



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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USDA Launches 2019 Agricultural Resource Management Survey

HARRISBURG, PA – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is beginning to collect data from approximately 50,000 farmers and ranchers for its annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). The survey looks at all aspects of U.S. agricultural production, including farm financial well-being, chemical usage, and various farm characteristics. In 2019 the survey will take a closer look at barley, cotton and sorghum production in the United States.

The information producers provide through the survey influences National and State policy-making decisions. In addition, ARMS data are used to calculate the farm sector portion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The survey also collects detailed information on production practices, costs, and returns for 13 principal commodities on a rotating basis.

“Data from ARMS are used to gauge the financial health and resource use of today’s farmers,” said King Whetstone, director of NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office. “It gives us an annual snapshot of where producers stand in the U.S. economy,” stated Whetstone.

The survey is conducted in three phases from May 2019 through April 2020. The current (first) phase screens participants to make sure they have the commodities of interest and will accurately represent the entire U.S. farm sector. During the second phase, NASS will collect information on production practices and chemical use for specific commodities. In the final phase, NASS will survey producers on farm income and production expenditures.

“We strongly encourage every producer contacted for ARMS to participate, as their response represents not just their own farm, but many other similar operations across the country,” added Whetstone. To make responding as convenient as possible, the survey can be completed online at agcounts.usda.gov. NASS representatives are available by phone to assist with any questions about the survey. Producers can also complete and mail the paper form to us.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

ARMS is a joint effort of NASS and USDA’s Economic Research Service. For more information about the 2019 Agricultural Resource Management Survey visit www.nass.usda.gov/go/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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