Stephen MacDonald Appointed Chair Of USDA’s Interagency Commodity Estimates Committee (ICEC) For Cotton

USDA Chief Economist Robert Johansson announces the appointment of Stephen MacDonald to USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB), serving as chair of the Interagency Commodity Estimates Committee (ICEC) for cotton. Before joining the WAOB, Mr. MacDonald was with USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS), undertaking both short-run commodity analysis and quantitative research on long-term issues.

As ICEC Chairman, Mr. MacDonald will be responsible for overseeing USDA's development of cotton forecasts for the monthly World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report. He will also review and approve forecasts and analytical reports issued by member agencies to ensure that all USDA forecasts are consistent and objective. His appointment became effective February 19, 2017.

"Stephen’s analysis has enhanced understanding of global cotton markets both within USDA and for researchers and decision-makers around the world," Johansson said. "He combines extensive experience in real-time analysis of an ever-changing global cotton market with a detailed grasp of the policies and underlying economic forces driving long-term change at home and abroad."

At ERS, Mr. MacDonald worked as a trade analyst, a cotton analyst, and a research economist. His research output includes in-depth studies of the cotton industries of Uzbekistan, India, and China. A native of Connecticut, Steve did his undergraduate studies at Cornell University, and his graduate work at George Washington University and George Mason University.