Louisiana cotton farmers just completed a record cotton season, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. D.A. It was a fast, short season and resulted in a high quality crop. Many farmers also had record yields.

On Aug. 1, Louisiana farmers had 515,000 acres for harvest. The harvest started in August and continued at high speed through October. Near perfect weather enabled cotton farmers to keep every picker available, man and machine, in the fields.

Ginners, warehousemen, and others worked around-the-clock to complete the job. By the first of December, 671,650 bales, 98 percent of the estimated crop, were in the warehouses.

Almost 40 percent graded was Middling and better. Three-fourths had staple lengths of 1-1/2-1-1/2 inches and longer. Excellent weather and improved harvesting methods gave the farmers an advantage.

Higher grades were reflected in higher prices paid farmers for cottonseed. Farmers received $48 to $58 per ton, $4 to $8 higher than 1962 prices.

Louisiana farmers made greater use of the cotton classing and market news services this year. About 93 percent of the cotton was classed under the Smith-Doxey Program, and the value was determined before each bale was offered for sale.