



Textile Clothes Line

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Just a Note:

This newsletter will be sent quarterly. It is intended as an ongoing update and resource for Extension agents and others interested in consumer textile and clothing issues.

The material can be adapted or used "as is" in newsletters, radio, talks, etc. The intent is to bring recent research to your attention that is relevant and useful to Extension clientele.

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Topics on Clothing and Textile Industry

1998 Garment Analysis Statistics

Annual analyses are conducted by the International Fabricare Institute on 'who's responsible for damaged garments' analyzed in IFI's labs. Of the 20,000 garments analyzed in 1998, results indicate that 39% of garment damage is the fault of apparel manufacturers, 37% are consumers' fault, while drycleaner/lauderer account for 12% of damage. Manufacturer fault is caused by a wide variety of manufacturing process causes. The IFI reports these results to the Federal Trade Commission to help identify manufacturers with continual product problems. The most common consumer-caused problems were stains, fabric damage, and color loss. Many customers drop off items that appear to be in good condition and are very frustrated by stains or tears that appear out of the blue after cleaning. The consumer forgets about the hairspray used just before going out the door, or the splatter of cleaning solution on the cuff of a shirt. After cleaning, these problems show up as dark splatters on the shoulder or collar of a blouse or a thin area on a laundered shirt. Consumers can write IFI or obtain brochures at the drycleaner/lauderer counter to obtain information on preventing damage to

garments. IFI's address is 12251 Tech Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904 or 301-622-1900 or check out the IFI web site at <<http://www.ifi.org>>.

Who regulates sun-protective clothing...

As awareness of the effects of the sun's harmful UV rays increases, more companies are making claims of protection. Any clothing that is labeled or promoted as providing protection against the sun or limiting exposure to the sun's UVA or UVB rays is considered to be a medical device and is regulated by the FDA. Many garments protect against UV rays. Manufacturers who wish to make a sun protective garment or fabric must receive FDA clearance to label it as such. To date, one manufacturer, Solumbra, has received FDA clearance to market clothing with sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 for its products. SPF denotes the amount of time a person can be exposed to the sun before getting burned. For example, an SPF of 30 means a person can stay in the sun 30 times longer than without a sunscreen, and still get the same amount of exposure.

Any other firms that wish to put similar claims on their products will

also need FDA clearance. FDA's decision to clear Solumbra clothing for marketing was based on a review of laboratory studies on its effectiveness conducted by the firm. The studies showed that because of the specific design of the fabric and tightness of the weave, the products provide the claimed protection. FDA is aware that other manufacturers have been marketing clothing claiming sun protective qualities.

Source: FDA <<http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/devadvice/21a.html#top>>

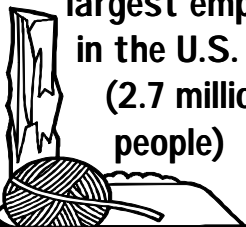
What is the sewn-products industry?

The sewn products industry is composed of manufacturers of upholstered furniture, sporting goods, luggage/leather goods, automotive and industrial products. At the 1999 Bobbin show, the leading industrial trade show for the textile and apparel industry, 22% of the over 29,000 attendees were in non-apparel sewn product manufacturing.

NAFTA facts:

Mexico's export of textile and apparel products to the U.S. is up 206%...Canada is one of the leaders of sewn product exports to the U.S. with over 1200 sewn product industries.

**Fact: The fiber/
textile/carpet/
apparel industrial
complex is the
largest employer
in the U.S.
(2.7 million
people)**



Clothing and Textiles is more than sewing, it's...

Restoring and recreating historical clothing!

The International Textile Center in Lubbock, now a part of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, has been working on a project with a California costuming company to recreate fabric for military coats dating from the late 1870s. The garments, which will be used in an upcoming film, are based on an original post-civil war jacket on loan to the costuming company from the Smithsonian institute. Historical accuracy is a concern in this project.

Creating new products!

