



# News Release

## USDA Gathers Information to Determine Financial Well-Being of Agriculture

Beginning in late December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will spend several months gathering information about farm economics and production practices from farmers and ranchers across Michigan, as the agency conducts the third and final phase of the 2018 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

"ARMS is the only survey that measures the current financial well-being of Michigan producers and their households as a whole," said Marlo Johnson, director of the USDA, NASS, Great Lakes Region. "The results of this survey will help inform decisions on local and federal policies and programs that affect Michigan farms and farm families."

In an effort to obtain the most accurate data, NASS will reach out to more than 30,000 producers nationwide, including 600 in Michigan, between February and April. The survey asks producers to provide in-depth information about their operating revenues, production costs, and household characteristics. The 2018 survey includes versions focused on soybean, and cattle and calf sector costs and returns.

"We realize that this survey is lengthy and some producers may have questions," explained Johnson. "In February, our interviewers will begin reaching out to those farmers who have not yet responded to answer any questions they may have and help them fill out their questionnaires."

In addition to producing accurate information, NASS has strong safeguards in place to protect the confidentiality of all farmers who respond to its surveys. The agency will only publish data in an aggregate form only, ensuring the confidentiality of all responses and that no individual respondent or operation can be identified.

The expense data gathered in ARMS will be published in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report on August 2, 2019. That report and others are available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information about the 2018 ARMS, visit [www.ers.usda.gov/arms](http://www.ers.usda.gov/arms), or call the Great Lakes Regional Field Office at (800) 453-7501.

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