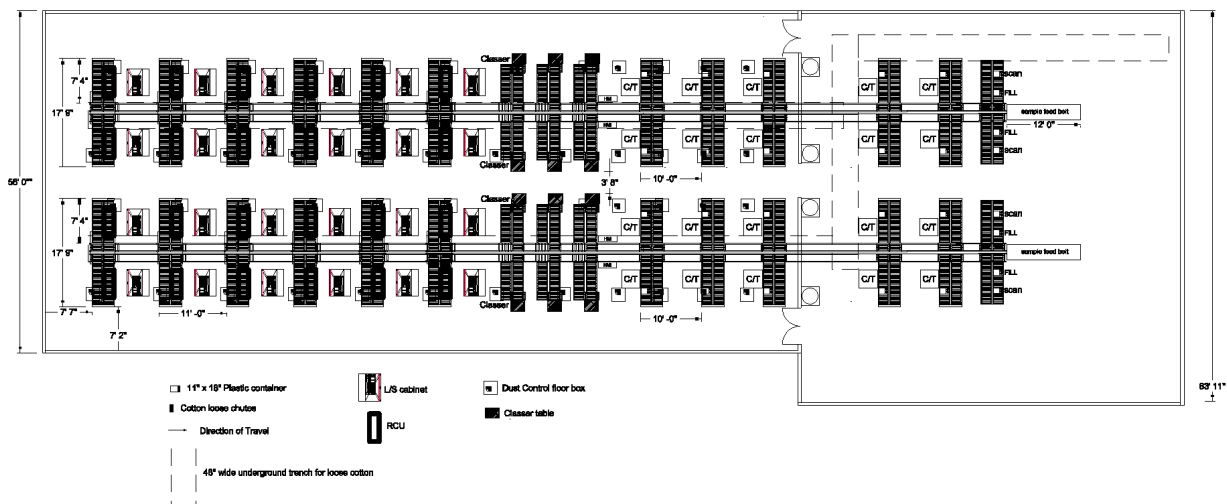




Feature Story: USDA AMS Cotton and Tobacco Program Receives \$4M Congressional Appropriation in FY 2023

Macon automation, 24 HVI L/S, 20 C/T, 4 fill



C&T received a \$4 million appropriation from Congress in the fiscal year 2023 budget. The support is intended for use in purchasing automated Conveyance Conditioning Systems (CCS) and updating cotton classing facilities.

C&T used the funding to further implement long-term plans for a CCS in every cotton classing facility, purchasing one for installation in the Macon, Georgia facility. Macon is one of C&T's largest cotton classing facilities, classing 3 to 4 million bales each season. The CCS will reduce the number of high-volume cotton testing instruments by one-third and increase productivity and efficiency. With the new CCS expected to be available for the 2024 crop, the Macon office will be able to test and class upwards of 60,000 samples per day.

With the implementation of CCS in Macon in 2024, six of nine operating C&T facilities will have been automated with a CCS.

About Automated Conveyance Conditioning Systems

Automation allows the program to efficiently utilize each part of the high-volume instruments close to their peak cycle time. The color and trash measurement can operate at 12 seconds while the measurements for micronaire, length, strength, and uniformity require a 24 second cycle time. The de-coupled CCS operation allows for labor efficiencies required to run all the instruments. New employees can be trained and up to speed typically in one day with a CCS, versus a week or two with a non-automated operation.