Mohair Council of America, Executive director Zane Willard, explained at a District 7 Clothing and Textiles update training that the Council has contracted with the carpet manufacturer, Atelier, to develop and sell American mohair carpeting to decorator supply houses, architects and designers. Atelier introduced the Pastoral Collection – the world's first group of tufted mohair carpets – at the recent Surfaces trade show. The Pastoral Collection consists of four styles: Uvalde, Rocksprings, Kerrville and San Angelo – each named after towns in the Hill country of Texas where the Angora goats roam. The carpet will retail for \$60-\$70 per square yard. The carpet is comparable to wool carpets in quality, design, uniqueness, and price. The carpet, fashioned in a selection of six to eight natural shades, including ivory, gold, and sage, is created from a blend of 75 percent mohair and 25 percent wool. Each style will carry the Mohair Council of America label and is available in custom colors.

Source: Natural News Online Newsletter <<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/bbr/natfiber/natnews/>>

Creating new uses!

A new toilet tissue product, called Purely Cotton, has been developed. It has a suggested retail of \$2.79 for a four-roll pack. Cotton fiber must constantly compete with man-made fibers, thus the new product. Developers are dealing with the competition by stating: "They, [Charmin producers] make toilet paper, but we make cotton fiber tissue. Which would you prefer next to your skin?" The top five cotton markets in 1997, in order of usage, were men's and boy's trousers (including jeans) and shorts; drapery, upholstery, and slip cover fabrics; women's slacks, dungarees, and jeans; and towels and wash cloths. About 5.5 million bales were used in those markets. Of that total, 1.1 million bales went to drapery, upholstery, and slip cover fabrics, a category that has seen significant growth. In the past 10 years, cotton usage in the overall home furnishings market segment has risen by a whopping 43 percent.

Source: Natural News Online Newsletter <<http://www.utexas.edu/depts/bbr/natfiber/natnews/>>

The next time you take a picture -- say cotton instead of cheese! Did you know that cotton is 96% cellulose and the film contains tiny cotton cellulose lint on it.

Did you know that 7 out of 10 consumers readily recognize the Seal of Cotton?

Fibers and Fabrics

“I had a call like that...”

Questions from counties

Question:

Why and how do ‘holes’ appear in clothing?

Answer: In general, holes can appear in clothing as a result of biological or chemical attack on the fibers, burning, cutting, tearing, snagging, or abrasion from normal wear and care.

Biologicals include beetles, silverfish, and mildew. Moths and beetles can cause holes in wool or silk clothing, but generally do not attack other fibers unless they are stored with food stains – then they eagerly consume the food and fiber as well. Silverfish can attack cellulose such as linen, cotton, and rayon. Mildew is the common name for a variety of fungi that can attack natural fibers and their blends when in conditions of warmth and moisture. *None of these forms of degradation can be reversed.* If mildew has not eaten through the material completely, washable items can be washed in hot water with detergent, then rinsed thoroughly, and dried. If color remains (mildew comes in various colors – black, green, rust) then an all-fabric or mild bleach may be used. Keep in mind that bleaching weakens fibers. When fibers and yarns break, a hole will soon appear.

How do chemicals cause holes?

Chemicals include both strong acids and bases (alkaline products) as well as certain solvents. Strong acids around the house are found in toilet bowl cleaners and batteries. Strong

bases such as sodium hydroxide are found in many cleaners. Acids are damaging to cellulose and protein fibers. (In fact, acid treatment is used to create eyelet embroidery fabrics that have holes!)

Sodium hydroxide and strong chlorine bleaches also can degrade both protein (silk and wool) and cellulosic (cotton, linen, ramie, rayon) fibers. Fresh chlorine bleach will actually dissolve wool fibers.

Solvents such as the common drycleaning solvent perchloroethylene can damage vinyl, olefins, and polyurethanes that may be used in imitation suedes and leather films. Spandex is also damaged by drycleaning solvents.

Acetone (found in fingernail polish remover) is a solvent that can damage acetate and triacetate fibers.

Burn holes usually are limited to cigarette burns that are snuffed out quickly. In synthetic fibers, any high heat (i.e., an overheated iron) can melt a hole. In cellulose, the high heat of an iron or other source may scorch the fabric before it burns. With cigarette burns in synthetics, the edges of the burn will appear sealed and smooth, whereas with other fibers the edges will be more ragged and ashes will be in evidence. If most apparel fabrics really catch fire, and if not extinguished promptly, the garment will burn completely.

