



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250
Tennessee Field Office • P.O. Box 41505 • Nashville, TN 37204-1505
Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov



Cooperating with Tennessee
Department of Agriculture

Media Contact: Debra Kenerson, 1-800-626-0987
nass-tn@nass.usda.gov

USDA TO MEASURE THE ECONOMIC STATE OF U.S. AGRICULTURE

NASHVILLE, January 19, 2007 - 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, such as the Farm Bill, 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 Debra Kenerson, Director of the NASS Tennessee Field Office. "This information is used not just by USDA and Congress, but also by agribusinesses and others who make the decisions that shape the future of Tennessee agriculture."

During the February through March data collection period, NASS field offices will send interviewers to contact 36,000 farmers nationwide 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," Kenerson 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."

Survey responses will be compiled and NASS will publish the farm economic data in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report, to be released on August 2, 2007. As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified. All NASS reports are available online at: www.nass.usda.gov.

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