



PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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USDA TO MEASURE THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF AMERICAN FARMS

Olympia, Washington – Starting in January, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is contacting farmers and ranchers across the nation to conduct the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). This survey gives farmers and ranchers an opportunity to provide accurate, real-world data that will help shape the policies, programs and issues that affect them.

“ARMS asks a small, but representative, sample of farmers about their operation in order to understand the current financial state of U.S. agriculture,” said Chris Mertz, Director of the NASS Northwest Regional Field Office. “Government and agriculture leaders use the information to make sound decisions that impact the future of farmers, their families, their businesses, and their communities, making ARMS results crucial to Northwest agriculture.”

NASS will gather information through early spring. To obtain the most accurate data, NASS will reach out to nearly 40,000 producers nationwide, including 2,500 in the Northwest. The survey asks producers to provide data on their operating expenditures, production costs and household characteristics.

“Farm organizations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, other government agencies, members of Congress, and state and local officials use the information from ARMS to answer questions and make important decisions concerning the economic viability of American agriculture, the rural economy and other emerging issues,” explained Mertz.

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.

NASS will publish the economic data gathered in ARMS in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report on August 4, 2016. All NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

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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.

We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at http://bit.ly/NASS_Subscriptions and look for the “NASS Data User Community.”

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Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov>. Hover over the “Publications” drop down. Under "Receive reports by Email" section in the lower right corner, select the report(s) you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.