



NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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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 Northeastern Region of the U.S., 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 Northeastern producers and their households as a whole,” said King Whetstone, director of the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office. “The results of this survey will help inform decisions on local and federal policies and programs that affect Northeastern farms and farm families,” stated Whetstone.

In an effort to obtain the most accurate data, NASS will reach out to more than 30,000 producers nationwide, including 1,300 in the Northeastern Region, between December 26, 2019 and April 29, 2020. The survey asks producers to provide in-depth information about their operating revenues, production costs, and household characteristics. The 2019 survey includes versions focused on barley, cotton, and sorghum sector costs and returns.

“In February, our interviewers will begin reaching out to those farmers who have not yet responded,” said Whetstone. “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 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 July 31, 2020. That report and others are available at www.nass.usda.gov. More reports based on ARMS data and more information about ARMS is available at www.ers.usda.gov/arms.

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