QRNet is a software program which unleashes true Quick Response capability through Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) of cotton information. **QRNet** includes a third party communications package which enables your company to transmit and receive cotton data such as weights and HVI test results from other institutions over phone lines.

This information is passed among cotton merchants and mills using an electronic mailbox. An electronic mailbox is a central computer system used to exchange data among EDI users worldwide. **QRNet** uses standardized file formats (ANSI protocols) adopted by the Fabric and Suppliers Linkage Council (FASLINC) to ensure that electronic invoices,

QRNet currently supports two EDI forms specific to the cotton industry:

- **863**   Sample Tag List
          Report of Test Results
          Approval/Rejection List

- **856**   Advanced Tag List
          Shipping Notice

EDI forms which will be supported by **QRNet** for cotton data interchange in the near future include:

- **810**   Invoice
- **820**   Electronic Funds Transfer
- **861**   Confirmation of Arrival

QRNet is one of a family of programs which collectively constitute the Cotton Incorporated Engi-

QRNet

Quick Response Network

shipping notices and merchandising information can be easily used by businesses in the textile industry. **QRNet** has built-in networking capabilities to support multiple users.

neered Fiber Selection™ Cotton Management System. In 1990, EFS™ Cotton Management System was used by US mills that processed over 4.0 million bales of cotton. **Now, QRNet is available to merchants as a stand-alone program.**
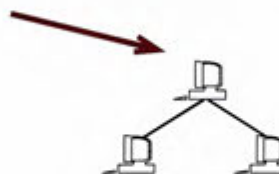
cotton
Cotton Incorporated

ENGINEERED FIBER SELECTION ™

SENDER

Creates EDI file using QRNet and uploads it to mailbox

ELECTRONIC MAILBOX

Interprets file; routes mail to appropriate receiver's electronic address

RECEIVER

Downloads mail containing file; reads data into QRNet

SETUP

The first step in using QRNet is to initialize the system. The user enters information about his/her own company and about trading partners (mills or merchants), such as name, address, personal contact, EDI code, and other information. (See the QRNet input screen below.) This information is stored by QRNet and is automatically added to the selected EDI form during a transaction when the user chooses a trading partner.
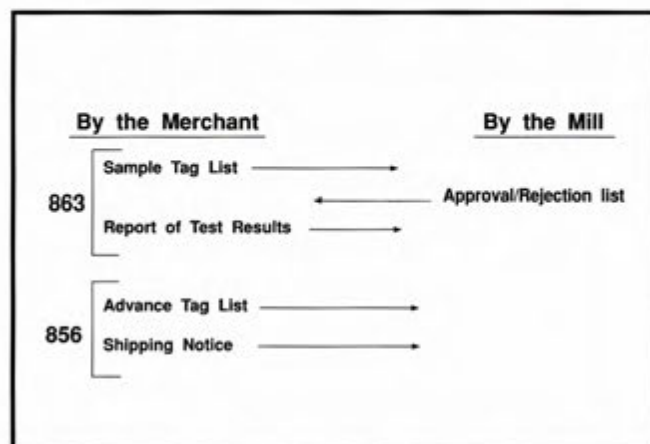


```
                    Trading Partner Editor

 Code    PARTNER INFORMATION
           ID........ COTTN
 COTTN     Name...... Cotton Incorporated          330
 LOM       Address... 4505 Creedmoor Road
 WISS      City...... Raleigh            State.. NC
           Zip Code.. 27612      Country Code...

         CONTACT INFORMATION
           Name...... Charles H. Chewning Jr.
           Code...... VP
           Phone No.. (919) 703-6330
           Fax No....

         EDI INFORMATION
           Type.. 01                 Last ISA... 0
           Code.. 123456789          Last GS.... 0
           Combine Bale ID & No.. No Last ST.... 0
           EDI Output Filename...
```

A merchant's Trading Partners are mills. Within each mill, there may be multiple locations where the physical bales of cotton are delivered. A mill'sTrading Partner list includes merchants with which he/she wants to do business. Each merchant may have access to cotton at a number of gins and/or warehouses.
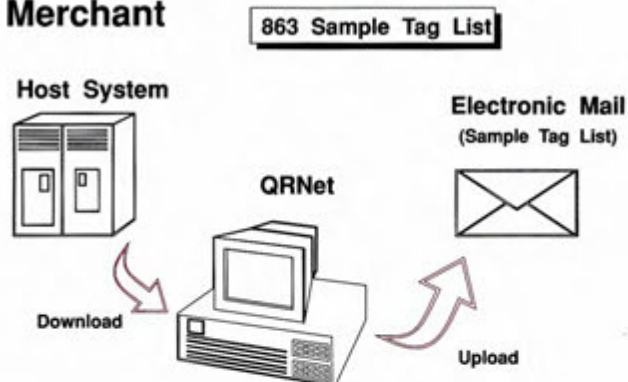
DAILY TRANSACTIONS

Once the system is initialized, the daily transactions can be executed quickly and easily. Generally, each transaction involves:

