

COTTON USA Special Trade Mission from Korea April 17 - 23

Discussion Topics Requested by the Korean Participants

US cotton quality & contamination:

- What is the reason for the increase in average micronaire over the past 3 -4 years?
- Damage due to metal wires in the bale packaging - want the U.S. industry to get rid of metal wire and increase the quality of polypropylene; durability of polypropylene
- Stickiness of U.S. Pima cotton - specific practices and examples of preventing stickiness cotton in the field and HVI lab
- US cotton quality outlook for 2016/17

US classification:

- Disagreement with classing data - especially micronaire and neps. Micronaire measurements don't reflect spinning results.
- Koreans agree with leaf and color grade

Contracting:

- How to handle quality disputes with HVI results and US exporters and the role of agents.
 - Why is there inconsistency of "free time" between U.S. exporters with cotton shipments?
- Sustainability:
- Goal and future plans of Cotton LEADS as compared to BCI and other social movements

General Economic and Trade Issues:

- Overview of the cotton price situation
- What is the WTO's impact on U.S. cotton farmers and how does it impact U.S. cotton price?
- Korea-US Free Trade Agreement – possibility of Fiber Forward?