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June 24, 2020

RE: Agricultural Prices: OMB Control Number: 0535-0003

The National Cotton Council (NCC) would like to submit comments regarding the revision and extension of a currently approved information collection, the Agricultural Prices Surveys. The NCC is the central organization of the United States cotton industry. Its members include producers, ginner, 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 Agricultural Prices surveys provide data on the prices received by farmers and prices paid by them for production goods and services. The data provided by the monthly Agricultural Prices survey is critical to the U.S. cotton industry and is used to monitor monthly upland cotton prices and marketings. This data is essential for estimating Seed Cotton ARC/PLC payments throughout the crop year. The NCC relies on this data when preparing the monthly and annual economic outlooks for the U.S. cotton industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the extension of these surveys. The NCC relies heavily on NASS data to provide accurate and timely information to our industry members and requests that NASS continue to collect monthly upland cotton prices and marketings.

Sincerely,

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