



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
4050 Crums Mill Rd Suite 203 Harrisburg, PA 17112



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2, 2016

Contact: Karen Powell
(717) 787-3904

USDA TO GAUGE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF NORTHEASTERN FARMERS AND RANCHERS

HARRISBURG, PA – 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 the U.S. (including the Northeast) as the Agency conducts the third and final phase of the 2016 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

"ARMS is the only survey program that allows anyone to clearly see the current financial well-being of agricultural producers and their households as a whole," said King Whetstone, Director of the NASS Northeast Office. "The results of this survey will serve as a primary source of information for numerous local and federal policies and programs that affect Northeast farms and farm families."

NASS conducts ARMS jointly with USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). In an effort to obtain the most accurate data, the federal agencies will reach out to more than 30,000 producers nationwide, including 2,200 in the Northeast, between December 2016 and April 2017. The survey asks producers to provide in-depth data on their operating expenditures, production costs and household characteristics.

"We realize that this survey is lengthy and some producers may have questions or need clarification," explained Whetstone. "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 accurate data, NASS is strongly committed to confidentiality. The agency will only publish data in an aggregate form. This helps safeguard 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 3, 2017. All NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. ERS also plans to release a series of reports based on ARMS data. All of these reports will be available on the agency's site at www.ers.usda.gov.

###

NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).