**The Medical Scrubs Project: *A Field to Closet Initiative***

**Snapshot: What This Initiative is About**

Georgia-grown cotton from Deltapine® seed is part of an initiative to re-shore American manufacturing by revitalizing an end-to-end US supply chain. The foundation of the medical scrubs’ initiative is rooted in agriculture and ensures the cotton grower is included in the process with the Farmer GiveBack program. The program addresses a fundamental issue in the garment industry which typically sees the brand or end seller with the most significant profit. Field to Closet, the company spearheading this initiative and the Farmer GiveBack program, recognizes the rebirth of a robust cotton garment industry simply isn’t possible without the grower - and therefore includes the grower financially, by sharing a premium on the cost of goods.

For the kick-off project, 100 percent cotton medical scrubs are being crafted with Georgia cotton grown from Deltapine® seed; the yarn from that cotton is being made by Parkdale Mills in Rabun Gap, Georgia, and the fabric is made by Hornwood in North Carolina. To provide a complete US supply chain, the garments are being cut and sewn by America Knits in Swainsboro, Georgia. To highlight this initiative, 15 rural Georgia hospitals will receive a supply of medical scrubs treated with PROTX2® AV for employees, courtesy of Field to Closet, Helena Agri-Enterprises®, and Nutrien Ag Solutions®.

**Highlights: Why This Initiative is Important**

*Key Messages*

* The benefits and importance of increasing domestic use of US grown cotton.
* The importance of an end-to-end US supply chain.
* The grower shares in the financial benefit via the initiative’s Farmer Giveback program.
* Initiative delivers inspiration for others to see reshoring American manufacturing with a complete US supply chain is possible and profitable.
* The benefits of using cotton over synthetics.

**Georgia Hospitals Receiving Scrubs at No Cost**

Brooks County Hospital, Burke Medical Center, Crisp Regional Medical Center,

Colquitt Regional Medical Center, East Georgia Regional Medical Center, Emanuel Medical Center, Irwin County Hospital, Jeff Davis Hospital, Jenkins County Medical, LifeBrite Community Hospital of Early, Memorial Hospital and Manor, Mitchell County Hospital, SGMC Berrien Campus, Southwell Medical, and Taylor Regional Hospital.

**Cotton: The Common Thread**

* The Deltapine cotton fabric will be treated with PROTX2® AV, an anti-microbial technology that inhibits the growth of bacteria and has been shown in lab tests to destroy viruses. This is the first time PROTX2® AV has been formulated for use on 100 percent cotton fabric medical scrubs. More information about PROTX2® AV can be found at*:*[*https://www.iftna.com/copy-of-protx2*](https://www.iftna.com/copy-of-protx2)
* Cotton is a sustainable material to wear, and cotton producers are continually improving the sustainability of cotton production. Cotton is a natural fiber, biodegradable, and recyclable. When cotton breaks down, it enriches the soil and leaves less of a carbon footprint than synthetic materials. In fact, the cotton plant is carbon-sequestering when considering the stalks, leaves, and other plant material left in the soil. Additionally, over the last 40 years in the United States, innovative technologies, new methods of production, and research have all led to significant gains of sustainability while growing cotton. According to Cotton Inc., pesticide application to cotton has decreased by 50%, and applying water by irrigation has reduced by 45%, all while increasing production without expanding the amount of land used to grow cotton. These advancements in cotton production would not be realized without our retail partners Nutrien Ag Solutions and Helena Agri-Enterprises.
  + [*https://www.cottoninc.com/about-cotton/sustainability/*](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cottoninc.com%2Fabout-cotton%2Fsustainability%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cdbridges%40abac.edu%7C5204be49189043b7969608d8a06fad20%7C56c9143594114ebda73c604ed67ee5a3%7C0%7C0%7C637435748808222857%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=doX4IYSvRabVgculLXJmdm9CVq%2FD23S34im2IBfZiTw%3D&reserved=0)
  + [*https://thefabricofourlives.com/the-benefits-of-cotton/sustainability*](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fthefabricofourlives.com%2Fthe-benefits-of-cotton%2Fsustainability&data=04%7C01%7Cdbridges%40abac.edu%7C5204be49189043b7969608d8a06fad20%7C56c9143594114ebda73c604ed67ee5a3%7C0%7C0%7C637435748808232850%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=pQMjviHW3%2FKNh6yY37DOMvKsTWqKVNOZw8dgk6V2AYk%3D&reserved=0)
* The United States provides approximately 35% of global cotton exports, making it the leading cotton exporter. In 2019, cotton lint and seed represented a $7 billion value to the United States from the nearly 20 million bales produced. Cotton is primarily grown in 17 Southern states, known as the Cotton Belt, with Texas and Georgia being the top-producing states.
  + [https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/crops/cotton-wool/cotton-sector-at-a-glance/](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ers.usda.gov%2Ftopics%2Fcrops%2Fcotton-wool%2Fcotton-sector-at-a-glance%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cdbridges%40abac.edu%7C5204be49189043b7969608d8a06fad20%7C56c9143594114ebda73c604ed67ee5a3%7C0%7C0%7C637435748808232850%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=lgUyl0XDumx2VekHLY4U7GiPl7Jgs%2F7%2B5BzhhVk4Wyo%3D&reserved=0)
* According to USDA, Georgia is the second-largest cotton producer in the United States in recent years. Cotton also ranks as the third-largest commodity by value in the state. Furthermore, UGA Extension forecasted cotton’s overall impact to the state was greater than $3 billion and provided around 53,000 cotton-related jobs.
  + [*https://caed.uga.edu/content/dam/caes-subsite/caed/publications/ag-snapshots/2020AgSnapshotsFINAL.pdf*](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcaed.uga.edu%2Fcontent%2Fdam%2Fcaes-subsite%2Fcaed%2Fpublications%2Fag-snapshots%2F2020AgSnapshotsFINAL.pdf&data=04%7C01%7Cdbridges%40abac.edu%7C5204be49189043b7969608d8a06fad20%7C56c9143594114ebda73c604ed67ee5a3%7C0%7C0%7C637435748808242847%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=aGkVjVXEjK5ema5h4LnyOyEk7badnZMUaTdr8rMcEzA%3D&reserved=0)
  + [*https://extension.uga.edu/topic-areas/field-crop-forage-turfgrass-production/cotton.html*](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fextension.uga.edu%2Ftopic-areas%2Ffield-crop-forage-turfgrass-production%2Fcotton.html&data=04%7C01%7Cdbridges%40abac.edu%7C5204be49189043b7969608d8a06fad20%7C56c9143594114ebda73c604ed67ee5a3%7C0%7C0%7C637435748808252842%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nvC54LebsSfv0Hxeqnpox%2BEd0eR6vUVg%2BhpiihIM85g%3D&reserved=0)
* Deltapine’s commitment to cottonseed breeding advancements through Deltapine Select varieties has enabled US farmers to produce high-yielding, higher quality lint and better adapt to environmental conditions.  While the quality of the 2020 crop was impacted by extremely wet conditions in the fall, Deltapine Select seed technology allowed the US  2020 crop to have some of the best spinning features on record such as record staple length and high strength.   These improvements have driven renewed global interest in procuring US cotton over other production regions.

