



TENNESSEE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE



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AG ECONOMIC SURVEY WILL MEASURE FARM FINANCIAL HEALTH

Tennessee farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to “let their voice be heard” by participating in the 2002 Agricultural Resource Management Study. This study, beginning in mid-February, provides vital statistics about the economic condition of production agriculture. Most importantly, these 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 present the only objective, true picture of the financial well-being of Tennessee farm operators and will provide an accurate portrayal as Congress assesses the impact of the new Farm Bill. These data are also a resource when policymakers determine Federal assistance. In 2001, direct government payments in the U.S. totaled \$20.7 billion dollars.

Each agricultural producer chosen to participate in this survey will represent from 50 to 100 fellow producers, and will therefore make an important contribution to the overall welfare of America’s farmers and ranchers. All individual data collected are held strictly confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). Only statistical totals are published for selected geographic regions and the Nation.

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 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.

Survey results will be released in *Farm Production Expenditures* on July 17, 2003. For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.nass.usda.gov/tn or call 800-626-0987.

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