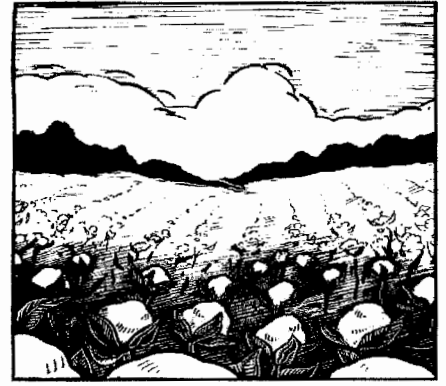


COTTONSEED...The Inside Story



Part of Your Daily Life

When thinking of cotton, do you think of snack food ingredients? Photo film? Feed for Cattle, catfish and other animals? Toothpaste? If you're like most people you probably think first of the comfortable, breathable clothing and textiles made from cotton fiber.

Textiles, however, are only part of the cotton story. The real news is that the cotton plant produces more food for man and feed for animals than it does fiber. All elements of the seed: linters, kernels and hulls are used in consumer products, delicious foods and nutritious feed for animals.

The development of the cottonseed industry had its beginnings with the invention of the cotton gin in 1793. The cotton gin made large supplies of cottonseed available, thus spurring the development of the cottonseed products industry. Today, cottonseed products touch our lives in many different ways throughout each day.

One of the first of these products was America's original vegetable oil, made from cottonseed which is extracted from the cottonseed kernel. Even after more than one-hundred years, cottonseed oil is still widely used in various snack foods such as chips, pretzels and crackers. Cottonseed oil is also a key ingredient in many marinades, dressings, margarines and prepared foods. In addition, the use of the kernels extends to a variety of other products...from cosmetics to the cottonseed meal fed to cattle as a high protein and high energy supplement.

Linters, which are the short fibers that cling to the seed, after the ginning process, go into everything from photographic film to paper currency, to cellulose products used in foods like ice cream, maple syrup and chewing gum.

Even the protective hulls surrounding the kernels are used as roughage in the diet of cattle and as a high quality, organic mulch for gardening.

FACTS:

- Cottonseed represents about 17% of the US cotton industry
- Average US cottonseed production is about 7.4 million tons with a market value of over \$885 million
- The cotton plant produces twice as much seed as it does fiber
- The seed from one bale of cotton produces enough oil to cook nearly 6,000 snack sized bags of potato chips
- Cottonseed oil is one of the few oils considered acceptable for reducing saturated fat intake and it is the standard to which other oils are compared
- Cotton is grown over most of the southern half of the United States, and like all other United States food crops, growing cotton is strictly regulated by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration), the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and other regulatory agencies.
- As the third leading producer of cotton (behind China and India), the United States accounts for nearly 15% of global cottonseed production.

Data source: Based on USDA - Based on 2005-07 average