- Choosing a trading partner
- Choosing the type of transaction
  (863 Sample Tag List, 856 Shipping Notice, etc.)
- Retrieving cotton data from a database
- Creating an EDI file and sending it to the electronic mailbox

TRANSACTION FLOW

By the Merchant		By the Mill
863	Sample Tag List ————→	
	←————	Approval/Rejection list
	Report of Test Results ————→	
856	Advance Tag List ————→	
	Shipping Notice ————→	

Merchant

863 Sample Tag List

Host System

QRNet

Electronic Mail
(Sample Tag List)

Download

Upload

A merchant downloads (receives) bale information from the host system (EFS™ cotton management system or mainframe) to QRNet. The merchant can then review the information and add additional data, if necessary, to the transaction. To send it to a trading partner, he/she creates an EDI file and uploads it to the electronic mailbox.

A Typical QRNet Transaction contains:

Document Information	Transaction Information
Contract Information	Mark Information
Comment Information	Reference Information

Form-Specific Information

Bale No.	HVI Data				Weights		Price
	mic	len	str	etc....	Ship	Tare	
1178931	4.4	1.13	23.1		497	5	.7599
2341118	4.7	1.18	24.0		481	5	.7467
1567790	4.5	1.22	24.6		504	5	.7812

Mill

863 Approval/ Reject List

Sample Tag List

Approval / Reject List

QRNet

Download

Upload

EFS

A mill calls the electronic mailbox, downloading (receiving) an EDI file to QRNet at his/her convenience. The mill uses the EFS™ cotton management system to determine acceptable bales. Form 863, Approval/Reject List, can be transmitted back to the merchant using QRNet.

Data entered at this QRNet screen makes up the first part of each EDI transaction.

In the TRANSACTION EDITOR, the user selects the EDI form type, contract information, bale data, and other information to send cotton data to a trading partner.

The information entered here makes up the second part of each EDI transaction.

After a transaction is entered in the TRANSACTION EDITOR, the user opens a window which prompts for form-specific data. The QRNet screen above lists the additional data needed to complete the selected transaction (in this case, an 856 Form, Advance Tag List).
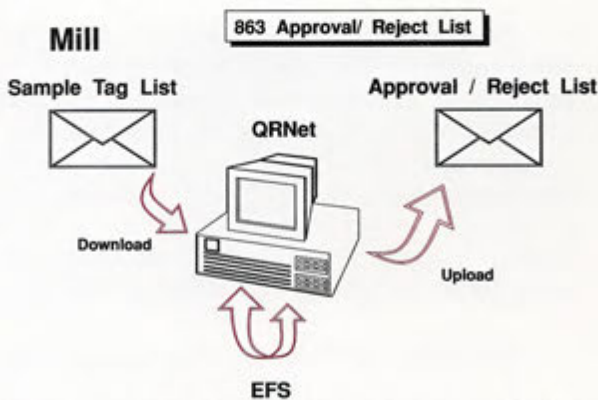
The third part of an EDI transaction is taken from the bale data entered at this screen.

Bale data such as cost, weight, and HVI data is entered at the BALE EDITOR screen shown above. Each shipment of bales is linked to a particular transaction.

EDI - QRNet ADVANTAGES

TO MERCHANTS

- improves marketability
- provides a faster, more efficient process to sell cotton

TO MILLS

- provides access to HVI data
- profiles inventory shipments to ensure adequate warehouse distribution of critical cotton groups
- bale tags can be printed from advance tag lists before physical bales arrive
- helps with Just-in-Time manufacturing strategies

TO BOTH

- implements true Quick Response capability
- automated macro features
- data customization
- provides a standard format for exchanging data
- enables reporting of HVI test results between different computer systems
- eliminates redundant keypunching
- reduces typing errors and associated costs
- minimizes paper consumption and expense

Why Use Cotton Incorporated's QRNet?

- **QRNet** provides an easy-to-use interface with **EFS™** cotton management system.

- **QRNet** provides fast mainframe file-to-EDI file conversion.

- **QRNet** is continuously updated as EDI standards change.

- Cotton Incorporated actively participates in the development of EDI standards for the cotton industry.

Data Flow Through QRNet

ASCII File →
EDI File →
EFS™ data →
Direct Keyboard Entry →

→ ASCII File
→ EDI File
→ EFS™
→ Printer

QRNet SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

IBM PS/2, or fully compatible computer

PC DOS or MS DOS 3.3 or higher

640 K RAM

40 Megabyte Hard Disk (minimum)

Color Monitor

Hayes® Modem
(2400 baud or higher strongly recommended)

An EDI account with an electronic mailbox such as EDI*EXPRESS ®

DUNS (Dun and Bradstreet) number (optional)

Cotton Incorporated is the research and promotion company of US Upland Cotton Growers. Company efforts concentrate on building demand for cotton products and increasing cotton consumption.

Founded in 1970, Cotton Incorporated's world headquarters are in New York, with research facilities in Raleigh, North Carolina and Greenville, South Carolina. Additional facilities are located in Los Angeles, Dallas, Atlanta, London, Osaka and Singapore.

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