



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## USDA TO EXAMINE FARMERS' PRODUCTION PRACTICES AND COSTS

SACRAMENTO, September 17, 2007 – How are local farmers being affected by changing agricultural trends and increased input costs? What new production practices are they using to assure a healthy environment and an abundant crop? These and other important questions will be answered when the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts the 2007 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

“ARMS is USDA’s primary source of information on the production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America’s farm households,” explained Vic Tolomeo, director of the California Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

From October to December, NASS will contact nearly 4,500 farm operators nationwide, including approximately 600 in California. They will be asked to provide information on their fertilizer, nutrient and pesticide applications, as well as their pest management and irrigation practices.

“During this phase of ARMS, we focus on production practices and costs. This year, we are looking at cotton and apples, including organic apples,” said Tolomeo. “In early 2008, we will follow up with some producers to obtain additional economic data.”

The importance of this survey cannot be underestimated, according to Tolomeo. “Virtually every federal farm program and policy is based on ARMS data. “Conservation programs, price support programs, risk management programs and research programs all rely on information generated through this survey. That’s why it’s so important that farmers take the time to participate and ensure that we have the most accurate and up-to-date information, straight from the source.”

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by survey respondents is confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). “We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses,” Tolomeo reminds producers. “Individual information is combined with other responses and published only as part of State, regional and national summaries. No individual person or operation can be identified.”

Visit the NASS web site at [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/) to see all completed NASS reports, as well as a comprehensive collection of other data on U.S. agriculture. Reports and additional information can also be obtained by calling the NASS Hotline at 1-800-727-9540.

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