

Supporting Statement - Part A

FRUIT, NUTS, AND SPECIALTY CROPS

OMB No. 0535-0039

TERMS OF CLEARANCE

In accordance with 5 CFR 1320, the information collection is approved for a period of two years. During this approval, the agency should work with OMB to address issues of non-response bias in these surveys. In the next request for approval, the agency must include, at the very least, a plan and timeline for addressing non-response bias. (01/28/08)

In the fall of 2009, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) began working on several new initiatives to improve the overall quality of data NASS publishes. These initiatives encompass most of the activities involved in data collection, analysis, summarization, and publication of data.

Many of the fruit, nut and specialty commodities covered under this OMB docket, use questionnaires that contain questions that are either a part of the National program, or were added to existing questionnaires, in response to requests from State cooperative agreements with data users. The new initiatives that NASS is undertaking has begun standardizing and streamlining the questionnaires to improve the ease at which a respondent can complete the surveys. NASS is also looking at ways in which we can improve our accessibility to electronic versions of the questionnaires, to make them more user friendly, for anyone wishing to complete the surveys, through the internet. We are also looking at ways in which we can use data collected from other surveys to improve the quality of data collected by this docket, to help reduce respondent burden and to help eliminate any potential for non-response bias.

NASS Senior Management has set a target completion date for the new initiatives for the Spring of 2012 (approximately two and a half years from start to finish). This will allow time to develop new software that will support the changes in the overall functions of NASS, which includes the development, testing, analyzing, and publishing of data using numerous new tools.

In the mean time, NASS management has stressed to our Field Offices the need to improve the response rates of all surveys, and to also concentrate their current data collection activities on maximizing their coverage of data. This coverage of data, involves the follow-up attempts (phone and field enumeration) at collecting data from the larger producers so that we have at least 80% of the data accounted for even though NASS may not be able to achieve a greater than 80% response rate.

A. JUSTIFICATION

This submission is a request for approval of this long-running information collection for 3 years. There are only minor changes in the survey program, mostly updating universe/sample sizes after list frame maintenance. There has been some minor changes to questionnaires to standardize the questions from State to State collections. NASS has also been able to combine several specialty surveys into one form to reduce the respondent burden. Some States have been able to merge commodity price questionnaires with existing production or processing surveys.

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

The primary function of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to prepare and issue current official State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, value, and disposition. Estimates of fruit, tree nuts, and specialty crops are an integral part of this program. These estimates support the NASS strategic plan to cover all agricultural cash receipts.

General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204. This statute specifies that "The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain ... by the collection of statistics ... and shall distribute them among agriculturists."

- 2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

Data reported on fruit, nut, specialty crops and Hawaiian tropical crop inquiries are used by NASS to estimate crop acreage, yield, production, utilization, price, and value in States with significant commercial production. These estimates are essential to farmers, processors, and handlers in making production and marketing decisions. Estimates from these inquiries are used by market order administrators in their determination of expected crop supplies under federal and State market orders.

Other government agencies also need these data. They were used during open trade negotiations with Canada and Mexico which resulted in the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement. Estimates for these commodities are needed by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for crop insurance issues and by the Farm Services Agency (FSA) to determine disaster payments. The International Trade Commission has used these data to resolve anti-dumping investigations, such as the March 1998 resolution of the dispute involving the shipment of apples

to Mexico. Additionally, the information is used as base data for the Water Quality/Food Safety surveys.

- 3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

Nearly all of the larger NASS information collections have been converted to Web-based data collection, what NASS calls electronic data reporting or EDR. Conversion of the dozens of versions of the fruit, nuts, and specialty crops questionnaires is steadily progressing, where practical. Using the new initiatives (that are mentioned on the first page of this document), NASS is investigating ways in which we can make it feasible to create and support EDR instruments for all surveys conducted by NASS. Currently, less than 0.5 percent of responses are from the Web.

The main portal for our on-line surveys is <http://www.agcounts.usda.gov>. Once there, the respondents have to enter the valid survey code and their own user ID from the printed label of the questionnaire mailed to them. We do not want anyone other than a selected respondent to access the survey Web pages and enter data.

- 4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

NASS cooperates with State departments of agriculture and land grant universities to conduct agricultural surveys. This eliminates duplication of data gathering by more than one agency. For the commodities in this docket, if information is available from State agencies and other federal agencies, then NASS will use these administrative data to reduce burden on the public.

