



Harrison Ashley

Harrison Ashley is the recipient of the 2022 Mayfield Cotton Engineering award for his superior service to the cotton industry and for his leadership in cotton ginning advocacy and education.

Ashley is vice president of Ginner Services at the National Cotton Council (NCC) and is executive vice president of the National Cotton Ginners Association (NCGA). In these roles, he services and coordinates the NCGA, board of directors, and annual membership meeting. He develops and oversees budgets for the NCC Ginners Services department, NCGA, and the Peary Wilemon-NCGA Scholarship Foundation. He is a liaison between the NCC, NCGA, and other ginner associations, he coordinates the US cotton industry response to the federal legislative and regulatory initiatives affecting the ginning sector. Ashley has used his unique ability to identify and prioritize research topics and technology transfer that have resulted in significant improvements to the cotton industry overall.

Ashley has played a key role in maintaining coordination between the cotton research community, the cotton gin machinery industry, and the ginning industry. Ashley has driven research in several cotton harvest and processing areas, among them combustible dust, bale contamination, air pollution, and work safety. He also played a key role in maintaining funding for the three USDA-Agricultural Research Service ginning laboratories as well as for robust ginning-related research. Harrison also has been the national lead advocate for the cotton ginning industry before the federal government.

Throughout his career, Ashley has strongly supported improvements to the cotton industry and encouraged education of both new and experienced ginners. He supports the three Ginner Schools, which boasts a three-year curriculum with a continuing education component that is taught in three locations across the US Cotton Belt. This is a key part of the Certified Ginner Program, which provides the industry plant personnel with educational certification.

A 16-year member of ASABE, Ashley was a long-standing member of the Machinery Systems Cotton Engineering committee and has been a contributor to several ASABE Standards related to the US cotton industry. Ashley also maintains membership with the American Chemical Society and the National Council of Agricultural Employers.

Ashley has authored or coauthored several peer-reviewed journal articles, many conference proceeding papers, and popular press articles. He also coauthors the tri-annual The Cost of Ginning Cotton surveys and has made hundreds of presentations to cotton industry professionals and researchers.

