



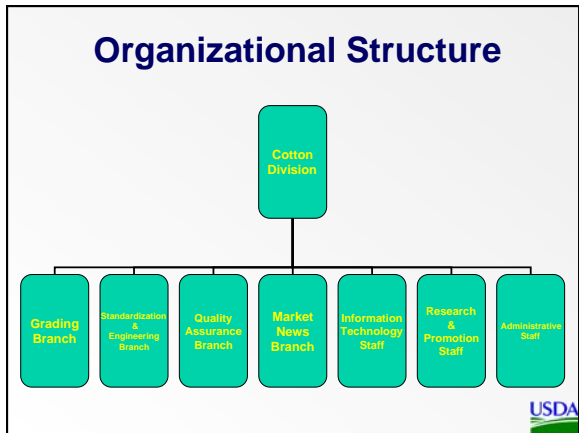
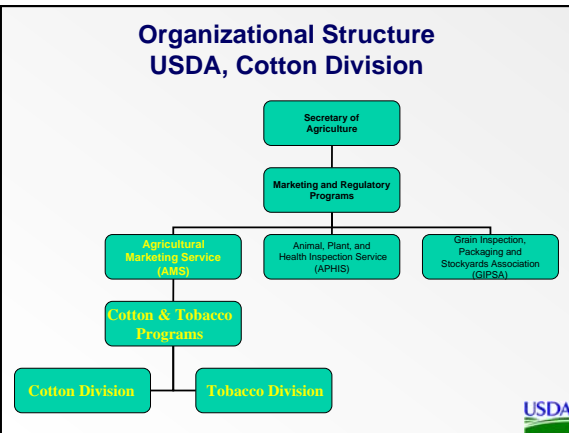
## Overview of the USDA Cotton Classification Program





## Cotton Division Mission

To promote the efficient marketing of U.S. cotton, domestically and internationally, by providing unbiased classification, standardization, market news, and oversight of the cotton research and promotion programs.


## Cotton Division Locations

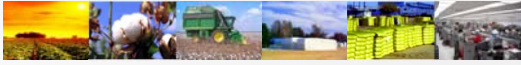


- ★ Washington Headquarters
- Memphis Field Headquarters / Classing Office
- Classing Facilities (10 currently)




## Mission & Function Areas of the Cotton Division



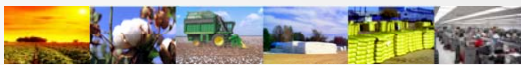
### USDA Cotton Classification & Cotton Standardization Programs:

- Classification Program:
  - Provides HVI and manual cotton classification on every bale of cotton produced in the U.S.
- Standardization Program:
  - Develops, maintains and provides internationally accepted cotton classification standards to USDA classification program & other cotton testers throughout the world.



### USDA Cotton Classification System:

- Every individual bale of cotton produced in U.S. is HVI classed by USDA.
- All USDA cotton classification is based on the Universal Cotton Standards.
- All USDA cotton classification is performed utilizing exactly the same procedures and standards in all USDA cotton classing locations.
- HVI data is available from USDA on every bale produced in the U.S.



### Function Areas of Cotton Division

- Grading Branch
- Standardization & Engineering Branch
- Quality Assurance Branch
- Information Technology Staff
- Market News Branch
- Research & Promotion Staff
- Administrative Staff



# USDA Cotton Classification



### The Classification Process

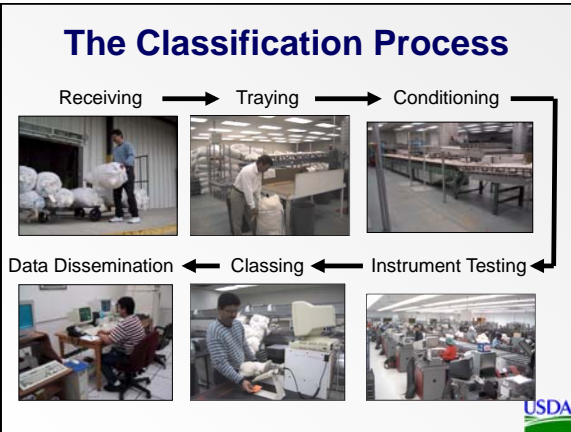
#### Production & Modules



### The Classification Process

#### • Bale Sampling:





### Fiber Properties Classified

<p><b>By High Volume Instrument</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <b>Official Color Grade</b></li> <li>→ <b>Rd</b> Degree of Brightness</li> <li>→ <b>+b</b> Degree of Color</li> <li>→ <b>Trash</b> Percent Area Non-Lint</li> <li>→ <b>Micronaire</b> Fineness of Fibers</li> <li>→ <b>Length</b> Upper Half Mean (UHM)</li> <li>→ <b>Length Uniformity</b> Uniformity of fiber Lengths</li> <li>→ <b>Strength</b> Grams per Tex</li> </ul>	<p><b>By USDA Certified Classer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <b>Official Leaf Grade</b> Determined in Accordance with Universal Grade Standards</li> <li>→ <b>Extraneous Matter Determination</b></li> </ul>
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### HVI – High Volume Instrument Uster 1000

