



United States
Department of
Agriculture

June 7, 2005

BCD-99

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Services

NOTICE TO THE TRADE

Farm Service
Agency

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

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

SUBJECT: Changes in Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Grading Certificate Format for 2005-Crop Cotton

Background

This is to remind all interested parties that the cotton data file format used for providing bale information to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices has been revised effective for 2005-crop cotton. Additionally, we are requesting warehouse operators who have been providing bale lists to FSA county offices by paper to use electronic file transmission methods instead of paper lists.

Grading Certificates

Effective for 2005-crop cotton, the cotton data file format used by FSA for marketing assistance loan programs will be revised to accommodate changes made by the AMS in measuring uniformity in upland cotton. The revised format must be used for all 2005-crop cotton data files sent to FSA. The revised data file format may be accessed at www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/CPR.htm.

If you have any questions about this format change, or would like to receive a mailed copy of the revised format, please contact Gene Rosera at 202-720-8481, or by e-mail at gene.rosera@wdc.usda.gov.

Loan or Loan Deficiency Applications

Additionally, we urgently request all warehouses and gins to submit bale data electronically when providing bale lists to FSA county offices. About 15 percent of cotton loan or loan deficiency payment (LDP) requests are processed by transcribing information from paper bale lists. Producers may still need a paper list to assure that the correct bales have been selected for their loan or LDP, but processing loans from a paper list increases the likelihood of errors such as duplicate benefits or bale rejections. Correcting these errors is an expensive, inefficient process. In times of reduced resources and industry demands for efficient service, your cooperation is urgently needed. Please help us by providing bale lists in the electronic data file format by e-mail (or diskette if acceptable by your FSA county office). Your local FSA county office can assist you with this file format process.

/s/ *George W. Aldaya*
George W. Aldaya
Director