



# NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **USDA to gather data about tropical fruit and specialty crops**

**HONOLULU, HI, – September 8, 2022** – The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), in cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), will conduct the Hawaii Tropical Specialty survey beginning in September. The survey will collect information about acres, area of production, crop production, prices, and sales for crop year 2021 from approximately 1,800 Hawaii producers.

"The information from these surveys directly impacts our states' fruit and specialty growers in many positive ways," said Shawn Clark, NASS Hawaii State Statistician. "Growers can use the survey results when making business plans and marketing decisions. Cooperative Extension uses the data to provide needed outreach and education, and State Departments and agencies of agriculture use the information to aid growers."

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) relies on the average yields and prices to administer farm programs, including the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP). The NAP program provides cash payments to producers of noninsured crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Additionally, food banks (distributors), farm to school programs, and non-profit food advocates also use the data.

Survey recipients are asked to respond securely online at [agcounts.usda.gov](https://agcounts.usda.gov), using the 12-digit survey code mailed with the survey, or to mail completed questionnaires back in the prepaid envelope provided, by October 3.

In accordance with federal law, survey responses are kept confidential. Survey results will be available in aggregate form only to ensure that no individual producer or operation can be identified. NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results late December 2022 in the *Hawaii Tropical Fruit and Crops* report on the NASS website. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Hawaii Field Office at (808) 522-8080.

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*NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*