Each NASS Field Office (FO) maintains an up-to-date list frame of growers for each applicable commodity in this docket. By monitoring data collection periods for each commodity, cross-referencing growers by commodity, and combining information for multiple commodities on a single questionnaire, duplication of data collection is eliminated. Also, using data collected from the 2007 Census of Agriculture (0535-0226) sample sizes for each State were adjusted to better reflect changes in industry. This keeps total respondent burden to the lowest possible level.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities (Item 5 of OMB Form 83-I), describe any methods used to minimize burden.

Information from growers can be provided with a minimum of difficulty and generally without having to consult their record books. Information from processors can be completed from normal day-to-day operating records. Administrative data is obtained for commodities that are State or federally regulated, thereby eliminating burden on growers and processors. Administrative data from other entities are used whenever possible. In instances where administrative data provides sufficient coverage and accuracy, we consider these opportunities to discontinue surveys and reduce burden.

In order to further reduce the overall respondent burden, NASS is incorporating stratified samples where possible, rather than conducting a complete enumeration of any group of specialty commodity producers. This allows NASS to concentrate more on the larger producers and greatly reduce the burden on the smaller producers.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

Collecting data less frequently would prevent USDA and the agriculture industry from being kept abreast of changes at the State and national level. The diversity of commodities included in this docket and the varying seasonality of each commodity warrants the frequency of data collection currently used by NASS. Data is collected for the different stages of production and consumption of the different commodities, for production, sales, prices, processing, and stocks.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly; requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;...

Some surveys are conducted monthly during the growing season to keep USDA and the agriculture industry abreast of changes at the State and national level. Timing and frequency of the reports have evolved to meet the needs of producers, agribusinesses, and government agencies.

Many of the specialty crop, fruit and nut surveys are conducted at times of the year that coincide with the crop growth cycle(s) and harvest or marketing periods. This helps to increase the accuracy of the data by reducing memory bias. If we conducted surveys at less frequent intervals or all at the end of the year, it would be difficult for the respondents to recall information for previous time frames.

- 8. Provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8 (d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments.**

The Federal Register Notice soliciting comments was published on August 31, 2009, on page 44817. The two public comments received and the one response letter are attached.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultations with the Extension Service, grower organizations, farmers, and other organizations occur on a regular basis, especially by our State Field Offices.

- 9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents.**

There are no payments or gifts to respondents.

- 10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

All questionnaires include a statement that individual reports are kept confidential. U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1905, U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2276, and Subtitle A of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA), (Public Law 107-347) provide for the confidentiality of reported information. All employees of NASS and all enumerators hired and supervised under a cooperative agreement with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) must read the regulations and sign a statement of compliance.

NASS and NASS contractors comply with OMB Implementation Guidance, (Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, CIPSEA). CIPSEA supports NASS' pledge of confidentiality to all respondents and facilitates the agency's efforts to reduce burden by supporting statistical activities of collaborative agencies through designation of NASS agents; subject to the limitations and penalties described in CIPSEA.

- 11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature.**

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

- 12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-I. Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories.**

Total hours of burden are based on calculations shown in the following table, with a targeted response rate of 80%.

Cost to the public of completing the questionnaires is assumed to be comparable to the hourly rate of those requesting the data. Reporting time of 16,489 hours is multiplied by \$24 per hour for a total cost to the public of \$395,736.

