

COTTON CLASSING

3 or 4 Member Team

I. 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.

II. EVENT FORMAT

A. Team Make-up

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

B. Event Schedule

Teams will assemble at the USDA Cotton Classing Office. Check judgigcard.com for event start time. Teams absent at start time will not be permitted to participate in the contest.

C. Event Activity

1. Contestants will class 50 samples (biscuits) as to color grade and leaf grade.
2. Contestants will be given 1¹/₂ hours to complete the event.
3. Contestants will only be responsible for classing cotton into 14 color grades.
4. 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).

D. Equipment

Team members must provide their own compliant clipboard and/or clean folder with the following items: scan sheet, and/or copy of the scan sheet, optional Texas FFA CDE drop sheet, and/or 2 sheets of lined or unlined blank paper.

II. SCORING

- A. Each correct answer is worth 20 points.
- B. If a participant's response is off by:
 - 1 grade, 10 points are awarded for the sample. Example: 21-31 or 21-23
 - 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

III. TIEBREAKERS

1. Team and individual ties will be broken using the highest score on samples 1-25.
2. If still tied, the high score on samples 26-50 will be the winner.
3. If still tied, the team with the highest alternate score will be the winner.
4. If still tied, Team/individual will be accompanied by their advisor and will meet with contest officials who will conduct a coin toss to determine the higher placing team/individual.

IV. RESOURCES

- Teams may practice at the cotton classing offices no earlier than two weeks before the State Event.
- **To purchase USDA Cotton Standards:**
USDA Standardization and Engineering Division
3275 Appling Road
Memphis, TN 33913
Telephone (901) 384-3030
Fax (901) 384-3032
Email: cotton.standards@ams.usda

V. 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