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May 11, 2020

Via: Email

National Agricultural Statistics Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250

**RE: Docket Number 2020-05057: Current Agricultural Industrial Reports (CAIR)**

The National Cotton Council (NCC) is pleased to submit comments regarding the continuation of the Cotton System Consumption and Stocks report (M313P). This report includes the Cotton in Private Storage Survey and the Consumption on the Cotton System and Stocks Survey.

The NCC is the central organization of the United States cotton industry. Its members include producers, ginnery, cottonseed processors and merchandizers, merchants, cooperatives, warehousemen and textile manufacturers. A majority of the industry is concentrated in 17 cotton-producing states stretching from California to Virginia. U.S. cotton producers cultivate between 10 and 14 million acres of cotton with production averaging 12 to 20 million 480-lb bales annually. The downstream manufacturers of cotton apparel and home furnishings are located in virtually every state. Farms and businesses directly involved in the production, distribution and processing of cotton employ more than 125,000 workers and produce direct business revenue of more than \$21 billion. Annual cotton production is valued at more than \$5.5 billion at the farm gate, the point at which the producer markets the crop. Accounting for the ripple effect of cotton through the broader economy, direct and indirect employment surpasses 280,000 workers with economic activity of almost \$75 billion. In addition to the cotton fiber, cottonseed products are used for livestock feed and cottonseed oil is used as an ingredient in food products as well as being a premium cooking oil.

The Cotton System Consumption and Stocks report is used by our industry as a means to monitor cotton consumption and stock levels. Historically, the NCC has relied on this data when preparing the monthly and annual economic outlook for the U.S. cotton industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the continuation of these surveys. The NCC relies on NASS data to provide accurate and timely information to our industry members.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary M. Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Gary Adams  
President & CEO  
National Cotton Council