What about holes caused by cutting, tearing or snagging?

Holes caused by **cutting, tearing, or snagging** occur when clothing gets caught on some unmovable sharp object while the wearer has determined to go a different direction. Knits tend to snag. A break of a single yarn will start a “run” in a stocking or a larger hole in other knits. Knits and woven fabrics can be “mended” or “patched” but few people are skilled

enough to fill a hole in a knit to be invisible and patches always show. Torn or snagged holes on some clothes can be patched with iron-on tape sealed to the backside that is obtained at notions counters. With kids clothes, the patches can be cut to decorative shapes and ironed on the right side – and some kids may wear the clothes again, but no guarantees are offered on this one.

Abrasion holes usually have frayed edges and areas where the fibers and yarns are not completely worn through. Kids jeans suffer an ailment known as “knee burst” because kids tend to jump and/or fall on their knees on rough surfaces – an abrasive behavior that is tough on jeans.

Abrasion is loosely defined as rubbing the surface of a fabric. In normal wear and in washing and drying, fibers in fabrics wear against other surfaces and against each other. In so doing, they literally rub each other out.

Abrasion holes are very common with fabrics and garments that have been “softened” by enzymes during manufacture or stone-washed for softness. The softening treatments attack the fibers and make them more vulnerable to the usual abrasion of washing and tumble drying.

The first evidence of abrasive wear is often a fuzz-ball or pill on the surface of a fabric. Modern detergents have enzymes added to eat away the pill and leave the surface of fabrics smooth. So, laundering and care is a source of abrasion that can lead to the first thread break that begins to form a hole.

Source: Iowa State University Extension, FAQs, Dr. Jan Stone

What can you make with a bale of cotton?

A bale of cotton weighs about 480 pounds. One bale of cotton can make 1,217 men's T-shirts or 313,600 \$1 bills. Here are some things that are made from a bale of cotton:

of items:

Women's:

Handkerchiefs	21,960
Dresses	274
Brassieres	6,460
Knit panties	6,436
Jeans	249
Skirts	409
Mid-calf socks	4,321
Woven blouses	773
Sweaters	379
Nightgowns	780
Woven slacks	415
Shorts	733

Men's:

Handkerchiefs	8,347
Woven dress shirts	765
Work shirts	543
Boxer shorts	2,104
Jockey shorts	2,419
Sleeveless undershirts	1,943
Dress and sport trousers	484
Work trousers	374
Work gloves	1,918
Mid-calf socks	3,557
Jeans	215

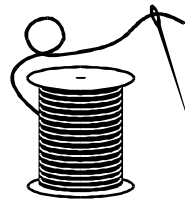
Home:

Diapers	3,085
Sheets	249
Pillow cases	1,256
Terry bath towels	690



Source: National Cotton Council
<<http://risk.cotton.org>>

It's a bird,
It's a plane,
no — it's



SUPER THREAD!!

Thread has to travel at speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour, survive temperatures of 800 degrees Fahrenheit, resist attempts to break at a rate of 180 times per second, withstand exposure to acids and alkalis, withstand the effect of millions of abrasion strokes, be subjected to twisting, bending and coiling into intricate configurations, and to sell for only a few hundredths of a cent per meter. AND this is what happens before the garment or textile product reaches you the consumer.

Source: ATMI
<<http://www.atmi.org/Publications/yourno.html>>

New Market for Cotton Nonwovens

Cotton has long been the fiber of choice for products pertaining to personal and medical care applications. Both bleached cotton and natural cotton can be used to make apparel items. For protective clothing, these fabrics can be made to provide liquid repellency, laundry durability, barrier protection and flame resistance, without sacrificing cotton's comfort or strength.

Cotton's inherent properties make it ideal for use in a wide range of nonwoven applications. Nonwoven cotton fabrics can be printed, dyed and finished using conventional mill equipment, making them suitable for limited-use home fashion products (table linens, napkins, place mats), pleated window shades or blinds, lamp shades and floor coverings. These fabrics also can be provided

with wash and tumble dry durability which contribute to reusability and cost savings benefits.

