



# NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

USDA  
Farm Service Agency

1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250

**Erik Dohlman**

202-720-4284  
Erik.Dohlman@wdc.usda.gov

## EXTRA LONG STAPLE (ELS) COTTON ANNOUNCEMENT

**March 22, 2018**

The Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation announced that the competitiveness payment program payment rate in effect from 12:01 a.m., Eastern Time, Friday, March 23, 2018, through midnight, Eastern Time, Thursday, March 22, 2018, is zero. The next ELS payment rate announcement will be on April 19, 2018, at 4 p.m., Eastern Time.

ELS competitiveness payments are provided whenever, for 4 consecutive weeks, the lowest Friday through Thursday average adjusted price quotation for foreign growths (LFQ) is less than the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for U.S. Pima cotton, CFR Far East (USPFE); and the adjusted LFQ is less than 134 percent of the current crop year loan level for ELS cotton grade 2, staple 46, micronaire 3.5 or higher, strength 37.5 grams per tex and above (**80.85** cents per pound). Future payments will be established if price conditions warrant.

Relevant data for the ELS competitiveness program follow:

| Fri/Thurs<br>Period<br>Ending | Adjusted<br>LFQ as %<br>of ELS<br>Loan Rate | USPFE<br>Price | LFQ<br>Price | USPFE<br>Less<br>LFQ | Payment<br>Rate | Dates<br>Applicable |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| ..... cents/lb .....          |   |                |              |                      |                 |                     |
| 03/01/18                      | 190.77                                      | 166.00         | 169.04       | -3.04                | 0.00            | (03/02-03/08/18)    |
| 03/08/18                      | 190.77                                      | 166.00         | 169.04       | -3.04                | 0.00            | (03/09-03/15/18)    |
| 03/15/18                      | 190.77                                      | 166.00         | 169.04       | -3.04                | 0.00            | (03/16-03/22/18)    |
| 03/22/18                      | 190.77                                      | 166.00         | 169.04       | -3.04                | 0.00            | (03/22-04/19/18)    |

The adjusted LFQ = LFQ adjusted for the transportation cost between the United States and the Far East. Effective with this announcement, the transportation adjustment to the LFQ for calculating the LFQ as a percent of the ELS loan rate is **14.80** cents per pound.

To obtain an ELS agreement or to inquire regarding operational issues, please contact Marty Mitchell, Kansas City Commodity Management Branch at (816) 926-2644 or by e-mail [Crdfrb@kcc.usda.gov](mailto:Crdfrb@kcc.usda.gov)