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Date: July 29, 2016
To: Cotton Ginners
From: Ron Craft, President
National Cotton Ginners Association
Subject: Reminder – USDA Commodity Credit Corporation Form CCC-809, Cooperating Ginner's Bagging and Bale Ties Certification and Agreement

As you prepare for the next ginning season, I am reminding my fellow ginners that it has been more than a decade since USDA changed renewal rules for [form CCC-809](#), the “Cooperating Ginner's Bagging and Bale Ties Certification and Agreement.” Now, annual renewals are no longer required. Instead, once an online form CCC-809 is signed and returned to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), it remains in force until terminated in writing by the ginner or CCC.

Form CCC-809 states that “...CCC and the cotton industry desire that ginners assist producers in maintaining the eligibility of their cotton for CCC loans by using bagging and bale ties that meet the Specifications for Cotton Bale Packaging Materials ("specifications") approved and published by the Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee ("JCIBPC"), and incorporated by reference in the Cotton Loan Program Regulations (7 CFR Part 1427) issued by CCC.” In a separate paragraph, the form grants an exemption for experimental materials so that “...the ginner may purchase and use on cotton at such gins (a) non-specification bagging and/or ties properly identified with the testing program of the Experimental Bale Packaging Program sponsored by the JCIBPC ...” without fear of risking a producer’s CCC loan eligibility.

The [specifications for cotton bale packaging materials](#) are an electronic publication of the National Cotton Council (NCC). Additional information about packaging concerns can be found on the NCC’s [Bale Packaging](#) webpage. A list of distributors is not maintained by the JCIBPC, but the “JCIBPC Lists of Approved Manufacturers” referenced in the CCC-809 can be located on the right hand side of this Bale Packaging page’s navigation pane.

You may not be aware of the active role the producer/ginner group plays in reviewing the specifications and the JCIBPC test programs. Let me assure you that ginners take their oversight role seriously. The JCIBPC mission to “Preserve the quality of U.S. cotton fiber for mill consumption...” relies heavily on ginner participation in test programs and their evaluation of a tested materials. If you have questions concerning a packaging material or a process that may be in a test program, check out the “[Test Program Review](#)” section of the current specifications.

Electronic warehouse receipts contain two “optional fields” that can be used to denote the type of ties and bagging on a bale of cotton. To accommodate these codes, a new table, 3.2. Tie and Bag Codes, was added to the specifications by the bale packaging committee. Gins should make sure their warehousemen know what type of bagging and ties are being used by your gin at the start of the ginning season and if other materials are used during the season. This is a voluntary program, but the NCGA is requesting that all gins urge their warehousemen to use the codes on the original cotton warehouse receipts.

Please direct your bale packaging and experimental test program questions to the NCC’s Dale Thompson at 901.274.9030 or dthompson@cotton.org.