

## SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# SELLING COTTON BY-PRODUCTS AS ANIMAL FEED QUICK GUIDE



### How to Register

- A copy of the feed registration application is located at [agriculture.sc.gov/feed-safety-compliance](https://agriculture.sc.gov/feed-safety-compliance)
- Products can also be registered electronically online by contacting [feedregistration@scda.sc.gov](mailto:feedregistration@scda.sc.gov)
- Total cost is \$20 per product and is due annually on January 1<sup>st</sup>.  
(*\$15 registration fee and \$5 technology processing cost*)

For registration information, contact:

**Bernadette Mundo**

*Feed Registration Specialist*

[feedregistration@scda.sc.gov](mailto:feedregistration@scda.sc.gov)

803-737-9713

### Additional Resources

[ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00003767/00001](https://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00003767/00001)

[cotton.tamu.edu/General%20Production/Georgia%20Cotton%20Byproducts%20for%20Beef%20Cattle%20B%201311\\_2.pdf](https://cotton.tamu.edu/General%20Production/Georgia%20Cotton%20Byproducts%20for%20Beef%20Cattle%20B%201311_2.pdf)

For more information, please visit:

[agriculture.sc.gov/feed-safety-compliance](https://agriculture.sc.gov/feed-safety-compliance)

## BACKGROUND

Cotton production and processing are important to the economy in the southeastern United States. About 4.5 million acres of cotton are grown yearly in the southeast with an average yield of 1.5 bales per acre. Along with cotton production, the ginning of spindle-harvested cotton will typically result in 75 to 200 lbs of foreign material per 480 lb bale. This foreign material “cotton plant by-product,”

more commonly referred to as “cotton gin trash” or just “gin trash” is composed of fragments of burs and stems, immature cottonseed, lint, leaf fragments, and dirt.

Despite the name, gin trash is more than mere trash as it has nutritional value and may be used as a roughage feed for beef cattle.

## REQUIREMENTS TO SELL COMMERCIAL FEED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The term “Commercial Feed” in South Carolina is generally defined in the South Carolina Commercial Feed Act as, “all materials distributed for use as feed or for mixing in feed.” This definition has several exceptions, two worth mentioning that are directly related to cotton are the exception for unmixed whole seeds and cottonseed hulls. These commodities, when not mixed with other materials and when not in such damaged condition as to be unfit for feed purposes are not considered commercial feed in South Carolina.

However, **Cotton Plant By-Product or “Gin Trash” IS considered a commercial feed in South Carolina.**

All Commercial feeds that are offered for sale in South Carolina are required to be registered with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture annually. These products are required to have a label stating the name of the product, the purpose statement, a guaranteed analysis, ingredient statement, and the name and address of the manufacturer or distributor. Two label examples are included on page 2.

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## LABEL REQUIREMENTS

### XYZ COTTON COMPANY

#### Cotton Plant By-Product Single Feed Ingredient

##### Guaranteed Analysis:

Crude Protein (min.)	11.7%
Crude Fat (min.)	0%
Crude Fiber (max.)	38%
Ash (max.)	15%

##### INGREDIENT:

Cotton plant by-product.

XYZ Cotton Company  
123 Main Street  
Anytown, SC 29999

## SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Many pesticides used in the production of cotton could have the potential to cause residues that would cause it to be considered adulterated as a commercial feed. Be mindful of harvest time and the half life of any pesticides used if you intend to sell gin trash as a commercial feed. We recommend sampling and testing any gin trash being offered as a feed stuff for pesticide residue prior to selling as a feedstuff.

Additionally, depending on the growing conditions during the year cottonseed could have high levels of aflatoxin, a carcinogenic mycotoxin. Since some cottonseed may end up in the gin trash it would also be recommended to test for aflatoxin before offering this product as a feedstuff.

## INSPECTIONS AND SAMPLING

SCDA routinely conducts inspections at all facilities in the state that manufacture, process, pack, or hold commercial feed to ensure that these facilities hold this material under conditions that protect

against potential contamination. The department also routinely collects samples for analysis to ensure they meet the nutritional guarantees that are listed on the label.

### XYZ COTTON COMPANY

#### Cotton Plant By-Product with Sand/Dirt Single Feed Ingredient

##### Guaranteed Analysis:

Crude Protein (min.)	11.7%
Crude Fat (min.)	0%
Crude Fiber (max.)	38%
Ash (max.)	16%

##### INGREDIENT:

Cotton gin by-product.

XYZ Cotton Company  
123 Main Street  
Anytown, SC 29999

**Note:** If the ingredient contains more than 15% Ash, the words “sand and/or dirt” must appear in the product name.



South Carolina  
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