



USDA to Take the Economic Pulse of U.S. Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will spend the next several months gathering production practices information from farmers and ranchers across the nation through the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). The results of this survey will serve as a baseline for numerous federal policies and programs that affect U.S. farms and farm families.

"It is hard to overestimate the impact the responses to ARMS can have since this survey is the primary tool for federal, state, and local government representatives and all major farm sector stakeholders to gauge the financial condition of American farms and ranches," said Marlo Johnson, director of the NASS Great Lakes Regional Field Office. "By responding, farmers in the Great Lakes Region (Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio) can ensure that they are accurately represented when it comes to decision-making."

NASS conducts ARMS jointly with USDA's Economic Research Service. In an effort to obtain the most accurate data, the federal agencies will reach out to nearly 41,000 producers nationwide, including approximately 800 in Michigan, between January and April. The survey asks producers to provide data on their operating expenditures, production costs, and household characteristics.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring no individual respondent or operation can be identified.

The economic data gathered in ARMS will be published in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report on August 4, 2016. All NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, please call the Great Lakes Regional Field Office at (800) 453-7501.