Based in Memphis, Tennessee, The Cotton Board is the oversight and administrative arm of the Cotton Research & Promotion Program, representing U.S. Upland cotton. The Cotton Board is responsible for providing the Program with strategic leadership and oversight of the economic resources devoted to the Program.

To fund the Program, The Cotton Board collects a per bale assessment on all Upland cotton harvested and ginned in the U.S., as well as an importer assessment on the cotton content of all Upland cotton products imported into the U.S. The Cotton Board contracts with Cotton Incorporated to carry out the actual research and promotion activities for U.S. producers and importers of cotton.

While Cotton Incorporated is consumer and trade focused, it is a charged function of The Cotton Board’s mission to keep U.S. producers and importers of cotton informed on the innovative developments stemming from the Cotton Research & Promotion Program.
For over 40 years, the Cotton Research & Promotion Program has been working to facilitate the economic success and viability of U.S. cotton – and leadership of this Program is no small responsibility. As the research and promotion arm of the U.S. cotton industry, the Cotton Board and its sole source contractor, Cotton Incorporated, annually direct and oversee a combined budget of approximately $75-$85 million aimed at improving the competitive position and expanding markets for cotton. Members, Alternates and advisors of The Cotton Board collaboratively represent the interests of both cotton importers and cotton producers. Their insight contributes to activities of the Cotton Research & Promotion Program targeted at improving the profitability of both industry segments. There are currently 76 Members and Alternates serving on The Cotton Board, consisting of 46 producers, 28 importers and 2 consumer advisors.

**COTTON BOARD MISSION STATEMENT**

The Cotton Board’s mission is to serve U.S. producers and importers of cotton and cotton products by effectively and efficiently governing the Research & Promotion Program so that it leads to increased demand for and consumption of cotton.

**COTTON BOARD VISION STATEMENT**

Through strategic leadership with a critical focus on governance and stewardship, the Cotton Board will collect and provide funds to support innovation in the research, production, marketing and global use of US cotton - to ensure a thriving U.S. cotton industry.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD**

- Implement Mission and Goals
- Financial Accountability and Oversight
- Ownership of The Program
NEW BOARD ADVISOR POSITIONS

The Cotton Board has been pleased over the last several years to join with the industry’s certified producer organizations to encourage and support diverse representation within the Cotton Research & Promotion Program. With this continued goal in mind, the Board has created two new advisory positions for the purpose of adding insight on production, promotional, and research issues affecting minority, young, and under-represented cotton producers.

The Advisors will be a non-voting advisor to the Board appointed by the Secretary to serve for a term of three years. Expenses for travel and other required participation is reimbursed in the same manner as Board Members and Alternates. He/she will be invited to attend the three regular Cotton Board meetings held each year. All advisors will be assigned to Program and other committees of the Cotton Board, similarly to Members and Alternates.

BOARD ADVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Board Advisors should: Familiarize themselves with the Program and Organization; Prepare, attend and participate in Cotton Board meetings; Exercise ethical behavior and confidentiality; and serve as an ambassador for the Program.

BOARD ADVISOR MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board Advisors are invited to attend all of The Cotton Board’s regularly scheduled meetings. The Cotton Board holds meetings in March, August, and December each year.
The following information may be used by Certified Producer Organizations to help determine suitable candidates for the Cotton Board’s Advisor positions. Additional information may also be required by the nominating organization.

Describe your company’s operation/ How long have you been engaged in farming or production, and what is the size of your farming operation. i.e. List acreage and pounds produced by kind of crop, as well as, kinds and numbers of livestock?

Education and any specialized experience:

Applicable farm/handler/producer/or co-op member industry organizations indicate whether a member or officer and how long affiliated:

Applicable business experience:

Other affiliations and/or service as a community leader that would benefit you in your role as a member of the advisory committee or research and promotion board council: