Jump Down, Turn Around
(a.k.a. "Pick A Bale O' Cotton")

Words & Music:
Traditional Work Song

This was a traditional song sung in the field as a work song (slowly) but Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter sped it up to the house party song we know. Here are the basic & more complete versions. Oh, and be sure to listen to Allan Sherman's satire of this song. Very funny!

Basic version:

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G                          C              D7
Jump down, turn around, to pick a bale of cotton.
G                          D7            G
Jump down, turn around, to pick a bale a day.
G          C              D7
Oh, Lordy, pick a bale of cotton.
G          D7            G
Oh, Lordy, pick a bale a day.
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More complete version (same chords):

Oh, Lordy, Julie, pick a bale o' cotton.
Oh, Lordy, Julie, pick a bale a day. *[2x]*

Gonna get on my knees and pick a bale o' cotton.
Gonna get on my knees and pick a bale a day.

Gonna jump, jump, jump down, pick a bale o' cotton.
Gonna jump, jump, jump down, pick a bale a day.

Gonna jump down, turn around, pick a bale o' cotton.
Gonna jump down, turn around, pick a bale a day.

Me & my gal gonna pick a bale o' cotton.
Me & my gal gonna pick a bale a day.

Me an' my buddy gonna pick a bale o' cotton.
Me an' my buddy gonna pick a bale a day.

I b'lieve to my soul I can pick a bale o' cotton.
I b'lieve to my soul I can pick a bale a day.

Went to Corsicana to pick a bale o' cotton.
Went to Corsicana to pick a bale a day.

Gonna pick-a pick-a pick-a pick-a pick a bale o'cotton
Gonna pick-a pick-a pick-a pick-a pick a bale a day
Gonna pick-a pick-a pick-a pick-a pick a bale o' cotton
We're gonna jump down turn around pick a bale a day.