Market News Portal (MNP) Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is Market News?**
   Since 1915, Market News reports have provided an exchange of information among growers, shippers, wholesalers, and others on current supplies, demand, and prices. Fast, timely, and impartial reporting of supply, price, and market conditions for commodities, help facilitate an efficient marketing system. The information gathered for reporting is done through confidential telephone and face-to-face interviews carried out by skilled market reporters employed jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and State agencies.

2. **What is Market News Reporting?**
   Impartial, current, and reliable information that is disseminated free of charge through this Internet web site, newspapers, radio, other Internet sources as well as by email through the USDA Economics, Statistics and Market Information System (ESMIS) and as Scheduled Reports through the MNP Portal. Formatted reports are issued daily, weekly, monthly, or annually to assist industry members in making informed marketing decisions as well as custom reports are available for user specific data.

3. **What information is available on the Market News Portal (MNP)?**

   MNP provides market information for the following commodity areas:
   - **Cotton**: Depicts current and historic conditions relating to the trade of Cotton related products like Upland and Pima based on their classifications like color, leaf, and staple.
   - **Dairy**: Depicts current and historic conditions relating to the trade of Dairy related products like Cheese, Butter and Skim Milk etc.
   - **Fruit and Vegetable**: Delivers farmers, businesses (buyers and sellers), commodity traders and Market News reporters the latest Fruit and Vegetable Market News reports and resources.
   - **Livestock, Poultry, & Grain**: Offers current conditions relating to the trade of livestock, meat, wool, grain, and feedstuffs that will promote orderly marketing and enhance competition. Also, it provides information depicting current and historic conditions relating to the trade of Poultry related products like Whole Chicken, Chicken Parts, Whole Turkey, Turkey Parts, Fowl and Eggs.

   In addition, it offers a custom report interface that delivers reports (HTML, XML, Excel, TXT and PDF), graphs, and complimentary tools including Announcements, Tools and other Resources.

4. **The Portal has a lot of information available but where is the best place to start when looking for specific data by commodity?**

   Custom Reports is a good place to start because it provides the flexibility to generate a report by commodity, frequency, region or report type for a range of dates and can be downloaded as excel, text, XML, PDF, printable view or graph.

5. **Where are the Market News reports I used to see several years ago?**

   Many of the text and composite PDF formatted reports are still available under the headings of Standard, Popular or Other Reports. Also, historic data is available for five years through the "Market News Search" link at the top of the Market News home page.

6. Can historic data be accessed through the portal?

   Historic text and PDF Standard Reports are available for five years through the "Market News Search" link at the top of the Market News home page.

7. **What are the advantages of having an account on the Portal?**
   As a registered user, you have the capability to:

   * Save bookmarks to reports to easily execute again or edit search criteria
   * Schedule reports so that they will be emailed to you daily
   * Save bookmarks for graphs created from the reports
   * Email reports or links to reports to people you know

8. **How do I create an account?**
   On the top of the Home Page on the right side click on "**Log in|Register**" and follow the steps for an account. More information is available from the "My Account" section under "Portal Help" in the Help Section.

9. **What is the cost to register on the Portal?**
   Registration is free

10. **Does the Portal keep any personally identifiable information (PII)?**
    Personally identifiable information (PII) is not kept on the MNP

11. **I am a registered user and I logged in to the Portal. However, if I step away from my PC I no longer see my customized options when I return. What happened and what do I do?**
    Your portal login expires after 20 minutes of inactivity to verify if you are still connected, refresh your browser by clicking the F5 key and if the "My Account" tab is unavailable then you have been disconnected. You will have to click on "**Log in|Register**" again and "Log In".

12. **How do I graph a report?**
    Graphs are available when you run a Custom Report also a Graph icon will display in the upper right corner of the report.