Cotton, Inc. is embarking on a study to determine consumer's interest in nonwoven uses of cotton in personal products. Women comprise most of the shoppers in this category by purchasing feminine hygiene products, disposable diapers and baby wipes. The study will examine if consumers are willing to pay more for personal care items containing cotton.

Source: Cotton, Inc. 4/2/99

Bed sheet and upholstery consumer decisions

Labels contain many descriptive terms for fabric found in upholstery and bed sheets. The following are definitions related to each type that you are likely to find on product labels or descriptions in catalogs.

Bed sheet terminology:

Percalé – a tightly woven plain weave fabric usually made with combed yarns. The thread count is 180 per square inch or higher. Luxury percales may even have thread counts of 200 or higher. The higher the thread count, the more luxurious the fabric.

Muslin – a plain weave fabric with a thread count of more than 128 threads per square inch, but usually less than 180 threads per square inch.

Oxford – a soft, basket weave cloth similar to some shirting fabrics of the same name. Characterized by the bulky filling yarn (yarns that go *across* the fabric) that contributes to its softness and porous construction.

Satin or Sateen – a sateen weave has more yarn floats on the fabric surface

giving the fabric a shiny or smooth appearance.

Flannel - a plain or twill woven fabric with a napped surface. The raised surface fibers on a napped fabric produces a fuzzy appearance and soft hand.

Knitted Jersey – similar to the fabric used for T-shirts. One hundred percent cotton knitted sheets are noted for softness, natural wrinkle resistance, and good fit to your mattress.

Upholstery terminology:

Jacquard – This fabric is produced using an intricate weaving process which creates a very simple or elaborate design. Tapestries, brocade, damask and brocatelle are all created using this process. Jacquard fabrics can be found in bedding and window coverings, in addition to upholstery.

Prints – The design, created using dyes or pigments, is applied to the fabric using engraved rollers, blocks or screens. Plain woven printcloth sheeting fabric, sateen and duck cloth are among the commonly used for print designs.

Corduroy – A fabric with ridges of cords running the length of the fabric. Corduroy used in apparel can be used at home as a fabric that can be both casual or formal.

Denim – The heavier version of this fabric is used for apparel. Light weight denims are used in draperies and upholstery. Following the trend toward apparel fabrics being used for the home, products such as slipcovers, kitchen accessories and bedding can be found in denim.

Velvet – Rich, luxurious fabrics with a thick, short pile surface, that can be sculptured for added texture.

Chenille – Taking its name from the French word caterpillar, this fuzzy

fabric is generally used for bedspreads and decorative fabrics.

Chintz – glazed or polished cotton fabrics often printed with large flower designs. Chintz can be found used in a variety of home interior uses: shower curtain, to bedding, to new drapery, to pillows, to upholstery.

Seersucker – a light weight cotton fabric with a woven crinkle used for drapery, tablecloths and bedding.

Source: Cotton, Inc.

Fashion Forecast

According to the Home Sewing Association the Spring/Summer 1999 season offers color with a new balance – from non-color to bright color, the unifying bond is soothing, peaceful energy connected to a personal feeling of contentment. Four themes, *Simple, Mystical, Precious, and Universal*, create the color palette. Fashion is softening up and going natural. It's all about a fabric's texture, styling and finishes and comfort. There are several factors at the heart of the natural fiber resurgence, but the simplest is a concept — COMFORT. The colors for summer are whites, pastels and light neutrals. You will see off-white, sand, beige plus all variance of silver gray. You will also find intensive colors such as deep red, burned brown and darkened blue. Skirt lengths will vary. Mini skirts are still in style, but mid and calf length skirts are a great alternative.

Source: American Home Sewing Association web site and KWIK SEW's online Sewing Newsletter



A little humor goes
a long way....