0535-0039 - Projected Respondent Burden for 2010 - 2012

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Resp. Count	Freq. X Count	Min. / Resp	Burden Hours	Non-Resp Count	Freq. X Count	Min / Non Resp.	Burden Hours	Total Burden
Tree Fruits														
Apples	General Production Questions	Apple Inquiry	200530 200511	4,000	2	3,200	6,400	10	1,067	800	1,600	2	53	1,120
	Production by Variety	Apple Production by Variety	200585	600	2	480	960	15	240	120	240	2	8	248
	Disposition	Apple Production and Disposition	200525	4,500	1	3,600	3,600	15	900	900	900	2	30	930
	Processing	Apple Processing Inquiry	200555, 200560, 200555	200	1	160	160	15	40	40	40	2	1	41
		Apple Cider Mill Inquiry	200590	125	1	100	100	15	25	25	25	2	1	26
	Handlers	Apple Handlers Inquiry	200575	250	1	200	200	10	33	50	50	2	2	35
		Apple Broker/Packer Inquiry	200560											
	Prices	Apple Prices	200595	150	7	120	840	15	210	30	210	2	7	217
Oregon Apple Price Inquiry		200505	10	1	8	8	15	2	2	2	2	0	2	
Cherries	General Production Questions	Sweet or Tart Cherry Inquiry	200306, 000560, 000702, 000709	400	1	320	320	5	27	80	80	2	3	30
		Cherry Report or Cherry Inquiry	000560, 200306, 200306	500	1	400	400	15	100	100	100	2	3	103
	Production, Disposition and/or Utilization	Cherry Production and Disposition Inquiry	200328	500	1	400	400	15	100	100	100	2	3	103
		Sweet Cherry Production and Disposition	QID											
		Tart Cherry Production and Utilization	000711											
		Sweet Cherry Production and Utilization	000606											
	Processing	Cherry Processing (Sweet and/or Tart)	000607, 20035642	45	1	36	36	15	9	9	9	2	0	9
Handlers	Cherry Price Inquiry - Oregon	QID	25	1	20	20	10	3	5	5	2	0	3	

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Resp. Count	Freq. X Count	Min. / Resp	Burden Hours	Non-Resp Count	Freq. X Count	Min / Non Resp.	Burden Hours	Total Burden
Citrus	General Productin Questions	California Citrus Inquiry	000142a, 000142b	450	4	360	1,440	10	240	90	360	2	12	252
		Citrus Inquiry - Jan.	060142	40	4	32	128	5	11	8	32	2	1	12
		Citrus Inquiry - Apr.	060142											
		Citrus Inquiry - Oct.	060142											
		Citrus Inquiry - End of Season	QID											
	Prices	Citrus Prices Inquiry	812001	10	8	8	64	20	21	2	16	2	1	22
	Packinghouse	Citrus Packinghouse Inquiry	QID	50	1	40	40	20	13	10	10	2	0	13
	Processor	Citrus Processors Inquiry	812001	25	1	20	20	5	2	5	5	2	0	2
Peaches	General Production Questions	Peach Report	200608	2,350	1	1,880	1,880	10	313	470	470	2	16	329
		Peach Forecast	200607											
		Peach Inquiry	200607											
	Production and/or Utilization	Peach Production and Disposition	200630	1,600	1	1,280	1,280	15	320	320	320	2	11	331
		Peach Production and Utilizatin	200703b											
	Condition	Peach Condition Report	200601	200	1	160	160	3	8	40	40	2	1	9
	Processing	Peach Processing Inquiry	200660	25	1	20	20	10	3	5	5	2	0	3

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Resp. Count	Freq. X Count	Min. / Resp	Burden Hours	Non-Resp Count	Freq. X Count	Min / Non Resp.	Burden Hours	Total Burden
Pears	General Production Questions	Pear Forecast	200506	200	1	160	160	10	27	40	40	2	1	28
	Production and/or Utilization	Pear Production and Disposition Inquiry	000605	300	1	240	240	15	60	60	60	2	2	62
		Pear Production and Utilization	000605											
	Prices	Oregon Pear Price Inquiry	200711	200	1	160	160	15	40	40	40	2	1	41
	Processing	Pear Processing	200761, 000610, 200456	50	1	40	40	15	10	10	10	2	0	10
Plums and Prunes	General Production Questions	Prune and Plum Report	200901	250	1	200	200	5	17	50	50	2	2	19
		Plum Production and Utilization	200723	250	1	200	200	10	33	50	50	2	2	35
	Processing	Prune and Plum Processing Inquiry	200060	75	1	60	60	10	10	15	15	2	1	11
	Handlers	Oregon Handler and Packer Survey	200060	50	1	40	40	10	7	10	10	2	0	7
Mixed Fruit Quest	General Production Questions	Fruit Inquiry	200008, 200008, 200009, 000506	6,500	4	5,200	20,800	10	3,467	1,300	5,200	2	173	3,640
		Fruit and Sweet Corn Inquiry	000136-NH	400	1	320	320	15	80	80	80	2	3	83
	Packing Costs	Peach and Prune Packing Costs	000605	50	1	40	40	20	13	10	10	2	0	13
		Apricot and Sweet Cherry Packing Costs	000605											
	Disposition and/or Utilization	Apple, Bartlett Pear and Other Pear Production and Disposition Inquiry	200525	500	1	400	400	30	200	100	100	2	3	203
		Fruit Production and Disposition Inquiry	200010	1,000	1	800	800	15	200	200	200	2	7	207
		November Fruit Survey	200585	1,100	1	880	880	20	293	220	220	2	7	300
		Fruit Inquiry	200007											
	Processing	Apricots, Peaches and Prunes Processing Report	060152	250	1	200	200	15	50	50	50	2	2	52
		Peach and Plum Processing	200661											

