

Yearly Routine for Cotton Farming in Hill County - **KEY**

(before conversion to large mechanized farming)

Beside each item describing the cotton industry in Hill County, place an **X** in the column under the time period(s) when that descriptor applies. (Some items apply to more than one time period.)

	February	March	Early Summer	Early August	Late August	Fall
1. Some farmers relied on almanacs for advice on when to plant; others watched for the mesquite trees to leaf out, when the soil temperatures became warm enough to plant the cotton seeds.		X				
2. Rest time, waiting for the cotton plants to mature and be harvested. Churches traditionally planned revivals then since the farmers were free to come to church.				X		
3. Cotton picking time.					X	
4. Burn the old cotton stalks to try and reduce boll weevil infestations.	X					
5. Local merchants sent out their bills now, when the farmers could pay with the income from their crops.						X
6. Prepare fields for planting, shredding the old stalks with a wheeled "stalk cutter" and plowing into the soil with teams of horses or mules.	X					
7. Transporting the harvested cotton to gins to be cleaned, dried and de-seeded.					X	
8. Planting the crop.		X				
9. Seeds are saved for next year's planting.					X	
10. "Chopping" the cotton by thinning the plants so that they are spaced about eighteen inches apart in each row and removing the weeds with their hoes.			X			