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NATIONAL COTTON GINNERS' ASSOCIATION

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July 28, 2010

David Hancock, NASS Clearance Officer
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336, South Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2024
E-mail: ombofficer@nass.usda.gov

RE: Cotton Ginning Survey - Docket number 0535-0220

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The National Cotton Ginners' Association (NCGA) is the national umbrella organization for the eight member state and regional gin associations. In turn, these organizations represent the interests of nearly 700 individual cotton gins. The purpose of our comments is to convey NCGA's full support for the Cotton Ginning Survey and for your intent to revise and extend the collection of the data found therein for a period of three years.

As has been noted, the Cotton Ginning Survey provides cotton ginning statistics and serves as an aid in forecasting cotton production. In addition, the report provides the industry with a gauge of the pace of the cotton harvest, which is also very important to the cotton industry. The data currently being collected, consisting of bales ginned, lint cotton produced, number of gins by state and county, and other data included in the survey, are important not only to the ginners but to the other industry segments as well. The NCGA also supports changes that will enhance the Cotton Ginning Survey and allow for a better coordination of these data with NASS production reports. The NCGA does request that you consider providing the preliminary number of gins by state as soon as available.

In summary, we commend NASS for providing the Cotton Ginning Survey and look forward to future reports. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Sincerely,

W. Harrison Ashley
Executive Vice President