



New Lubbock Cotton Classification Complex (CCC) Nears Completion



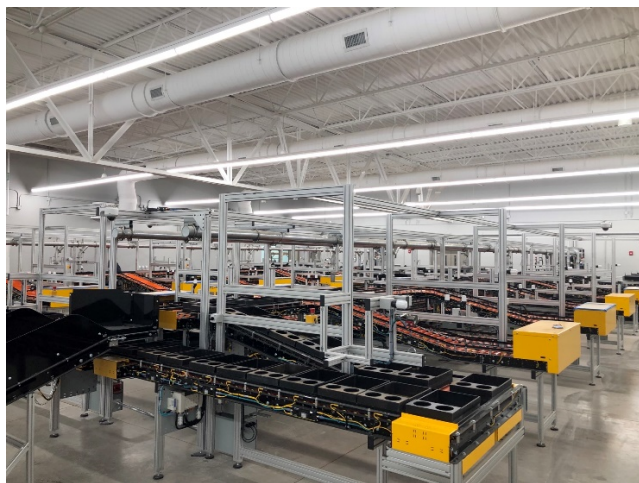
[**Click photo to view a short video of the front elevation of the new Lubbock Cotton Classification Complex!**](#)

The new Lubbock Cotton Classification Complex (CCC), under construction in Lubbock, TX, is very close to being complete and ready for implementation. The 30,000-square-foot facility, which began construction in May 2020, will replace the Cotton and Tobacco Program's (C&T) current facility located on Iron

Avenue. The existing facility has been in operation since 1987. The new Lubbock Cotton Classification Complex (CCC) started as a concept several years ago when it became clear that the current facility had reached its capacity and was not conducive to a major renovation. During the design phase of the project, C&T reached out to Texas Tech University with the vision of possibly constructing the facility on campus property and incorporating some research, education, and outreach features not found in other locations. This unique concept led to a cooperative agreement with Texas Tech University to locate the facility on campus property but still be owned by C&T. The Lubbock facility will be the third facility fully owned by C&T but the first to be located on a university campus.

The facility endured several challenges during its construction, the most prominent of which was the pandemic. The pandemic caused delays and disruptions in many supply chains causing the timeline for the construction to spread out longer than the original 14-month plan. Materials, equipment components, and specific items unique to the facility were often delayed at one stage or another. On a positive note, the construction crews were able to navigate through the pandemic with minimal effects from COVID-19 illness and have constructed a very impressive facility.





The new Lubbock CCC will feature the latest technology in automated cotton sample movement and conditioning along with fiber testing equipment (High Volume Instruments). The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system that ensures the strict laboratory atmospheric conditions needed for cotton testing will be the most energy efficient designed to date. There are several features in the HVAC system that will allow C&T to take advantage of residual heating and cooling from equipment and the ambient

conditions outside the facility. The construction of the walls surrounding the conditioned lab spaces are extensively insulated with a design like that of an insulated cooler. All interior office heating and air conditioning units are high efficiency to conserve utility consumption. The lighting, glass, and materials used in many of the facility's components are designed with conservation and efficiency in mind.

The facility will not only class the region's cotton but hopefully help to develop new methods and technologies and educate future leaders. It will be a learning facility as well as an operational facility. We hope to open the facility to stakeholders and the public by early June 2022 and fully implement its operations in the 2022 classing season.

