

Get The Most From Your Cotton Stamps



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In the Pictures

The two 4-H Club girls on the cover are Mary Katherine Buck and Mildred Haude of Harris County.

The man on page 5 is Chester Middleton, husband of a wardrobe demonstrator in Hill County.

On page 7 are Mrs. G. Thibideaux and her daughter Pearl of the China community in Jefferson County.

Get The Most From Your Cotton Stamps

By

Mrs. Dora R. Barnes, Extension Specialist in Clothing

Mrs. Bernice Claytor, Extension Specialist in Home Improvement

COTTON stamps are like money. They can be spent wisely to help clothe your family better and make your home more comfortable and attractive. Or your cotton stamps can be wasted if you do not buy intelligently.

It will help if your family sits down together and makes an inventory—that is, finds out what cotton goods are on hand. Then study your inventory and list your needs for cotton clothing and for household cotton. You will want to list the clothing needs of each member so everyone can share in the cotton stamps. Be sure what you plan to spend is proportioned wisely between clothing and household uses and budgeted for the things you need most.

These Are Tips on Buying

Whether you are buying clothes or articles for the home you will find these tips helpful:

Be sure to take your list when you go shopping.

If you don't know the prices of things you need, get them.

Don't hesitate to ask questions.

Read carefully all the labels on the articles you buy.

Remember good quality material generally means a saving since it lasts longer and stands hard wear better.

Don't let a "bargain" lead you into buying something you don't need.

If you buy goods at sales be sure to check the price and quality with values offered regularly and in other stores.

Go slowly. Think carefully. Decide wisely.

Here Is a Dictionary of Textile Terms

If you know the meaning of labels on cotton goods you buy, you can make your money go farther. Here are some terms you'll want to understand when you spend your cotton stamps.

Thread count, or yarn count, means the number of yarns per inch both lengthwise and crosswise of the material. A higher count fabric has yarns closer together, so usually it will be stronger and more durable.

Sanforized shrunk means the material or garment has been shrunk.

Filler, sizing, or loading is sometimes used to fill the air space of low-count fabrics. Since the mixture is usually made of starch and other fabrics it often washes out during laundering. It adds little to the actual value of the material, although it improves the appearance, so that buyers are often fooled about quality.

Vat dyed means that the material is fast to washing and light.

Your Family May Need Cotton Clothing

If your family needs more clothing, cotton stamps can help solve your problem, for cotton clothes are comfortable, strong and durable, easily laundered, and becoming to wear. And, too, they have style.

Here is a list of cotton clothing which will help you think of all your family's needs:

For men and boys:

shirts	jackets	underwear	
overalls	sweaters	gloves	ties
pants	pajamas	handkerchiefs	

For women and girls:

dresses for all occasions		slips	handkerchiefs
house coats	sweaters	underwear	gloves
smocks	slacks	hose	bathing suits
aprons	play clothes	anklets	
coats	night gowns		

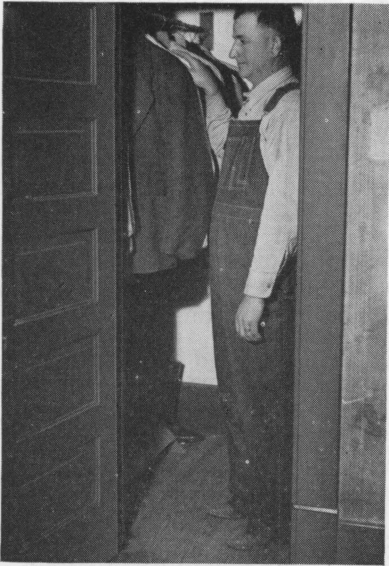
For small children:

dresses	sunsuits	night gowns	socks
suits	underwear	coats	mittens
rompers	pajamas	sweaters	caps

For babies:

dresses		gowns
shirts		diapers
outing flannel wrappers		baby blankets

Remember, if you do home sewing, you may get more clothes for your cotton stamps than if you purchase ready-made garments.



Work clothes should be strong and durable.

