



Southern Plains News Release

Southern Plains Regional Field Office · Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-626-3142 · www.nass.usda.gov
Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry

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USDA to Survey Fruit Growers about Chemical Use

Austin, TX – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey fruit growers in 11 states, including Texas, for its biennial Fruit Chemical Use Survey. The survey will collect information on pesticides and fertilizers used, acres treated and rates applied to more than 20 fruit crops. In Texas, the study will focus on peach and grapefruit production.

Beginning this year, NASS is partnering with USDA’s Economic Research Service to ask questions about growers’ food safety practices. The purpose of these questions is to provide a baseline of current food safety practices, which will be used by industry participants in developing final rules for the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The FSMA focuses on preventing foodborne illness by reducing microbial contamination of food products.

“The Fruit Chemical Use Survey results will provide an important update of pesticide use and of pest management practices employed by U.S. fruit growers,” said Doug Rundle, director of the NASS Southern Plains Regional Field Office. “Growers benefit from providing this information because it is used to re-register pesticide products they need and use.

Within the next few weeks NASS representatives will contact sampled Texas peach and grapefruit growers to arrange in-person interviews to complete the survey. Mr. Rundle said, “I hope every grower understands the importance of this survey to their industry, and that sampled operators will take the time to respond.”

NASS will publish only aggregate data to ensure the confidentiality of all individual responses. Survey results will be published in July 2016 in NASS’s online database, *Quick Stats*. This database and all NASS reports are available on the agency’s web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Southern Plains Regional Field Office at 1-800-626-3142.

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