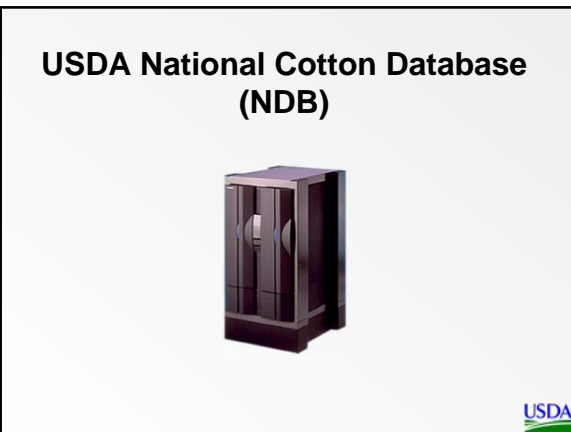
Color & Trash

Micronaire

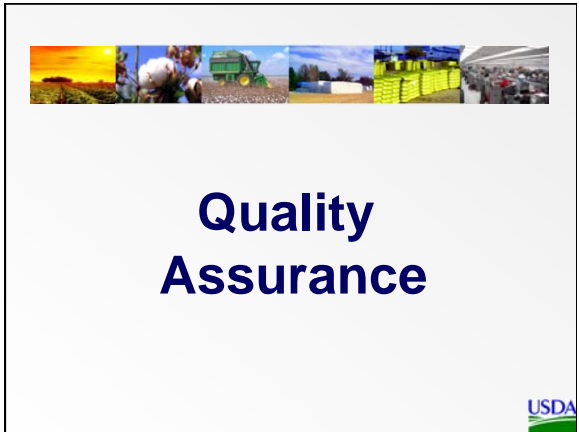
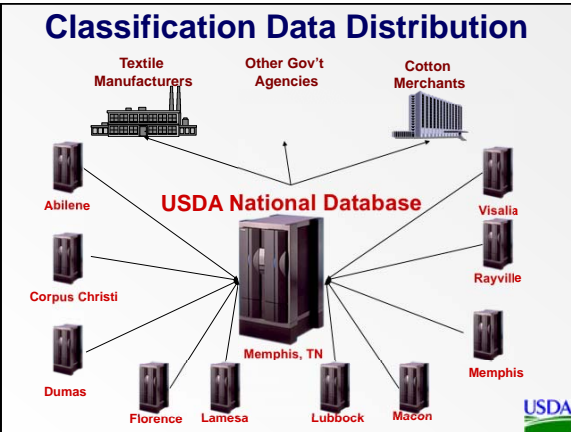
Length Strength Uniformity

### HVI 1000's by Year Model in USDA Classification Service

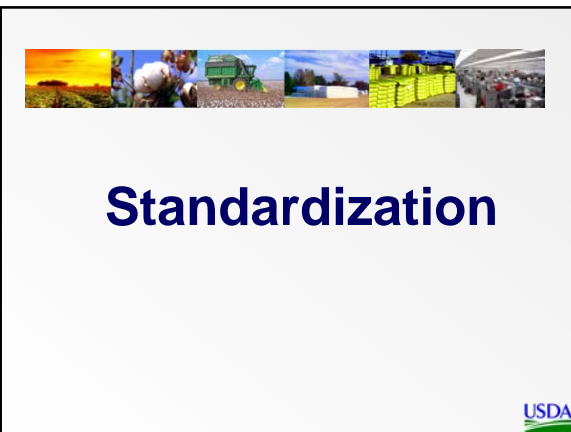
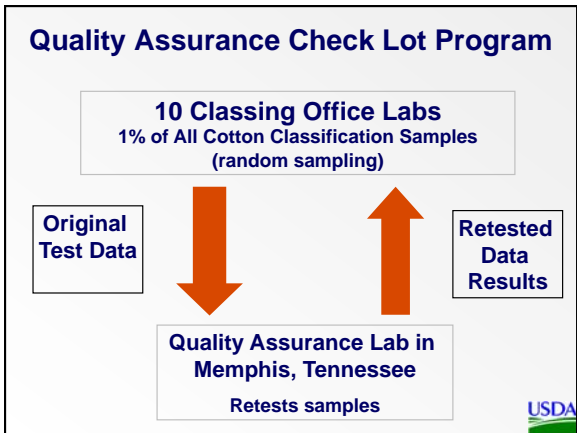
Year	#
2004	40
2005	50
2006	48
2007	40
2008	30
2009	20
2010	10
<b>Total:</b>	<b>238</b>



- ### USDA National Cotton Database (NDB)
- System for storing all USDA cotton classification data
  - Housed in Memphis, Tennessee
  - Data from all USDA cotton classing facilities are stored in the NDB



- ### Quality Assurance Branch
- Ensure Adherence to Standards
  - Administer check program to ensure consistency of all instruments and offices throughout Program
  - Provide data feedback to offices on a daily basis
  - Oversee and conduct classification of cotton delivered on the U.S. Cotton Futures Market



