

## Ginning the Cotton – The Organic Cotton Gin Cooperative Cleaning the cotton fiber after harvest

For the past 4 years, our partners at Jubilee House Community (profiled later) have spent thousands of hours of work to pursue the goal of a 100% worker-owned supply chain for our products. The first step was to develop a cooperative cotton gin: to take the harvested seed cotton and turn it into clean, spinnable fiber. This worker-owned cotton gin is up and running, and ginned all of the fiber used in our new apparel line.

The cooperative is now awaiting the delivery of the spinning equipment to start full-time ginning production (and are working on a new name for their venture). Raul and the other mechanics took a much-used, beltless old gin and with neither an instruction manual nor a guide, transformed it into a respectable, well-oiled machine. Our first run came out very well. Loss in the spinning process of cotton is over 60%, which the gin is selling to farmers to use as animal feed. As this gin waste is where most of pesticides from conventional cotton end up, it's great to know the Nicaraguan cows are eating organic!



Jorge Ramirez (SCS Inspector)  
with Mike Woodard (of Jubilee House)



Ginning in progress



Cotton Gin Certification (click to enlarge)

**NEXT: Spinning the Cotton – [Genesis Cooperative](#)**