The USDA-ARS ginning laboratory at Stoneville, Mississippi developed louvers for saw-type lint cleaners to match cleaning and drying needs to meet industry quality and marketing demands. A recent study evaluated the Continental Eagle 24D version of the ARS-developed louvers for saw-type lint cleaners in a commercial gin plant to determine the subsequent impact on fiber quality at the gin and mill levels. The study was conducted on sixteen bales without regard to whether the cotton was sufficiently clean after the gin stand to warrant a reduced number of grid bars. Treatments were set to use only two and eight (all) grid bars in this study.

The test cotton contained about 10% foreign matter before gin processing and was Low Middling color after processing. Mote weight at the gin averaged 6.0 and 11.5 pounds per bale for the two and eight grid bar treatments respectively, for a savings 5.5 pounds per bale. The only HVI fiber quality parameter difference was percent trash, which was significantly higher for the 2-grid bar treatment. Spinning performance did not differ except for the impact of different trash levels in the bale. Thus the number of grid bars used at the gin should be selected based on the trash level in the ginned lint in order to assure optimum mill performance.

The louvered lint cleaner technology has been licensed by Continental Eagle, Corp in 2001. For additional information on louvered lint cleaner technology, contact the lead scientist Mr. Stanley Anthony at WStanleyA@msa-stoneville.ars.usda.gov.