## Universal Cotton Standards for HVI Testing

- Includes both physical calibration standards and HVI testing procedures
- Internationally accepted
- Maintained, produced and distributed by USDA
- Governed by the International Cotton Industry



## Universal Cotton Standards Agreement of 1923

- **Universal Standards governed by the Agreement**
- **Agreement between USDA, U.S. Cotton Industry & 23 Foreign Signatory Associations from 21 countries**
- **Provides delegates with a voice in governing the Universal Cotton Standards**



## Universal Standards Adopted by:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Bangladesh</b><br>Bangladesh Textile Mills Association  | <b>Korea</b><br>Spinners & Weavers Association of Korea            |
| <b>Belgium</b><br>Association Contonnrière De Belgique   | <b>Malaysia</b><br>Malaysia Textile Manufacturing Association      |
| <b>Brazil</b><br>Bolsa de Mercadorias e Futuros  | <b>Mexico</b><br>Camara Nacional de la Industria Textil            |
| <b>Britain</b><br>Council of British Cotton Textiles<br>The Liverpool Cotton Association Ltd                         | <b>Peru</b><br>Comite Textil de la Sociedad Nacional de Industria  |
| <b>Egypt</b><br>Alexandria Cotton Exporters Association  | <b>Philippines</b><br>Textile Mills Association of the Philippines |
| <b>France</b><br>Association Francaise Cottonniere   | <b>Poland</b><br>Gdyhia Cotton Association                         |
| <b>Germany</b><br>Bremer Baumwollbörse   | <b>Spain</b><br>Centro Algodonero Nacional                         |
| <b>Indonesia</b><br>Indonesia Spinners Association   | <b>Switzerland</b><br>Industrieverband Textile                     |
| <b>India</b><br>East India Cotton Association Ltd  | <b>China (Taiwan)</b><br>Taiwan Cotton Spinners Association        |
| <b>Italy</b><br>Associazione Cottoniera  | <b>Thailand</b><br>Thai Textile Manufacturing Association          |
| <b>Japan</b><br>Japan Cotton Arbitration Institute<br>Japan Cotton Trade's Association<br>Japan Spinners Association |  |



## The Universal Cotton Standards

### Used by Over 50 Countries Worldwide

#### • Major Users:

- |            |           |             |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Australia  | China     | France      |
| Uzbekistan | India     | England     |
| Indonesia  | Japan     | Spain       |
| Thailand   | Korea     | Italy       |
| Turkey     | S. Africa | Switzerland |
| Greece     | Pakistan  | USA         |
| Brazil     | Israel    | Zimbabwe    |
| Portugal   | Argentina | Ghana       |



## HVI Calibration Materials



**20,000 kg of Cotton for Calibrating HVI Length, Strength, Uniformity and Micronaire Prepared Annually**

**Prepared Annually:**  
**200 Sets of Color Tiles**  
**200 Trash Tiles**  
**100 HVI Color Standards**  
**50 HVI Trash Standards**



## Non-Instrument Universal Standards: Manual Grade Standards



**2700 Physical Forms of Official Color and Leaf Grade Standards for U.S. Upland Cotton and 300 Physical Forms of Official Grade Standards for American Pima Cotton Reproduced Every Year**





## The Universal Cotton Standards for HVI Testing & Manual Grade

### Obtaining:

Contact [cotton.standards@ams.usda.gov](mailto:cotton.standards@ams.usda.gov) to obtain: order forms, information on ordering, technical questions, and to place orders



## Market News

Provide current and timely price and supply information on cotton and aid buyers and sellers in assessing market conditions and in making purchase and sale decisions.



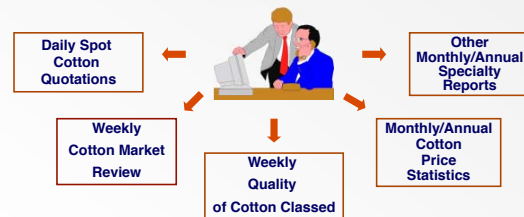
## Gathering Market Data

Data From All Sources Collected and Analyzed



## Turning Data Into Reports

Analyzed Data from Reporters is Reviewed and Compiled at Branch Headquarters



## Getting Reports to Customers



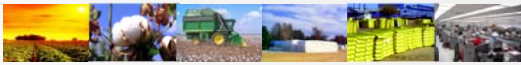
## Market News on the Internet

Cotton Program Market News:

[www.ams.usda.gov/cotton/mncls/](http://www.ams.usda.gov/cotton/mncls/)

- Weekly Cotton Market Review
- Cotton Quality
- Cotton Prices
- Cotton Linters
- Long Staple Review
- Cotton Varieties





## Research And Promotion



## How the R&P Program Works



A small assessment paid on each U.S. bale and on imported cotton goods funds research and promotion of cotton and cotton products



United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
Cotton Division

Website:  
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/cotton>



## Overview of the USDA Cotton Classification Program

