



United States
Department of
Agriculture

BCD-90

NOTICE TO THE TRADE

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Services

Farm Service
Agency

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

DATE: February 3, 2005

TO: All Warehouse Operators Approved Under the Cotton Storage Agreement (CSA)

SUBJECT: Electronic Warehouse Open Bale Location Files

Purpose:

To inform all cotton warehouse operators approved under the CSA that effective April 1, 2005, an electronic open bale location file will be required.

Background:

The Farm Service Agency's Warehouse Examiner's Communication Software (WECS) Program has been developed to improve the quality of cotton warehouse examinations. Both the reductions in business disruptions during examinations and better use of current technology were paramount in designing WECS.

WECS will enable examiners to receive current open receipt obligation data files directly from the warehouse operator's electronic warehouse receipt (EWR) Provider electronically. This program will also import a data file from the warehouse operator's own software program that contains the warehouse location or disposition of each open bale. WECS will generate the random selected bale list used for the examination from these imported data files. This list will show each selected bale's location or disposition, saving each warehouse operator time by not having to research individual warehouse records. WECS will also compare a list of open bales in the EWR Provider's system against those bales shown open in the warehouse operator's records.

Required Action:

All CSA warehouse operators must modify their warehouse software program to provide examiners a downloadable data file that contains the warehouse location or disposition of each open bale. Before April 1, 2005, each warehouse operator should submit a test copy of their open bale location data file to David.Kirkland@kcc.usda.gov in the Kansas City Commodity Office to assure that their file is acceptable.

File layout specifications are listed below.

Warehouse Open Bale Location File Layout

File Type: Fixed length ASCII

Headers: No headers are required and no spaces are used as delimiters between fields.

Record Length: 43 characters

The file must include: All unshipped bales, even if the bales are on shipping orders. Bale location, but if a warehouse operator’s software program does not store shipping order numbers, they are exempt from including those in the data file. The file is to be downloadable to a standard 3.5 floppy diskette that can be loaded onto an examiner’s PC. **The file is to be compressed if it is too large to fit on a standard 3.5 floppy.**

FIELD NAME	FIELD POSITION START	FIELD LENGTH
Warehouse Code	1	6
Warehouse Receipt Number	7	7
Bale Location and Shipping Order Number (if applicable) Note: <u>a space should separate the bale location and shipping order number.</u>	14	30

Questions:

If you have any questions or to arrange for submitting test open bale location data files, please contact David Kirkland, (816) 823-1144.

/s/

Bill Turbitt
Acting Director