



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1659



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 20, 2018

Contact: Herman Ellison
(804) 771-8560

USDA to Gauge Financial Well-Being of Virginia Farmers and Ranchers

RICHMOND, Va. – 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 Virginia, as the agency conducts the third and final phase of the 2018 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

“ARMS is the only survey that measures the current financial well-being of Virginia producers and their households as a whole,” said Herman Ellison, NASS Virginia State Statistician. “The results of this survey will help inform decisions on local and federal policies and programs that affect Virginia farms and farm families.”

In an effort to obtain the most accurate data, NASS will reach out to more than 30,000 producers nationwide, including 750 in Virginia, from January to March. The survey asks producers to provide in-depth information about their operating revenues, production costs, and household characteristics. The 2018 survey includes versions focused on soybean, and cattle and calf sector costs and returns.

“We realize that this survey is lengthy and some producers may have questions,” explained Ellison. “In February, our interviewers will begin reaching out to those farmers who have not yet responded to answer any questions they may have and help them fill out their questionnaires.”

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 only 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 August 2, 2019. 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.

###

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.”

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.