In buying men's work clothes such as coveralls, overalls, pants and shirts or house dresses, and children's clothes be sure:

the material is strong and durable.

they are cut full for comfort.

they are sanforized shrunk in order to guarantee a good fit after being washed.

the color is fast to washing, sunlight and perspiration.

all seams and openings subject to great strain are reinforced.

buttonholes are firm.

buttons are durable and securely sewed on.

all fastenings are firmly and neatly attached.

hems are generous and not skimpy.

all seams are wide, straight, and neatly stitched.

armholes are roomy, allowing for freedom of movement.

Also:

Make certain shirt collars are neat and have an inner lining.

Check pockets of work clothes to see if they are made of durable material.

Materials which are vat dyed, sanforized shrunk, and 80 x 80 in thread count are excellent for house dresses and children's clothing.

Children's clothes should have not only wide seams and roomy armholes but also deep hems and pleats to allow for growth. Usually the buttons should be large and flat.

When buying underwear compare sizes as well as workmanship for there is much skimping of material in the manufacture of cheap underwear. The crotch and seat should be roomy. Felled or double-stitched seams help reinforce points where there is great strain.

When you buy ready-to-wear, try the garment on and see if it fits properly. Be sure it hangs right and is comfortable.

You May Need Household Cottons

Your family will want to make the best use of your cotton stamps so things to be purchased should be listed several weeks before the shopping is done so you can study prices and qualities to fit your needs.

Here are some articles of cotton for household use. You may buy them or you may buy the material and make them. Making them at home will likely be less expensive.

For beds:	sheets pillow slips bedspreads covering for comforts	springs covers mattress covers mattress pads pillow protectors comfort protectors
For bathing:	bath towels face towels	wash cloths bath mats
For tables:	table cloths	napkins
Miscellaneous:	curtains slip covers dresser scarfs	

Equip Your Bed Well

More cotton is used in the equipment of beds than anywhere else in the house.

Sheets:

Supply—Four sheets per bed should be the minimum supply and six sheets per bed are desirable. Often you can save money if you buy material by the yard and make it into sheets at home.

Sizes—Sizes given on the labels of ready-made sheets usually refer to the torn length of the sheet before it is hemmed. Sizes suggested for standard beds follow:

Bed	Sheet Width	Sheet Length
Single	63 inches	108 inches
Three-quarters	72 inches	108 inches
Double	81 or 90 inches	108 inches

Usually unbleached sheeting is somewhat cheaper than bleached sheeting, will wear longer and soon becomes as white as the bleached. Whether the material is bleached or unbleached, avoid too much starch or sizing.

Look for: A good firm weave, a strong selvage and hems which are closed at the ends, and stitched evenly with small stitches.

Pillow slips:

Supply—Two pillow slips for each pillow should be the minimum supply; three for each pillow are desirable.

Material—Seventy-two inch sheeting works up economically for pillow slips, and pillow tubing is also suitable, although it is more expensive.

Size—In buying or making pillow slips, allow one and one-half to two inches for the fullness when measuring the width; for the length 9 or 10 inches are generally added to allow for fullness and to cover the end of the pillow completely. This does not include the amount turned back for the hem.

Bedspreads:

Supply—One spread for each bed plus one extra should be the minimum supply. Two spreads for each bed are desirable.

Size—A bedspread should be large enough to cover the mattress, springs and pillows. A spread 90 x 108 inches will do this.

Materials—Whether you purchase your spread ready-made or make it at home, you will likely want to select from these materials:

seersucker
unbleached sheeting
damask
chintz
poplin
crash

unbleached sheeting decorated
with candlewick thread
denim
homespun
rep.
percale
gingham



A bedspread should be large enough to cover the mattress, springs and pillows.

Springs cover:

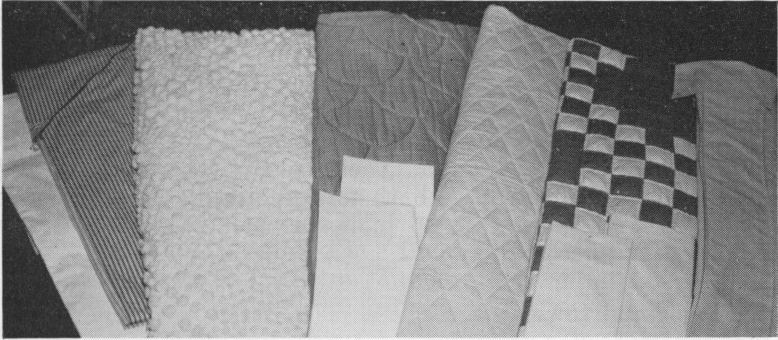
Six-ounce cotton ticking makes a good, inexpensive springs cover. Or you may use some other material which is woven closely enough to be practically dustproof. In addition to the material you will need four yards of domestic tape for tying a portion of the cover to the springs.

