Southwestern Markets Regional Summary

Bethany Lindgren ° Memphis, TN, 901.384.3016 ° Bethany.Lindgren@usda.gov

Jane Byers-Angle ° Lubbock, TX, 806.283.9389 ° Jane.Byers-Angle@usda.gov

Trading

East Texas/South Texas

- A heavy volume of new-crop cotton containing color 21-32, leaf 1-4, staple 36-39, mike 35-51, strength 27-35, and uniformity 78-84 sold for around 81.50 cents per pound, FOB warehouse, (compression charges not paid).
- A light volume of new-crop lots containing mostly color 21 and 31, leaf 3 and 4, staple 35-37, mike 42-48, strength 31-34, and uniformity 80-83 traded for 80.00 cents, same terms as above.
- A light volume of 2022 and 2023 crop cotton containing color 12 and better, leaf 2, staple 34-37, mike 38-48, strength 27-33, uniformity 81-82, and 100 percent level 1 plastic sold for around 55.00 cents, same terms as above.

West Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma

- In Texas, a lot containing a light volume of 2025-crop cotton color 21 and 31, leaf 2 and 3, staple 35 and 36, mike averaging 46.0, strength averaging 30.8, and uniformity averaging 80.5 sold for around 76.00 cents per pound, FOB car/truck, (compression charges not paid).
- A lot containing a light volume of 2024-crop cotton color 22-43, leaf 3-6, staple 31-35, mike 37-47, strength 24-29, and uniformity 76-80 sold for around 70.25 cents, same terms as above.

Western Market Regional Summary

Bethany Lindgren • Memphis, TN, 901.384.3016 • Bethany.Lindgren@usda.gov

Desert Southwest (DSW)

Spot cotton trading was slow. Supplies and producer offerings were light. Demand was light. No forward contracting was reported. Average local spot prices were lower. Foreign mill inquiries were light.

Mostly sunny and dry weather was interrupted by mid-week thunderstorms in Arizona and New Mexico, while El Paso, TX, remained in a sunny and dry pattern throughout the week after rainstorms early in the period. Daytime highs were from the 90s to 110s, with nighttime lows ranging from the 60s to the 80s. Precipitation totals ranged from one-quarter of an inch up to one inch. Producers worked around rainfall, and harvest continued in Arizona. Gins worked through modules on yards, processing seed-cotton as quickly as possible. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Crop Progress report released on September 14, cotton harvested was 37 percent completed, 28 percent higher than the five-year average. In other parts of Arizona, the crop was progressing well as harvest neared, though some light discoloration may result from rain showers.

San Joaquin Valley (SJV)

Spot cotton trading was inactive. Supplies and demand were light. No forward contracting or domestic mill activity was reported. Average local spot prices were lower. Foreign mill inquiries were light.

Sunshine, slightly cooler temperatures, and dry conditions were received in the SJV this week. Daytime temperatures warmed back up into the 80s to 90s. Nighttime lows were in the 50s and 60s. There was no rainfall reported. The crop advanced well under optimal weather conditions. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Crop Progress report released on September 14, cotton bolls opening was at 35 percent, 2 percent higher than the five-year average. Producers in the northern areas of the cotton producing region were defoliating. Ginning was expected to begin in mid-to-late October for some gins.

American Pima (AP)

Spot cotton trading was inactive. Supplies were moderate. Demand was light. No forward contracting or domestic mill activity was reported. Average local spot prices were steady. Light foreign mill inquiries were reported.

Daytime highs in the Far West ranged from the 80s in parts of California to the 110s in Arizona. Scattered showers produced from trace amounts up to one inch of rainfall in El Paso, TX. Harvest advanced in Arizona, with producers working around showers to get as much cotton off the stalk as possible. Ginning operations worked through modules and bales were transported to warehouses for storage. The crop progressed well under favorable conditions in the SJV. Cotton bolls were opening. Ginning operations were expected to begin in mid-to-late October. Classing operations had begun for the Visalia Classing Office.

Trading

Desert Southwest

- A light volume of 2025-crop cotton, color 21 and 31, leaf 2 and 3, staple 35 and 36, mike averaging 46.5, strength averaging 30.8, and uniformity averaging 80.5 sold for around 80.00 cents per pound, FOB car/truck (compression charges not paid).

San Joaquin Valley

No trading activity was reported.

American Pima

No trading activity was reported.

South Central Market

South Delta Cotton Fields



Staying Up to Date on Published Cotton Reports

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

Daily Quality Reports by [Office](#) and [State](#) – Updates daily by 10:00 am central, during classing season

[Monthly Quality of Cotton Classed](#) – Released Aug. 28, 2026, Updates the last Friday of the month

[Daily Spot Cotton Quotations](#) – Updates daily by 2:30 pm central

[Monthly Cotton Price Statistics](#) – Released Sep. 2, 2026, Updates by the third day of the month

For more reports, please visit the Market News [website](#)

USDA Farm Service Agency

[Upland Cotton Report](#) – Updates every Thursday

[ELS Cotton Report](#) – Updates every Thursday

[Warehouse Cotton Maturity](#) (PSL-43R) – Updates monthly

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

[Exports Sales Report](#) – Updates every Thursday

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

[Farm Prices Received](#) – Released Aug. 31, 2026, at 2:00 pm central, Updates monthly

[Cotton Ginnings Report](#) – Released Sep. 11, 2026, at 11:00 am central, Updates 2x per month during ginning season

[Crop Production](#) – Released Sep. 11, 2026, at 11:00 am central, Updates Monthly

[Crop Progress Report](#) – Released Sep. 14 at 4 3:00 pm central, Updates Weekly

USDA Economic Research Service

[Cotton and Wool Outlook](#) – Released Sep. 15, 2026, Updates Monthly

USDA World Agricultural Outlook Board

[WASDE Report](#) – Released Sep. 11, 2026

U.S. Agricultural Commodities Drought Monitor

[Cotton Areas in Drought Map](#) – Updates Weekly

[Drought Outlooks](#) – Updates Monthly

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Precipitation Maps](#) – Updates Monthly

U.S. Energy Information Administration

[Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update](#), Updates every Tuesday

USDA, AMS, Agricultural Transportation

[Fertilizer Prices in New Orleans, LA](#), Released July 2026 – Updates Quarterly