

NOTICE TO TRADE

USDA Announces Sign-Up Period for Cotton Research and Promotion Program

WASHINGTON, April 13, 2015 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has scheduled a sign-up period for the Cotton Research Promotion Program for May 11, 2015, through May 22, 2015, to provide eligible cotton producers and importers of cotton and cotton-containing products an opportunity to request a referendum on whether to continue the Cotton Research and Promotion Program.

USDA issued a decision that a referendum was unnecessary in the May 29, 2013, *Federal Register*. However, the 1966 Cotton Research and Promotion Act also provides an opportunity for producers and importers to request a referendum through a sign-up period.

The sign-up period will be open to all eligible producers and importers. No action is necessary if a referendum is not desired. Eligible cotton producers can sign-up to request a continuance referendum in person at their local county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Producers also may request a sign-up form in the mail from their local FSA office or at: www.ams.usda.gov/Cotton. Producers can return their forms to their FSA office or by mailing them to:

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
Cotton and Tobacco Program, Attention: Cotton Sign-Up
P.O. Box 23181
Washington, DC 20077-8249

Eligible importers can sign-up to request a continuance referendum through the AMS Web site listed above, or they can request a sign-up form by contacting CottonRP@ams.usda.gov or (540) 361-2726. Importer forms can be returned to:

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
Cotton and Tobacco Program, Attention: Cotton Sign-Up
P.O. Box 23181
Washington, DC 20077-8249

An announcement with more details about the sign-up period is published in the April 13, 2015, *Federal Register*.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).