



Farm Production and
Conservation

Economic and
Policy Analysis
Division

1400 Independence
Ave, S.W. 3741-S
Mail Stop 0508
Washington, DC
20250-0508

Informational Bulletin

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Subject: Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton Competitiveness Program

Consistent with the statutory authority for the Special Competitiveness Provisions for Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton and with prior practice in the application of such provisions, the Department of Agriculture today announced that, effective January 10, 2019, the foreign growths considered in determining payment eligibility and payment rates for the ELS Cotton Competitiveness Program, and their respective quality adjustments, in parentheses, are — Egyptian Giza 94 (+10 cents) and Israeli Pima H1 (0 cents).

The ELS Program, implemented in October 1999, is designed to ensure the marketability of U.S. ELS cotton. Since December 2014, the program has based payment rate determinations upon the differences between the U.S. ELS price quote and the Israeli Pima H1 price quote, both of which are reported daily by Cotlook Ltd. In December 2017, Cotlook began reporting daily quotes for Giza 94, which accounts for over one-quarter of global long and extra long staple cotton trade.

Based on a broad range of publicly available market data and information, the Department of Agriculture has determined that Giza 94 is a competing growth of ELS cotton. The quality adjustments for Giza 94 and Israeli Pima H1 have been established using an analysis of publicly available data on the physical characteristics of these growths, as well as other market data and information.

If you have any questions, please contact Kent Lanclos, FPAC-Business Center, (202)720-0114, Kent.Lanclos@usda.gov.