

2015 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards

Report Run Date: 06/16/2019 02:40:45 PM

1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of Agriculture		2015	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards		1260	
4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	10/18/2012		
8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date	
Yes	Dept.Reg. 1043-42; Pub Law 97-35; U.S.C. Sec. 61(10/18/2014	
9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?	
Terminate	No	Not Applicable	
11. Establishment Authority	Authorized by Law		
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
Dept.Reg. 1043-42; Pub Law 97-35; U.S.C. Sec. 61(a)	06/19/2000	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee	Non Scientific Program Advisory Board		
16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this FiscalYear		
17a. Open Meetings and Dates	17b. Closed Meetings and Dates	17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates	Other Activities
No Meetings	0	0	0

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00

18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The committee physically reviews freshly prepared sets of Universal Cotton Standards for conformity with the existing standards. They also make recommendations regarding the establishment or revision of cotton standards.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Committee membership is balanced to represent all segments of the cotton industry. Membership consists of 12 producers and ginner, 6 merchants and 6 textile manufacturers. The overseas members are selected by merchants and textile manufacturing associations who are signatories to the Universal Cotton Standards Agreement with USDA. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities. Efforts will also be made to obtain geographic balance in committee representation across cotton production areas. Candidates for U.S. committee membership are identified by USDA through outreach to U.S. cotton industry organizations, tribal governments, interest groups, historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, etc.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

This committee meets in conjunction with the Universal Cotton Standards Conference which takes place once every four years. The purpose is to physically review the Universal Cotton Grade Standards for American Upland cotton that are prepared by USDA. The committee also makes recommendations regarding the establishment or revision of the Universal Cotton Standards.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

This is the only group with representation of all segments of the U.S. cotton industry and representatives of overseas cotton merchants and textile manufacturers that are directly involved in cotton trading utilizing the Universal Cotton Standards. Their recommendations are essential to USDA in maintaining cotton standards which will support the pre-eminent position of American grown cotton in the world market.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

The charter terminated on 10/18/2014. There is no need to renew the charter or to maintain the committee since the next committee meeting will not be required until June of 2017.

Designated Federal Officer

James L. Knowlton DFO

Narrative Description

The Committee provides the means for cotton industry input to the USDA in the development of cotton classification standards. This committee ensures that USDA's Universal Cotton Standards remain relevant to the needs of the cotton trade.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

Outcome Comments

Facilitates the trading of U.S. grown cotton both domestically and internationally.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000

\$500,001 - \$1,000,000
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
Over \$10,000,000
Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

The Universal Cotton Standards provide the U.S. and international cotton industries with a globally accepted standard for cotton trading. The existence of the Universal Cotton Standards minimizes the need for the creation and production of other physical standards. This results in tremendous cost savings to the U.S. and international cotton industries.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

2

Number of Recommendations Comments

1. Committee recommended the addition of a Universal Cotton Standard for the instrument measurement of cotton trash. 2. Committee recommended changing the frequency of Universal Cotton Standards Conferences from once every three years to once every four years.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Committee recommendations were passed to the Secretary for approval in August of 2013 and approved in November 2013.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

Feedback is provided to the committee at Universal Cotton Standards Conferences and by written communications directly to committee members. Feedback is also provided to the general cotton industry through presentations at cotton industry sponsored meetings.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The two Committee recommendations made at the Committee meeting in June of 2013 were approved by the Secretary in November of 2013. Actions are being implemented in the form of production of the Universal Cotton Trash Standards and planning for the next Committee meeting in 2017 as recommended by the Committee.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

The agency web site for the Universal Cotton Standards Advisory Committee can be found at:<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/AdvisoryCommitteeonUniversalStandards>