



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.

Contact: Marc Tosiano, 717-787-3904
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Economic Surveys to Measure Farm Financial Health

HARRISBURG, PA, Jan 16, 2009 – Pennsylvania farmers will soon have the opportunity to “let their voice be heard” by participating in the 2008 Agricultural Resource Management Study. This study provides vital statistics about the economic condition of production agriculture, and those statistics are used by members of the agricultural community and their legislators when making important decisions that impact the future of America’s farmers and ranchers.

Data collected will represent the only true, objective picture of the financial well-being of Pennsylvania and U.S. farm operators. This data is also a resource when policymakers determine federal assistance. In 2007, the total value of direct payments to Pennsylvania farmers totaled \$24.0 million out of the \$5.1 billion delivered to all farmers within the United States. The majority of the direct payments made to Pennsylvania farm operators were for those involved in the corn program, amounting to 10,766 recipients for \$19.7 million. York County received the highest percentage of direct payments (6.5%) when comparing to all other counties within the state.

Approximately 318 Pennsylvania agricultural producers have been chosen to participate in this survey. Of those selected to participate, 188 will receive a general Costs and Returns Report; another 100 producers will receive a questionnaire targeting bio-energy; 30 more producers will receive a shorter mail version which covers the core questions of the Costs and Returns Report. Participation in this survey is a very important contribution to the overall welfare of Pennsylvania’s farmers. All individual data collected is held strictly confidential by law (Title 7 – Section 2204 of the U.S. Code). Only statistical totals are published for selected geographic regions and the Nation. Producers chosen to participate in the 2008 Agricultural Resource Management Study will be visited by an interviewer between February and April of 2009 to complete the report at the farm operator’s convenience.

Results from this survey will be used by farm and ranch operators, farm organizations, commodity groups, lenders, university researchers, news media, local USDA agencies, farm suppliers, and others. The results will be utilized to compute prices paid, evaluate economic challenges facing America’s food and fiber producers, determine the need for farm assistance, measure the cost of agricultural production, and assess the ability for producers to maintain sustainable farms.

Farm Production Expenditures will be released August 6, 2009. For a copy of the final report, go to the USDA-NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov and click on the Publications link; go to Find NASS Publications by Date, and then click on the August 2009 calendar for the link. For more information about the Agricultural Resource Management Study, contact Adam Pike or Marc Tosiano at 1-800-498-1518.

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