



United States

Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Services

Farm Service
Agency

Kansas City
Commodity Office
P.O. Box 419205
Kansas City,
Missouri
64141-6205

May 11, 2009

Dear Warehouse Operators:

The purpose of this letter is to request comments from the original providers of cotton flow data regarding the request for release of additional cotton flow information.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has been asked to provide data derived from the Bales Made Available for Shipment (BMAS) cotton flow reports. The requests have come from various academic institutions, other government agencies, and the Cotton Flow Committee of the National Cotton Council.

For the past two years FSA has been providing summary general data showing BMAS performance sorted by region and size on a quarterly basis. The quarterly reports show weekly summaries for each of the sort categories for the immediately preceding 12 weeks.

Due to the numerous requests for more pertinent information, FSA is proposing to release additional summary data (bolded below) to the same extent as the existing reports. For example:

Current Cotton Flow Summary

Percent of Warehouses
Number of Warehouses
Capacity of Warehouses

Proposed Cotton Flow Summary

Percent of Warehouses
Number of Warehouses
Capacity of Warehouses
Bales Shipped
Bales Not Picked up
Bales Over_Under Flow
Total Inventory
BMAS vs Effective Capacity
Shipped Bales vs Effective Capacity
Shipped Bales vs BMAS

These reports would not be "Official" USDA publications and will be provided for informational purposes without review of the USDA's Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees or the World Agricultural Outlook Board. Please go to:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/cottonflowreports.xls and
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/proposedcottonflowdata.xls to review the current and proposed Cotton Flow Summary. The underlying data supplied by each warehouse operator will remain confidential as only summary data would be released which eliminates any possibility of identifiable proprietary information.

We are asking all warehouse operators to respond and indicate whether or not they are in favor of releasing the proposed Cotton Flow Summary and provide any comments they feel are appropriate. Please send comments to fsa_cotton_kcco@kcc.usda.gov by June 1, 2009.

Sincerely

/s/

Nancy Heintzelman, Chief
Storage Contract Branch
Commodities Management Division