Top Ten Reasons to Buy Fabric

10. It insulates the closet where I store it.
9. It helps the economy. It's our duty to support cotton farmers, the U.S. textile industry and quilt shops.
8. It is less expensive and more fun than psychiatric care.
7. My cat/dog needs a fresh new pile of fabric to sleep on and roll around on at least once a week.
6. Because it's on SALE!
5. Okay, it wasn't on sale, but by the time it would be, all the good stuff would be gone.
4. A sudden increase in the boll weevil population might wipe out the cotton crop for the next ten years.
3. I'm participating in a contest the one who dies with the most fabric wins.
2. It keeps without refrigeration and you don't have to cook it to enjoy it. Also, you never have to feed it, change it, wipe it's nose, or walk it.
1. Because I'm worth it.



Tips and Trends

Home Interiors

Three trends are apparent in American home decor styling:

1. There is a continuing desire for more coordinated decor – a more formal style, though work and social event dressing are going more casual. Thirty percent of young respondents (ages 16-24) indicate they would choose a more formal styling for their homes (remember they are the future home and textile purchasers!)
2. A “Martha Stewart mentality” that is interested in home products for self and gifts. This reflects the practicality of potential purchasers, 2 million of whom subscribe to *Martha Stewart Living* and are creating over a million hits per day on her web page. Mass merchant Kmart is finding success in her line of home decor products.
3. Shift from blended to 100 percent cotton sheets. Recent surveys show that 75 percent of consumers prefer 100 percent cotton sheets to cotton/polyester blends. Twenty-seven percent of all sheets purchased in the past year were 100 percent cotton compared with 14 percent just six years ago (fiber weight basis). Consumers indicate that they equate better quality with 100 percent cotton fabric.

Texas Department of Agriculture Introduces Homefront for Texas Natural Fibers

Natural fibers find their way into a variety of home furnishings applications: Upland cotton for draperies, upholstery, soft goods such as towels and linens, floor coverings and mats; wool for comforters and other bedding products, throws and high-end carpets; mohair for upholstery fabrics, velvets, throws and pillows; and leather for upholstered furniture, hand-tooled crafts, lamps and soft hide floor coverings.

Comfort and ease of care are big factors in the growing popularity of natural fiber and leather in home furnishings. Natural fibers ‘breathe’ while manufactured fibers capture body heat. A fiber that breathes will feel cooler to the skin, but warmer when you need to feel warm. Natural fiber is also easy to keep clean. Cotton area rugs and bedding, for example, can be laundered in a washing machine. A mild dish detergent and a cool, wet rag will clean many stains on wool or cotton carpet and even natural fiber upholstery fabrics.

Naturally TEXAS on the Homefront was unveiled at the 1998 State Fair of Texas. Visitors to the Texas Department of Agriculture’s Food and Fiber Pavilion saw two living spaces designed by Dallas decorators using home furnishings made with Texas natural fibers and leather.

Source: Texas Department of Agriculture and Home Textiles Update: the Future Looks Bright, Lifestyle Monitor, Winter 1998

TIPS & INFO FOR YOUTH!

Scholarship Opportunity for youth interested in textile industry

This is an ATMI Thread Committee Excellence in Manufacturing scholarship of \$2,500 annually for 4 years. Candidates must enroll in a textile science program or related discipline at Auburn University, Clemson University, Georgia Institute of Technology, North Carolina State University, Philadelphia College of Textiles, or University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth. See this web site for more details and application form: <http://www.atmi.org/Publications/tcschool.html>

Everyone still wears clothes!

Listed below are career options in the apparel industry:

- # retail buyer
- # merchandise manager/store manager
- # public relations officer
- # merchandise analyst or stylist
- # sales representative for manufacturer, designer or textile mill
- # visual merchandiser/stylist
- # textile and apparel museum curator
- # conservation laboratory work
- # teacher or professor (with graduate degree)
- # apparel designer
- # preservationist or exhibitor of textiles/apparel

- # assistant designer
- # fashion illustrator
- # patternmaker
- # sample maker
- # pattern grader
- # designer using computer-aided-design (CAD)
- # CAD demonstrator

4-H Clothing: Tips for developing Careers in Apparel and Textiles....

