



NEWS RELEASE
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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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USDA TO SURVEY FRUIT GROWERS ABOUT CHEMICAL USE

Olympia, Washington—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey fruit growers in 11 states, including Oregon and Washington, 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. Beginning this year, NASS is partnering with USDA’s Economic Research Service to ask a set of questions about growers’ microbial food safety practices. These data will help measure the impact of the recently passed Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) which focuses on preventing foodborne illness by reducing microbial contamination of food products, including produce.

“Pesticide data already made this survey a vital tool for the entire U.S. fruit production sector. With the additional information about the microbial practices, this survey is more relevant than ever to the entire nation,” said Christopher Mertz, director of the NASS Northwest Regional Field Office. “I hope every grower understands the importance of these data and will take the time to respond to the survey if they receive it.”

The Fruit Chemical Use Survey will provide much needed information about current crop production practices used in the United States. The results of this survey will paint a detailed picture of pesticide use and other pest management practices used by fruit growers across the nation.

“Growers benefit from providing this information because it is used to re-register products for their use, to illustrate the industry’s environmental practices and to assure the quality of U.S. food to consumers here and around the world,” said Mertz.

Within the next few weeks NASS representatives will contact selected Oregon and Washington growers to arrange in-person interviews to complete the survey. To safeguard all individual responses, NASS will publish only aggregate data, ensuring the confidentiality of all individual respondents.

Survey results will be published in NASS’s online database, *Quick Stats*, in July 2016. 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 Northwest Regional Field Office at 1-800-435-5883.

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