Mattress covers:

A mattress cover is simply a slip cover or case made to fit over a mattress. Light weight domestic no heavier than a sheet is best for this use. If you buy domestic, get it the width of the mattress; then make the boxing the depth of the mattress.

Mattress pads:

You can make a serviceable mattress pad with light-weight domestic and a pound and one-half of dry, clean, long-staple cotton. It should be just the size of the mattress, rounded on the corners, and about the thickness of a cotton quilt. The pad should be quilted sufficiently to hold the cotton in place when laundered. Usually it may be quilted on a sewing machine.



This is what it takes to equip a bed completely; from left to right: springs cover, sheets, bedspread, comfort, pillow cases, quilt, pillow protectors, and mattress protector.

Pillow protectors:

Pillow protectors should be made of a soft, pliable material which will not lessen the softness and smoothness of the pillow. The protector should be long enough to cover the pillow plus about two inches to fold over and button neatly.

Comfort protectors:

To protect the comfort from becoming soiled, cover it to a depth of six to ten inches with a straight piece of soft, pliable, washable material. This should form a cap over the end of the comfort. Suitable materials for protectors are nainsook, thin muslin, batiste, or similar cottons. Stiff or heavy materials should be avoided as they will not tuck in comfortably.

Here Are Helps on Bathroom Cottons

Buy bath towels, bath mats, and wash cloths which
are firmly woven and will give long service
have a close firm selvage
have well stitched hems
will take up moisture easily
are a comfortable size
are attractive and easy to launder.

Bath towels:

Supply—The minimum supply is three bath towels per person. Four or more towels per person are desirable.

Several sizes of bath towels may be purchased . . . some larger for men of the household and some smaller for women and children.

Bath mats and wash cloths:

It is better not to buy bath mats or wash cloths with many woven stripes or designs as these places are thinner and naturally wear out first. A bath mat should be small enough to launder with ease. One 36 inches is plenty long, and you might prefer one smaller.

Face and hand towels:

Supply—Your minimum supply of face towels should be four per person.

Materials—Cotton materials which may be used for face towels include cotton huck, a good quality of crash, and barbers toweling. Small Turkish towels make good hand towels. Whatever is chosen should be soft to touch and should give good service.

An ample supply of small towels is better than a few larger ones.

Keep hand towels available for use in the kitchen.

These Cottons Are Important, Too

Table cloths and napkins:

Supply—Three cloths per table should be your minimum.

Material—Some of the brightly colored cotton materials make practical table cloths for every-day use. Then, there are numerous white and cream colored materials similar to crash which make practical table cloths and napkins.

Size—A napkin for every-day use should be not less than 14 inches square; smaller napkins are satisfactory for parties and occasional use.

Curtains:

Percalé, dimity, thin muslin, dotted swiss and many other cotton materials are pretty and make inexpensive curtains. Select material which will launder well, which is not likely to fade quickly, and which will give good service.

Slip covers:

Slip covers may cover up worn and shabby material on old chairs, a divan, or a sofa; or they may protect good upholstery. Material for slip covers should be firm enough to stand hard wear and it should not wrinkle readily.

Dresser scarfs:

Dresser scarfs should harmonize with other furnishings in the room withstand frequent laundering successfully fit the dresser.

Here Are Other Helps

You can get additional information from:

Farmers' Bulletin 1873	Slip Covers for Furniture
Farmers' Bulletin 1765	Guides for Buying Sheets, Blankets, Bath Towels
Farmers' Bulletin 1837	Cotton Shirts for Men and Boys
Farmers' Bulletin 1831	Judging Fabric Quality
Farmers' Bulletin 1778	Fabrics and Designs for Children's Clothes
U.S.D.A. Bulletin 1851F	Women's Dresses and Slips

These can be obtained from your county Extension Agents.