Qualities the industry wants in employees:

- # Good problem solving skills
- # Strong creative sense
- # Entrepreneurial spirit
- # Ability to work with a variety of people

- # Ability to speak in front of people
- # Strong technical background in all areas of textiles – the wider the knowledge base, the greater the opportunities to expand one’s position
- # Strong understanding of fibers and yarns (relevant to finishing, dyeing and refurbishing)

Educational Resources and Upcoming Events

Teen innocence

If you’re interested in how teen girls’ appearances are changing, check out an article that appeared in USA Today, Oct. 6, 1997, p. 4D. It’s worth a trip to the library or the \$1.00 cost to access the article via the Web. Briefly, the author traces developmental changes in adolescent girls and discusses how society has created “a culture of body obsession.” A lower age of physical maturation, societal affluency, technological progress ranging from nutrition to cosmetics to sanitary products, and decreasing societal restrictions have all contributed to a physically older looking adolescent female with a mind of a 12-year old girl. The article is well worth the read. Check it out!

Clothing and Textile References

The following is a list of recent textiles and clothing references in popular magazines that are appropriate for Master Clothing

Volunteers and 4-H leaders to use with youth clothing participants:

- # Baker, N. Serging stretchy fabrics. *SEW NEWS*, February 1999, 14, 16, 18.
- # Bendel, P. Caution: Curved (seams) ahead. *SEW NEWS*, March 1999, 52-54.
- # Body basics. *AMERICAN GIRL*, March/April 1999, 12-17.
- # Bones, J. Pattern layouts. *THREADS*, March 1999, 20, 22.
- # Braid a bracelet. *AMERICAN GIRL*, March/April 1999, 32.
- # Chenille-Stem bunny (napkin ring). *PACK-O-FUN*, Spring 1999, 18.
- # Computerized sewing machines. *BUTTERICK HOME CATALOG*, Spring 1999, 11+.
- # Elliott, M. & Zarse. Burn test for fiber content. *THREADS*, March 1999, 42-43.

- # Finishing touches (fabric finishes). *SEW NEWS*, March 1999, 62-3.
- # Grooming in the good old days. *AMERICAN GIRL*, March/April 1999, 18-19.
- # Guzman, M. Quick (party) wrap. *SEW NEWS*, February 1999, 50.
- # Hands-down winners (hand and nail care). *COOKING LIGHT*, March 1999, 36-42.
- # Hazen, G. Perfect pleats for every body. *THREADS*, March 1999, 48-52.
- # Late bloomers (decorated winter gloves). *HOME COMPANION*, Feb/Mar 1999, 9-10.
- # Liebson, D. Dress up your clothes. *FAMILY FUN*, March 1999, 70-76.
- # Mayer, J. & Conover, T. Sleeve-cap design. *THREADS*, March 1999, 30-35.

- # Modest, M. Fruit Pomanders. FAMILY PAGES, January 1999, 5.
- # Perils of Pauline (reading the care label). CLOTHES CARE GAZETTE, Jan. 1999, 4.
- # Russell, S. Neat (serger) endings. SEW NEWS, February 1999, 86.
- # (Serging) smooth curves. SEW NEWS, March 1111, 18, 20.
- # Sizing up fashion. VOGUE PATTERNS, March/April 1999, 10-12, 14, 16.
- # Special needs (patterns). BUTTERICK HOME CATALOG, Spring 1999, 54-5.
- # Weiland, B. (Crotch depth and length). SEW NEWS, Feb 1999, 20, 22, 24.

Educational Cotton Resources

The following is a list of resources available to Extension educators. 4-H leaders might want to take advantage of these reasonably priced materials as well. Order from: National Cotton Council, Attn: Communications Services Dept., P.O. Box 820285, Memphis, TN 38182, or <<http://www.cotton.org/ncc/education/index.htm>>

The Story of Cotton

20-page booklet tells the story of cotton in simple terms, including where and how it is grown, processed, and woven into cloth. Grade school level. 30 copies free; additional copies 25 cents each.

Cotton From Field to Fabric

Describes major steps involved in producing and processing nature's wonder fiber. High school/adult level.

One copy free; additional copies 50 cents each.

