



June 26, 2013

David Hancock  
Clearance Officer  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Room 5336 South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250-2024

**RE: Current Agricultural Industrial Reports, Docket # 0535--NEW**

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) is submitting these comments in regard to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducting a new Current Agricultural Industrial Reports series. NCTO is the textile trade association representing the domestic textile industry, including fiber, yarn, fabric, finished products, and supporting companies. NCTO strongly supports the NASS request to create this report as this information is utilized throughout the industry, from our fiber suppliers to end use customers.

The U.S. textile and apparel industries combined employ 386,000 people, with 230,000 of them working directly in the textile sector. The U.S. textile industry alone typically invests about \$1 billion annually in plant and equipment, allowing companies to remain globally competitive. This competitiveness is evidenced by the growing export markets for our products. Textile exports in 2012 were valued at \$17.1 billion.

In the cotton report, we would request that NASS reconsider not collecting data on spindles and hours. This information is extremely important to gauge the size and capacity of the industry. NASS could consider collecting this information on a less frequent basis such as quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. The overall industry would also find it extremely helpful if manmade fiber staple consumption were included. This information would show how cotton consumption changes compared to competing fibers.

NCTO agrees that some data previously collected could be eliminated in an effort to reduce paperwork. For example, due to the extremely small volume of foreign upland fiber used, it is not necessary to break this out from total fiber consumed by domestic mills.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. NCTO supports the effort by NASS to resume publication of this important information. If NCTO can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Hubbard  
Vice President, NCTO