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USDA TO GET ANNUAL ‘REALITY CHECK’ FROM U.S. FARMERS

Austin, TX – Farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to speak out on the costs, returns, and management practices used to produce the world’s safest and most abundant food supply. Helping to ensure that policies and programs are based on accurate, real-world data is the goal of the annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

ARMS is USDA’s primary source of information on production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America’s farm operations and farm households. A special focus of this year’s study will be management practices and production costs for wheat operations.

“Just about every federal policy and program that affects U.S. farmers and farm families is based on information from ARMS,” said Doug Rundle, director of the NASS Texas Field Office. “This information is used not just by USDA and Congress, but also by producer organizations, commodity groups, university researchers and others who contribute to policy and program formulation.”

From January through early April, NASS field offices will contact nearly 35,000 farmers and ranchers nationwide by mail or personal contact to complete the survey. Producers will be asked to provide data on their operating expenditures, management practices, and household characteristics.

“Farm and ranch operators need good information, useful research, and sound policies and programs to be successful. That’s why participation in ARMS is so important,” Rundle explained. “Producer participation in ARMS ensures that decisions affecting farmers, their families, and their communities are based on the facts, straight from the source.”

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified. All NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.