Cotton: The Perennial Patriot

Leaflet traces cotton's role in growth of nation since settlers first planted it in 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia. Older elementary level. 30 copies free; additional copies 50 cents each.

Cotton Wall Chart

4-color 21½" x 28½" chart shows steps in cotton production, processing, and manufacturing, plus some uses of fiber and seed. One free per class; additional copies 50 cents each.

Story of Cotton Kit

Classroom teaching package with samples of cotton from boll to finished fabric. Kit also includes 30 copies of the Story of Cotton booklet, and one each of: teaching guide, Cotton From Field to Fabric booklet, Cotton Wall Chart. Cost: U.S. \$15 – Canada \$20.

Celebration of Cotton (video)

Beautifully illustrated dramatization of cotton from planting stage to fiber. No script, set to music, 3-5 minutes. (½"). Cost: U.S. \$15 – Canada, \$20.

The Perennial Patriot (video)

8½-minute video that fits into the curriculum of any American history class. Serving as an excellent teaching aid, this unique video covers U.S. cotton history from its planting by the first settlers in Virginia to the present. Cost: U.S. \$25 – Canada \$30.

Cotton – From Field to Fabric (video)

9-minute video that covers the major steps involved in producing and processing nature's wonder fiber. Excellent companion for "Cotton From Field to Fabric" booklet and is for all levels. Cost: U.S. \$25 – Canada \$30.

Cotton – Means Business in America (video)

The story of the U.S. cotton industry's economic contribution as the No. 1

value-added commodity in U.S. agriculture is told in this 5½-minute video. Cotton directly provides more than 340,000 jobs in the processing and handling system and supports hundreds of thousands more in the textile and agribusiness industries. Cost: U.S. \$25 – Canada \$30.

Source: National Cotton Council
<<http://www.cotton.org/ncc/education/index.htm>>

Challenging FIT

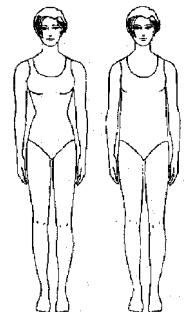
The number one reason women say they do not wear a garment hanging in their closet is because it does not fit comfortably. A total of 41% of women surveyed for the *Monitor* during the second quarter of 1998 cited this reason – more than double those who said the garments were no longer in style (19%).

Plus size sewing

As the challenge to find clothing sized for every BODY continues, plus sizing in both ready-to-wear and patterns is becoming more prevalent. The following web sites, though commercial sites, are just a few examples of sources of plus size patterns:
<<http://www.uniquepatterns.com>>
<<http://www.designsatlarge.com>>
<<http://www.quiltropolis.com>>

Buying ready-to-wear by catalog

When buying from ready-to-wear catalogs, ALWAYS compare the size chart to your own body measurements. All is not equal in retail clothing. Remember that ease is the difference between the measurements provided in the catalog and the way a garment is "designed" to fit.



Study the fashion illustration or the photo of the garment. Read the description, look for 'clues' that the garment is loose fitting, 'roomy,' a figure hugger, 'slim fitting' or 'body skimmer.' These words describe how the garment is to look on a real body. Though pattern measurements are similarly sized, the case varies by the design of the garment, just as the fit in ready-to-wear varies. Catalog measurements for small, large and extra large vary greatly. **ALWAYS MEASURE AND COMPARE BEFORE ORDERING.**

Available from Educational Resources Library, 409-845-2704

3 more copies of
Keeping You in Stitches

Textile Identification Notebooks

One is now located in EACH District office and one in the Resource Library. Reserve copies in District office with DED or designated individual and one in Resource Library with Edna Eisfeldt.