**Partner Information**

Initiative Partners include Deltapine® seed , Field to Closet, Georgia’s Rural Center, , Helena Agri-Enterprises®, HomeTown Health, and Nutrien Ag Solutions®.

* Learn More: [Deltapine® seed](https://www.dekalbasgrowdeltapine.com/en-us/deltapine.html)
* Learn More: [Georgia’s Rural Center](https://www.ruralga.org/)
* **HomeTown Health, LLC** is a network of rural hospitals, healthcare providers, and best practice business partners who collectively pursue ways to help its membership survive in the environment of constant change in reimbursement, operations and technology**.**HomeTown Health is committed to providing legislative representation, best practice solutions, and continuing education and training through research and the continuous improvement of processes for healthcare providers.
* **Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC**, headquartered in Collierville, TN, is one of the foremost agronomic solutions providers in the U.S. Helena markets and sells inputs that improve agricultural productivity for greater customer returns. This includes seed and seed treatments, fertilizer and application services, crop protectants, financial services, and precision ag services. Helena also has its own line of products through Helena Products Group, which includes adjuvants, crop protection products, fertilizers, crop production products, and seed treatments. Helena’s theme of People…Products…Knowledge… reinforces the company’s commitment to helping customers succeed through knowledgeable and dedicated people, useful and unique products, and the latest proven technologies.
  + *Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC is a complete agronomic solutions provider with more than 60 years of experience serving production agriculture and specialty markets. As a longtime steward of agriculture, Helena embraces technology to increase efficiency, improve productivity, extend valuable resources, and modernize farming. Helena is one of the only retailers and distributors with expertise in formulation, research and development, precision technology, professional application, and manufacturing. With innovative products and services supported by knowledgeable and dedicated people, Helena is committed to helping its customers grow. Helena is headquartered outside of Memphis in Collierville, Tennessee, and does business nationwide with a growing international presence.*
* **Nutrien Ag Solutions®** is the retail division of Nutrien, Ltd. It combines global innovation with local expertise to provide full-acre solutions through a network of trusted crop consultants at retail locations worldwide. Nutrien Ag Solutions strives to help growers achieve the highest yields with the most sustainable solutions possible, offering a wide selection of products, including our proprietary brands: Dyna-Gro® Seed, Loveland Products, Inc.® and Proven® Seed. Learn more at NutrienAgSolutions.com
  + *Nutrien Ag Solutions is the world’s leading ag retailer. Its products, programs and services enable U.S. cotton growers to produce and track a certified sustainable cotton crop, which aligns with current US cotton sustainability standards. Their product portfolio of cotton seed, crop inputs and protection products provide growers with the ingredients needed for a successful crop, while combined with services such as agronomic consulting, ginning and marketing. Nutrien Ag Solutions’ unique ginning and commodity marketing services enable the ag retailer to track the crop from end-to-end, supporting growers with certifying a sustainable cotton crop and then marketing the product to value-add purchasers. The combination of these products and services create the ability to locally source, produce and process U.S. cotton. The company also provides access to proprietary digital tools to all North America grower customers, including Agrible, which measures sustainability efforts and then connects growers to leading apparel and manufacturing companies, providing support for growers to drive sustainable agriculture and boost profitability.*