



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110

Upcoming survey information is contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA-NASS TO CONDUCT FRUIT CHEMICAL USE SURVEY

Harrisburg, PA, September 3, 2009 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) will conduct the Fruit Chemical Use Survey this fall to gather reliable, objective information about pesticides used on fruit crops. Information gathered from growers in 12 states, including Pennsylvania, will be used to set state and national estimates on chemical use for 24 fruit crops. The target fruits for Pennsylvania are apples and peaches.

A local interviewer representing NASS will contact fruit growers between October and December to collect information on pesticides used, acres treated, and rates applied.

Because of the challenges and unique issues facing today’s fruit growers, participation in this survey is vital. Only by contacting growers directly can NASS compile and publish the most reliable statistics possible. These statistics will give growers an opportunity to tell how they use agricultural chemicals responsibly to produce a safe and abundant food supply for the United States and the world. Survey results are official USDA data that help to clarify the facts about chemical use in agriculture. This information 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.

USDA-NASS closely guards the confidentiality of all survey responses. Data collected from individual operations are combined with other responses to provide the needed data. We will not disclose any data about an individual operation.

NASS will publish the *Fruit Chemical Usage* report with state and national estimates of fruit growers’ use of agricultural chemicals in July 2009. For a copy of this report or to obtain other agricultural statistics visit the NASS Web site: www.nass.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540.