



News Release

USDA To Study Crop Production Practices

A sample of soybean growers across Indiana will soon be contacted by the USDA, NASS, Great Lakes Region to participate in Phase II of the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

Conducted annually in the fall, ARMS II is USDA's primary source of information on production practices for select commodities. This year it focuses on nutrient and fertilizer use, conservation tillage, and pest management practices for soybean production.

NASS will conduct personal interviews with over 9,000 farm operators nationwide, including 250 in Indiana. They will be asked to provide information on their fertilizer, nutrient and pesticide applications, as well as their pest management and irrigation practices.

"This is the second phase of ARMS, where we focus on production practices. This year, we are looking at soybeans," said Greg Matli, Indiana State Statistician.

While ARMS is a lengthy and complex survey, its importance cannot be underestimated, according to Matli. "Virtually every federal farm program and policy is based on ARMS data," he said. "Conservation programs, price support programs, risk management programs, research programs – you name it. All of them rely on information generated through this survey. That's why it's so important that farmers take the time to participate and ensure that we have the most accurate and up-to-date information, straight from the source."

Matli assures ARMS participants that the confidentiality of their responses is protected by law. "NASS strictly safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only state and national data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified," he said.

For more information about ARMS and other surveys conducted by NASS, contact the Great Lakes Regional Office at 1-800-453-7501 or visit the NASS web site at: www.nass.usda.gov.

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