



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 SURVEY MEASURES ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF FARMERS

SACRAMENTO, CA, January 15, 2008 – Farmers will soon have the opportunity to set the record straight about the issues that affect them – and to help ensure that policies and programs are based on accurate, real-world data. This is the goal of the annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

ARMS is USDA’s primary source of information on production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America’s farm households.

“Just about every federal policy and program that affects U.S. farmers and farm families is based on information from ARMS,” said Vic Tolomeo, director of the USDA-NASS California Field Office. “This information is used not just by USDA and Congress, but also by producer organizations, agribusinesses and others who make the decisions that shape the future of California agriculture.”

From early February through March, NASS field offices will contact 33,500 farmers nationwide by mail or phone to complete the survey. Producers will be asked to provide data on their operating expenditures, production costs and household characteristics.

“All farm operators rely on quality information and sound government policies in order to run a successful business. That’s why participation in ARMS is so important,” Tolomeo explained. “Producer participation in ARMS ensures that decisions affecting farmers, their families, their businesses and their communities are based on the facts, straight from the source.”

Information provided by respondents for all NASS surveys is maintained in strict confidence by law. Individuals’ data are combined and published only as state- and national-level data, thus ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified.

Survey responses will be compiled and NASS will publish the farm economic data in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report released on August 7, 2008. NASS reports are available online at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/>. To obtain a copy of any completed report, call the NASS order desk at 1-800-727-9540.

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