

## Central San Joaquin Valley cotton harvest nears completion



Harvested cotton in rolls seen across from the corner of Elkhorn and Lassen Avenues on Thursday, October 30, 2014 north of Five Points, Calif. ERIC PAUL ZAMORA — THE FRESNO BEE | [Buy Photo](#)

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The central San Joaquin Valley cotton harvest is about 80% complete, industry officials said this week.

The Valley grows several varieties, including the long-fiber pima cotton that is harvested later in the season.



According to Calcot, the 87-year-old company that is the nation's oldest cotton cooperative, the state's annual production varies depending on market and weather variables, but generally checks in at around 2 million bales.



According to federal figures, there are nearly 2,000 cotton farms in California, with an average size of 500 acres.

Calcot says California is frequently the second highest-producing state in the U.S., behind Texas thanks to high yields; 1,200 to 1,300 pounds per acre is not uncommon, compared to the average U.S. yield of 615 pounds.

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