

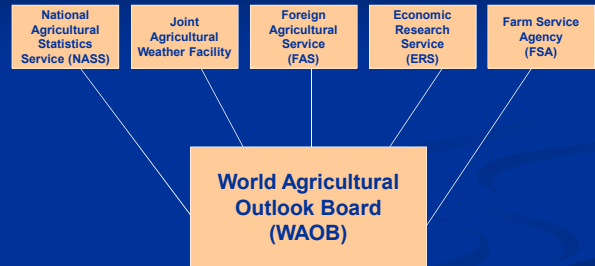
Foreign Agricultural Service

Information Transparency in USDA's Cotton Statistics

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USDA's Interagency Market Intelligence System



Input From Multiple Sources

WE ANALYZE AND EVALUATE MARKET INFORMATION AND DATA FOR CREDIBILITY, RELIABILITY, AND TIMELINESS



The Day of Lockup

COMPLETE SECRECY

- 6:00 AM
- Armed guards at the entrance
- No cell phones
- No electronic devices
- Steel doors
- Window shades drawn and locked
- Internet and phones are disconnected

NO OUTSIDE CONTACT



What do we do in Lockup?

- NASS releases U.S. production and stocks data
- Assess global impact
- Finalize commodity reports
- Release at 12 noon as the Secretary is briefed

USDA Lockup Output:

- **World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)**
- **FAS Commodity Reports**
- **USDA Commodity Databases**

Output Worldwide

OUR DATA IS DESIGNED TO BE USED BY
OTHERS IN THEIR OWN WAY



The Value of USDA Data and Information

- **Impacts global commodity markets and prices**
- **Data used around the world by:**
 - Other governments and policy makers
 - International organizations and publications
 - Private traders, analysts, and academia

Why Does Everyone Look to USDA?

- The data is considered to be the most reliable, credible, objective and unbiased
- Publications and data are available on-line and updated regularly
- The reports are FREE!