VIDEOS

Garments of Light, 24:50, from Clarity of Fit Technologies, Fairchild Publishers. Traces development of custom designing and fitting of garments based on traditional and new scanning technology the apparel industry is now introducing. Applicable to 4-H leaders, 4-Hers, individuals interested in computer/scanning technology, and consumers in helping them understand changes occurring in the ordering and sizing of retail garments. Due to the cost of this video, only one is available. *Reserve with Pam Brown.*

Mass Customization, 6:0, ATMI. This short video explains how garment production technology is changing the

face of apparel retailing. Quick response technologies is making it possible to custom order fit. Though targeted to apparel retailers, consumer groups, including 4-H leaders and youth, will benefit from knowledge of this technology. *Reserve with the Educational Resources Library, 409-845-2704.*

Garment Factories of Saipan. This is a product of an upper level textiles and apparel production class at the University of Guam, complements of Dr. Joyce Camacho. The video compares two garment factories one in compliance with labor laws and the other not. Useful in helping youth and adults understand the international apparel production process. Previewing suggested. Only 1 copy. *Reserve with Pam Brown.*



Mark Your Calendar!

September is National Sewing Month
Watch for activities and news releases in August.

Master Clothing Volunteer Training
March 29, 30, 31, April 1, 2000
San Antonio, Texas
Watch for details!

American Textile Manufacturer s Institute Technology Tour
Learn the latest in U.S. textile technology. Must be an International Textile and Apparel Association member.
For more information, call Tina McIntyre with ATMI at 202-862-0551.

Distance Education Opportunity

A Master of Science degree in Textiles, Clothing and Design (TDC) is now being offered through distance education at University of Nebraska. This program builds upon the highly successful distance education masters degree program in Human Resources and Family Sciences at the University of Nebraska. Faculty who designed the TCD curriculum

and who will be teaching many of the courses have several years experience offering courses via distance education and are part of an award-winning team in distance education.

Degree requirements for the TCD MS degree include successful completion of 13 courses (36 semester credit hours), a Masters (Option III), project and written comprehensive exams. One course per semester (3 courses per year: 1 course Fall semester, 1 course Spring semester, and 1 course in the Summer) beginning Spring semester 1999 will be offered. Additional information regarding the program is available on the Web at <<http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/chrfs/exteduc.htm>>

Source: Kathleen Rees, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Textiles, Clothing and Design Graduate Committee Chair, University of Nebraska

1999 4-H Clothing Camp
The Dallas Grand Hotel
Dallas, Texas
July 22 - July 24, 1999

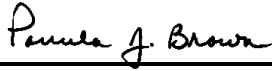
Planned Tours and Activities include:
Cotton Inc. apparel buying process, textile outlook
Russell Newman, Inc. apparel design/ careers in apparel industry
FEL Malik Gerber Garment Technology; Computer aided design technology in apparel design/production
Dallas Design Initiative speakers
JC Penney Corporate Office and Museum
Neiman Marcus and Fifth Floor Museum
4-H Clothing Citizenship Activity
Hands-on activity

Registration Deadline is
June 15, 1999

Please contact **Teresa Smith, Extension Associate- 4-H and Youth**, via e-mail <t-smith2@tamu.edu> or by fax at 409-845-6496 for **Registration Materials.**

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Extension Specialist-Consumer Sciences

Educational programs serve people of all ages
regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color,
sex, religion, disability or national origin. The
Texas A&M University System, U.S.
Department of Agriculture, and the County
Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Web Sites

For more information on walking shoes:
<<http://www.fabriclink.com>>

Source for textile publications and videos
for use with 4-H groups
<[http://www.atmi.org/Publications/
alltexhome.htm](http://www.atmi.org/Publications/alltexhome.htm)>

Home furnishings and stain removal
publication, Chemical Spots, Stains and
Discoloration of Textile Home Furnishing
<[http://www.atmi.org/Publications/
spotting.htm](http://www.atmi.org/Publications/spotting.htm)>

American Home Sewing Association:

Learning to sew:

<<http://www.sewing.org/learn.html>>

Kids projects:

<[http://www.sewing.org/kidspage/
index.html](http://www.sewing.org/kidspage/index.html)>

If you have a question about....

4-H Clothing

*contact: Teresa Smith, Extension
Associate, 4-H & Youth Clothing*

Housing

*...concerning soft surfaces, i.e.
upholstery, window coverings,
carpet, etc., contact Pam Brown,
Consumer Sciences Specialist*

Housing

*...concerning hard surfaces and air
quality, i.e., walls, cabinets,
construction, contact Janie Harris,
Housing Specialist*

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