



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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USDA to Gauge Financial Well-Being of Mississippi Farmers and Ranchers

Jackson, Mississippi – 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 Mississippi, as the agency conducts the third and final phase of the 2019 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

“ARMS is the only survey that measures the current financial well-being of Mississippi producers and their households as a whole,” said Esmerelda Dickson, Mississippi State Statistician. “The results of this survey will help inform decisions on local and federal policies and programs that affect Mississippi 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 615 in Mississippi, between February and May. The survey asks producers to provide in-depth information about their operating revenues, production costs, and household characteristics. The 2019 survey includes a version focused on cotton costs and returns.

“In February, our interviewers will begin reaching out to those farmers who have not yet responded,” said Dickson. “We appreciate their time and are here to help them with the questionnaire so that their information will continue supporting sound agricultural decision-making.”

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, 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 July 31, 2020. That report and others are available at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications. More reports based on ARMS data and more information about ARMS are available at www.ers.usda.gov/arms.

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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.

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