

The Census Bureau wishes to create a new Current Industrial Report form M311C, “Corn (Wet & Dry Producers of Ethanol).” The Form is a breakout of information currently reported on Form M3111J.

In August 2006, outside commodities experts and trade associations requested an expansion to the Current Industrial Report “Fats and Oils: Oilseed Crushings” (M311J). The experts and trade associations requested that the corn section of the M311J be expanded to include corn by-products from wet and dry mill ethanol plants.

After several meetings, teleconferences, and research into the feasibility of the request, the Manufacturing and Construction Division (MCD) agreed to expand the survey as requested. Before 2007, the M311J collected corn data on crude oil and crude oil stocks. The expansion to the current survey was comprised of 11 new corn by-products. Data was first collected in January 2007 from approximately 150 ethanol wet and dry mill ethanol plants in the United States.

Through nine months of reporting, respondents’ complaints have been nonexistent since each establishment only has to report the two or three of the newly requested corn by-products that are produced monthly. However, the current layout of item codes on the M311J is confusing and many establishments are reporting values for corn crude oil and corn crude oil stocks. The newly added wet and dry mill ethanol establishments do not produce corn crude oil, yet the placement of such has made these plants report their ethanol oil (which is not collected) under corn crude oil. All corn item codes must be grouped together if they appear on a single form. The creation of the new form M311C for corn by-products would ease respondent burden/confusion by eliminating the appearance of corn crude oil and corn by-products on a single form.

The newly created M311C will be sent as a replacement form to a subset of establishments currently reporting in the M311J. No new respondents will be added and no new burden will be created by this change.