



Press Release

Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

P.O. Box 70

Austin, Texas 78767-0070

(512) 916-5581

On: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SURVEY

For Information Contact
Jody McDaniel

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FARMERS AND RANCHERS TELL ABOUT PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Austin, TexasWhat pesticides are needed to control weeds, insects, and diseases? What farmland stewardship practices do agricultural producers apply? What modern technologies are producers adopting? To answer these questions and gather reliable, objective information about production practices, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will go directly to the source by asking producers to complete the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) during the fall of 2004.

"ARMS data is needed to paint a true picture about the technology and production practices used by America's producers," commented Robin Roark, Director of the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service. "When there are discussions about production practices, the environment or food safety, reliable data are needed."

Some 350 producers in Texas will be included in ARMS. The survey interviewers will gather data about wheat and peanut production practices. Information about fertilizer and pesticide applications; nonchemical pest suppression practices and genetically modified seed usage will be asked. Agricultural pesticides are subject to periodic reregistration, so it is imperative that producers report pesticides used.

ARMS data contributes to an overall understanding of policymakers, the Extension Service, grower associations and consumers of how biotechnology, modern machinery and efficient production practices have evolved to produce an abundant food supply. Research of the data will lead to development of more recommendations which will improve agricultural production, while also ensuring a safe environment for producers, their families and communities.

"U.S. farmers continue to advance agriculture through adoption of new technologies," Robin Roark said. "Improved seed, modern machinery and efficient production practices have allowed our producers to be more internationally competitive."

Texas farm operators selected to participate in this year's survey will soon be notified by letter, and interviewers will visit participants at their convenience to collect the data. ARMS is one example of how the USDA and producers work together to provide meaningful, accurate and objective statistical information that makes U.S. agriculture and rural communities among the most robust in the world.

The USDA uses results of the ARMS data when publishing information on agricultural chemical usage and analyzing commodity production income and costs in a series of reports in 2005. All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at www.usda.gov/nass/. For more information, call 1.800.626.3142.