



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

New England Field Office

53 Pleasant Street Room 2100 · Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 224-9639 · (603) 225-1434 (fax) · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

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Contact: Jennifer M. Zaleski  
(603) 227 - 3136

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

Concord, New Hampshire – 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 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 operations and farm households.

“Just about every federal policy and program that affects U.S. farmers and farm families is based on information from ARMS,” said Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. “This information is used not just by USDA and Congress, but also by Farm Bureau, Cooperative Extension, state governments, agribusinesses and others who make the decisions that shape the future of New England agriculture.”

Between February and March NASS field offices will contact 37,000 farmers nationwide by mail or personal interview 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,” Keough 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.”

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified. Results will be published in a series of USDA reports on the current farm financial situation. *Farm Production Expenditures*, the first report with results from this survey, will be released in August 2009. All NASS reports are available online at: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).