

A preliminary cost estimate was made for machines #2 and #3. We estimated that the stripper would cost approximately \$5,500, the small tractor \$4,000, and the large tractor \$6,000. We assumed that the tractors would be used 600 hours per year and that the stripper would be used on approximately 150 acres per year or 125 hours per year. The average cost per hour over the first five years of ownership is as follows:

	<u>Machine #2</u>	<u>Machine #3</u>
Cost for tractor	\$ 1.87/hr	\$ 2.57/hr
Cost for the stripper	9.26/hr	9.26/hr
Total for stripper and tractor	11.13/hr	11.83/hr
Cost per acre	9.28/ac	10.30/ac
At 1 1/2 bale yield	6.18/bale	6.87/bale

These machines will probably receive further modification which may improve their capacity and performance. However, at the present time this is the way that they were operating.

#### Summary of Extension Farm Cooperator Stripper Cotton Trials and Extension Observations

(Henry Brubaker)

Growing out of interest in "drilled cotton" and a desire to reduce the cost of producing cotton, much interest was generated for growing cotton to be harvested with strippers. Demonstrations were conducted in Yuma and Pinal Counties. Farmers Investment Company conducted private tests in Pinal and Pima Counties. Aims of all tests and demonstrations were to learn which varieties worked best and what the best cultural practices were. In general, stripper varieties from Texas and elsewhere were lower in yield than Deltapine, although Deltapine does not strip well. Varieties tested were Deltapine Smooth Leaf, Deltapine 45, Stoneville 7-A, Stoneville 213, Paymaster 54-B, Paymaster 101-A, Paymaster 111, Northern Star 5, Northern Star 4-11, Lockett 4789, Blightmaster, Lankart 57, Gregg 35, DeKalb 220, DeKalb 353, DeKalb 302, and TPFA Deltapine (Texas Planting Seed Association).

The biggest problems encountered in all tests were rank growth and green plants and bolls at picking time. Efforts to desiccate plants in order to pick before frost were unsuccessful. If stripper cotton is to work in Arizona, it will have to be grown with a minimum of stalk and a better desiccant will have to be found. In general, farmers did not reduce their costs enough to make stripper cotton worthwhile.

#### Arizona Cotton Harvest Almost Completely Mechanized

(Bill Larsen)

Cotton in Arizona has been mechanized almost completely. This mechanization includes not only mechanical harvest with a spindle type machine, but also the machine salvage of cotton from the ground. Results to date show that well over 95% of the cotton in Arizona was harvested mechanically. The cotton salvaged from the ground is of concern to many people throughout the state. It is fairly

expensive to salvage and has a poorer quality than that harvested from the plant. It is estimated that the average harvest efficiency of mechanical pickers could be improved by as much as 10%. Most of this improvement will be obtained by proper preparation of the cotton in the field for mechanical harvest and also by proper adjustment and operation of the machine. The National Cotton Council is working with Extension representatives and machinery companies in the development of a program to try to improve the efficiency of mechanical harvest.