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California Farm News

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USDA TO STUDY FARMING PRODUCTION PRACTICES

SACRAMENTO – The USDA will soon begin contacting producers to learn about their actual production practices during the 2011 growing season. As part of the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and Economic Research Service will gather data from growers on chemical use, pest management and irrigation practices for barley and sorghum.

“ARMS serves as the primary source of information on the production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America's farm operations and households,” said Vic Tolomeo, the director of USDA-NASS, California Field Office. “The project results help agricultural leaders and decision-makers better understand how producers cope with risk, adapt to policy changes, and make decisions about chemical use, new technologies and many other aspects of farming.”

Beginning in October, NASS representatives will conduct personal interviews with 3,000 growers nationwide, including 109 barley producers in California. This will be the first time since 2003 that the ARMS survey has focused on barley production.

“Producers will be asked to provide information on their fertilizer, nutrient, biocontrol and pesticide applications, as well as their pest management and irrigation practices,” explained Tolomeo. “Early next year, we will follow up with some of the participants to obtain additional economic data.”

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. “We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses,” Tolomeo reminds producers. “Individual information is combined with other responses and published only as part of State, regional and national summaries. No individual person or operation can be identified.”

Visit the NASS web site at www.nass.usda.gov for more information on NASS surveys, as well as a comprehensive collection of data on U.S. agriculture. Reports and additional information can also be obtained by calling the NASS Hotline at 1-800-727-9540.

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