

# Large cotton supplies, weather will weigh heavily in 2013

By Blair Fannin  
 Extension Service  
 COLLEGE STATION – Record-high carryover stocks of cotton and future weather patterns are just a few factors affecting cotton prices heading into 2013, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist.

"We will see a cutback in Texas cotton acreage as farmers take advantage of strong corn, wheat and sorghum prices," said Dr. John Robinson, AgriLife Extension cotton economist in College Station.

Robinson said cotton prices are still adjusting to historic prices in 2010-2011 when \$2-plus per

pound cotton prices led to higher world production and reduced consumption. That set of circumstances led to record-high carryover stocks of cotton worldwide and weaker prices.

Texas cotton farmers will likely switch some acreage to grain crops to take advantage of high prices in 2013, according to Dr. John Robinson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service cotton economist in College Station. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Blair Fannin)

Robinson said China accounts for about half of the world's carryover stocks, and most of those are held off the shelf in government reserve, he said.

"The combination of these bearish fundamentals

and policy uncertainty sets the stage for what we may see in 2013," he said. "We can certainly expect significant reductions in cotton acreage, starting with Australia, Brazil and Argentina last month."

With the strength in 2013 corn, soybean and wheat future prices, Robinson said there will likely be major shifts to grains and oilseeds in the Mid-south and Southeast. He projects if U.S. cotton planted dips to 8.9 million acres, "We could still see 14 million bales of production."

"I would project a likely range of December 2013 prices at 65 to 85 cents per pound," he said. "The upshot is that the insurance base price established in early 2013 will likely be in the 70

cent range – far, far lower than in the previous two years."

The continuation of the sovereign debt issues in Europe or fiscal cliff fears in the U.S. "will only reinforce negative to slow economic growth in 2013," he said.

"That suggests little room for a demand-driven rally in cotton prices," Robinson said. "In addition, if some major cotton-producing country has a production disaster, the market shock could easily be squelched by China simply releasing some of their government reserve stocks. In short, weak demand and policy distortion will likely keep the upside capped and the downside open."



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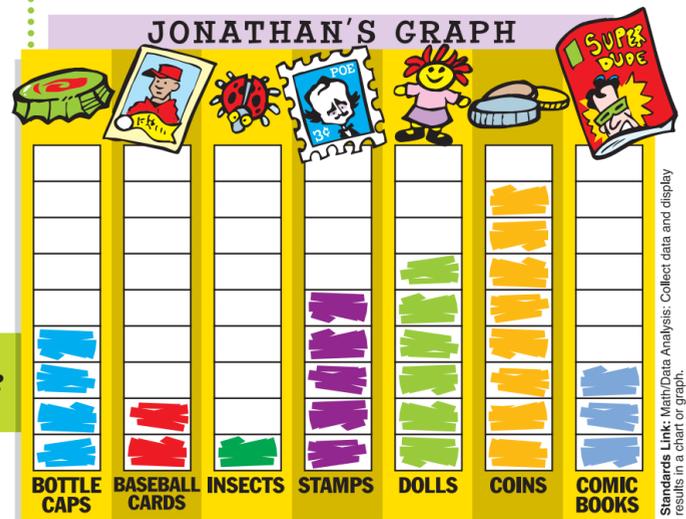
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### January is Hobby Month!

**Collect Hobbies**  
 Lots of people collect things for hobbies. Some of the things people collect are stamps, coins, feathers, bottle caps, toys, hats, and more.

Ask your class about their hobbies. Graph the results!

Jonathan asked everyone in his class about their hobbies and graphed his findings. Look at the graph and answer the questions below. The letters that go in the circled spaces answer the Mystery Question.



- MYSTERY QUESTION:**  
 What does a numismatist collect?
1. What is collected by one less person than the number of people that collect stamps?  
 2. What is collected by three students in Jonathan's class?  
 3. What is collected by only one person?  
 4. What is the second-most popular item collected by Jonathan's class?
- Standards Link: Math/Data Analysis: Interpret information displayed in graphs and charts.

**Baffling Boxcars**  
 Help Uncle Fred complete his model train collection. The boxcar that is different from the rest is the one he needs. Look very carefully!

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

**Extra! Extra! Scavenger Hunt**  
 Look through the newspaper and find and circle:  
 • 3 words that start with H  
 • a kind of transportation  
 • two words that mean the opposite  
 • 5 five-digit numbers

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify words with same beginning sound; use antonyms; Math: Identify numbers to 10,000; Investigation: Sort objects by common attributes.

**Collector Investors**  
 Some people collect things just for fun. Some people collect things for investments. They hope that one day, what they have will be worth more than what they paid for it. Use the code to discover some items that have really grown in value.

CODE  
 ☆ = 0    ✦ = 2    ▼ = 6  
 ★ = 1    ✧ = 3    ● = 7  
 ✪ = 4    ✨ = 5    ✪ = 8  
 ✪ = 9

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

In February 2000, a 1910 "Honus" Wagner T-206 baseball card sold for \$4.5 million.

In 1999, the rare 1943 copper penny sold for \$1.5 million.

A British Guiana stamp that sold for \$1.5 million in 1980.

A 1959 Barbie® doll in mint condition has sold for up to \$1.5 million while the original value was \$0.5!

**Sticker Patterns**  
 Kala collects colorful stickers. Circle the sticker that comes next in each row of patterns.

Standards Link: Math: Extend simple patterns.

**Double Double Word Search**  
 Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

JANUARY  
 HOBBY  
 STICKERS  
 STORY  
 PENNY  
 COLLECTION  
 CREATE  
 TRAIN  
 COMIC  
 STAMPS  
 DOLLS  
 TOYS  
 CAPS  
 CARD  
 VALUE

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**Kid Scoop FIT&FUN**  
 Action Fitness

**Roll!**  
 Skateboarding is really good exercise. Practice a few new tricks or skate over to a friend's house (but don't forget to wear a helmet!).

**Dance!**  
 Play your favorite songs and move to the music.

**Dribble!**  
 Dribbling up and down the basketball court is a way to really get a workout. Play a game of one-on-one.

**Wiggle!**  
 Use a hoop and see how long you can keep it going.

Standards Links: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

**Kid Scoop-doku**  
 Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word COINS in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

C	O				
O					
I	O				
N		O			
S				O	

**BEYOND Kid Scoop**  
**Chopped Talk**  
 Find an interesting story in the newspaper and read it through to understand the sequence and details of the story. Now rewrite the story using SUBJECT-VERB sentences only.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Sequence events in a narrative; write sentences with subjects and predicates.

**Why couldn't the pirate play cards?**

ANSWER: Because he was sitting on the deck.

**Write On!**  
**Winter Poem**  
 Write a poem about winter that is no more than five lines long.