

## Can You Afford to Use that Old Cover?<sup>1</sup>

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Research activities at Texas A&M University have indicated that module shape and cover quality affect lint grades far greater than expected. Half of all modules today can be expected to pond water on the top of the cover, allowing water a longer time to soak through. Use of an older cover increases the likelihood of water damaging seed cotton. Lint value alone is decreased by a minimum of \$440 per module when using a poor cover.

Observations of module shape and cover made at six Texas gins during Fall 2003.

Gin Region	Total Modules Observed	% Ponded	Cover Range of Age (yrs)	Rain Event
Corpus Christi	297	47	0-1, 3-5, 8, 10	5 days prior
Gulf Coast	66	47	1	Same day
Gulf Coast	57	44	3, 5, 8	Same day
Brazos Valley	91	65	4, 7-9, 11	1 day prior
Brazos Valley	93	47	1-3, 7, 9-13	5 days prior
El Paso*	42	57*	2-13	No rain
All	646	50	0-13	

\* For EP1 gin, % Ponded was a combination of actual water ponded and depressed areas likely to hold water.

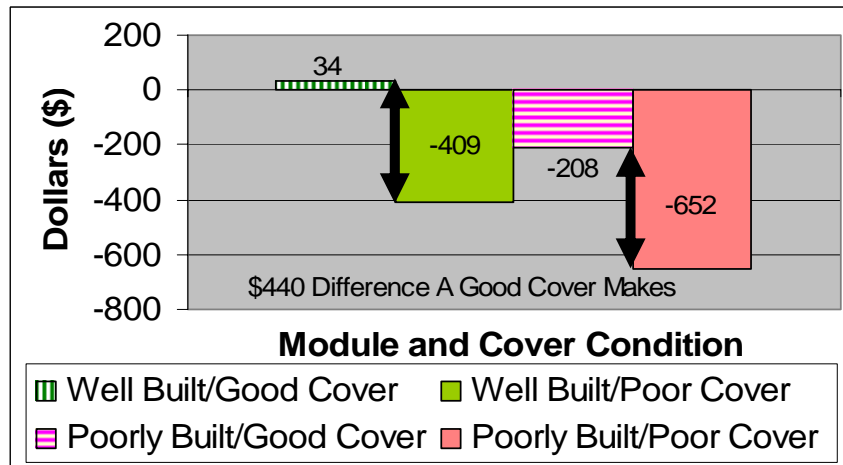


Figure 1: Water Soaks Through a Cover



Figure 2: Water Sheds Off of Cover

### Average Lint Value Compared to Cotton that Was Harvested Before Rainfall in Fall 2004



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