



**COTTON
CLASSING CDE
3-4 Member Team
Judging Card Scan Sheet #523-1**



Purpose

Cotton continues to have a significant impact on the Texas agricultural economy and is therefore relevant to a comprehensive study of agriculture. Cotton is sold on the basis of grade, staple length and fiber strength. The cotton CDE tests students' ability to identify USDA cotton grades based on industry standards. While much of the industry employs technology to grade cotton, by using their senses to apply cotton-grading standards, students gain a fundamental grasp of how these grades are derived. Students must make observations and judgments and render a final decision, life skills that will serve them well, regardless of career choice.

Equipment

1. Team members must provide their own No. 2 pencils, compliant transparent plastic clipboard and/or clean folder with the following items: genuine Judging Card scan sheet, optional copy of the scan sheet, or Texas FFA CDE drop sheet, and/or 2 sheets of lined or unlined blank paper.
2. Contestants must use a genuine Judging Card scan sheet for this contest to be valid. The appropriate scan sheet for this contest is the COTTON 523-1 found on the Judging Card website.

Rules

1. Teams shall consist of three or four members.
2. Team ranking is determined by combining the scores of the top three students from each team.

Event Format

1. Schedule
 - a. Teams will assemble at the USDA Cotton Classing Office.
 - b. Check judgigcard.com for event start time.
 - c. Teams absent at start time will not be permitted to participate in the contest.
2. Event Activities
 - a. Contestants will class 50 samples (biscuits) as to color grade and leaf grade.
 - b. Contestants will be given 1½ hours to complete the event.
 - c. Contestants will only be responsible for classing cotton into 14 color grades.
 - d. While seven leaf grades are possible for each color grade, contestants will only be responsible for a single leaf grade within each color grade (see resources).

Scoring

1. Each correct answer is worth 20 points.
 - a. If a participant's response is off by: 1 grade, 10 points are awarded for the sample. Example: 21-31 or 21-23
 - b. 2 or more grades, zero points are awarded for the sample. Example: 21-41 or 63-54

TOTAL INDIVIDUAL POINTS	1,000
TOTAL TEAM POINTS	3,000

Tiebreakers

1. Team ties will be broken using the following criteria, alternate scores will not be used:
 - a. Collective Score on all 50 Samples
 - b. Collective Score on 1-25
 - c. Collective Score on 26-50
 - d. Team with the Highest Individual Score
2. Individual ties will be broken using the following criteria:
 - a. Highest Score on 1-10
 - b. Highest Score on 11-20
 - c. Highest Score on 21-30
 - d. Highest Score on 31-30
 - e. Highest Score on 31-40
 - f. Highest Score on 41-50

Resources

1. Teams may practice at the cotton classing offices two weeks before the State Event.
2. To purchase USDA Cotton Standards:

USDA Standardization and Engineering Division

3275 Appling Road

Memphis, TN 38133

Telephone (901) 384-3030

Fax (901) 384-3032

Email: cotton.standards@usda.gov

Color Grades

Responsible Grades	Description
21-2	SM
31-3	Mid
41-4	SLM
51-5	LM
61-6	SGO
71-7	GO
23-2	SM Spot
33-3	Mid Spot
43-4	SLM Spot
53-5	LM Spot
63-6	SGO Spot
34-3	Mid Tngd
44-4	SLM Tngd
54-5	LM Tngd