



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

22 Bridge St. Third Floor
PO Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639
Fax: 603-225-1434
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



December 10, 2003- For Immediate Release - Please Inform Others

USDA MEASURES AGRICULTURAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

Many of today's farmers face tough decisions as to whether or not to remain in business. Higher input costs such as labor, fuel, land values, and rent mixed with lower prices received for goods produced have placed an unbearable strain on farmers...but just how much of a strain is it? You, as a New England farmer, will have an opportunity to answer that question and "let your voice be heard" by participating in USDA's 2003 Agricultural Resource Management Survey.

Since the implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill, USDA has provided more than \$8 billion in program payments for agricultural producers. Data from agricultural economic surveys are used to determine the funding amounts for these direct payments and other Federal farm programs. This is just an example of the information gleaned from the annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Approximately 300 New England farm operators selected to participate in this year's survey will soon be notified by letter to ask for their help. Interviewers will make personal visits to complete the survey at the operator's convenience. By law, all questionnaires and information about individual farms are held in strict confidence. The data are only used in combination with reports from other producers.

The first National survey results will be available in the ***Farm Production Expenditures Report*** from Washington, D.C. on July 15, 2004, at 3:00 p.m. All reports are available on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/ within minutes of the scheduled release time. Northeast and United States statistics will be reprinted in the February issue of the ***Ag Review***. The monthly New England ***Ag Review*** is available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/nh/ and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six States in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All National statistics and State level newsletters are available free from e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.]

For More Information Contact: Dianne Johnson at 1-800-642-9571, ext 134