



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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## CHEMICALS APPLIED TO FRUIT SUBJECT OF USDA SURVEY

SACRAMENTO, September 9, 2009 – Fruit growers will be contacted this fall by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to participate in the 2009 Fruit Chemical Use Survey. NASS will survey growers in 12 states, including California, to collect information on pesticides and fertilizers used, acres treated and rates applied to more than 20 fruit crops.

"Because of the issues facing today's fruit growers, participation in this survey is vital," said Vic Tolomeo, Director of the NASS, California Field Office. "The Fruit Chemical Use Survey gives producers the opportunity to tell how they use agricultural chemicals responsibly to produce a safe, abundant, low-cost and high quality food supply."

The Fruit Chemical Use Survey, last conducted in 2005, will provide much needed information on the current crop production practices used in the United States. The survey was just recently reinstated to meet grower and consumer demand for the data. The results will help clarify the facts about chemical use in agriculture.

"Information published from the Fruit Chemical Use Survey is used in the decision-making process for the Food Quality Protection Act, which has an impact on pesticide registrations, re-registrations and product alternatives," explained Tolomeo.

NASS representatives will contact selected California producers to arrange personal interviews. As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law.

"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."

Survey results will be published in the *Fruit Chemical Usage* report to be released in July 2010. This and all completed NASS reports are available at the NASS web site at [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/). Reports and additional information can also be obtained by calling the NASS Hotline at 1-800-727-9540.

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