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq	Resp. Count	Freq X Count	Min. / Resp	Burden Hours	Non-Resp Count	Freq X Count	Min / Non Resp.	Burden Hours	Total Burden
Small Fruits														
Multiple Berries	General Production Questions	Berry Acreage and Production	000620	800	1	640	640	20	213	160	160	2	5	218
		Berry Inquiry	000620 36	800	1	640	640	10	107	160	160	2	5	112
	Processing	Berry Processing Inquiry	000620	800	1	640	640	15	160	160	160	2	5	165
Blueberries	General Production Questions	Blueberry Inquiry	000614	1,500	1	1,200	1,200	15	300	300	300	2	10	310
		Maine Wild Blueberries	QID	300	1	240	240	7	28	60	60	2	2	30
	Processing and Disposition	Blueberry Processing	000616	40	1	32	32	5	3	8	8	2	0	3
		Blueberry Production and Utilization	000614	200	1	160	160	15	40	40	40	2	1	41
	Handlers	Maine Wild Blueberries (Handler)	QID	20	1	16	16	12	3	4	4	2	0	3
Cranberries	General Production Questions	Cranberry Grower Inquiry	000613	800	1	640	640	10	107	160	160	2	5	112
	Processing	Cranberry Processor Disposition	000613	500	1	400	400	5	33	100	100	2	3	36
	Handlers	Cranberry Inquiry	000612	130	1	104	104	10	17	26	26	2	1	18

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QD	Sample Size	Freq.	Resp. Count	Freq. X Count	Min. / Resp	Burden Hours	Non-Resp Count	Freq. X Count	Min / Non Resp.	Burden Hours	Total Burden	
Grapes	Forecasts	Grape Forecast	000609	850	2	680	1,360	10	227	170	340	2	11	238	
	General Production Questions	Grape Inquiry	000701, 200508	1,850	1	1,480	1,480	15	370	370	370	2	12	382	
	Disposition	Grape Production and Disposition	000703, 000703-PA	1,800	1	1,440	1,440	15	360	360	360	2	12	372	
	Processing		Grape Processing Inquiry	000702	625	1	500	500	15	125	125	125	2	4	129
			Concord and Niagara Grape Processing and Acreage Report	000702											
			Grape Processing	000702, 000702											
	Wine Grapes		Wine Grape Report	060106	400	1	320	320	20	107	80	80	2	3	110
			Grape Survey	QD	200	1	160	160	20	53	40	40	2	1	54
	Vineyards		Oregon Vineyard Survey	060105	550	1	440	440	20	147	110	110	2	4	151
			Oregon Wine Production Survey	060106	300	1	240	240	20	80	60	60	2	2	82
			Oregon Vineyard and Wine Production Survey	060106	150	1	120	120	65	130	30	30	2	1	131

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Res p. Count	Freq. X Count	Min. / Res p.	Burden Hrs	Non-Res p. Count	Freq. X Count	Min / Non Res p.	Burden Hrs	Total Burden
Nuts														
Almonds	Handlers	Almond Price Inquiry	050134	120	2	96	192	20	64	24	48	2	2	66
Hazelnuts	Disposition	Hazelnut Tree Survey and Hazelnut Growers Dis position Inquiry	060112	600	1	480	480	50	400	120	120	2	4	404
		Hazelnut Growers Dis position Inquiry	060112	600	1	480	480	30	240	120	120	2	4	244
		Hazelnut Handler Dis position Inquiry	006112	50	1	40	40	22	15	10	10	2	0	15
Macadamias	Growers	Macadamia Nut Grower Report	QID	750	1	600	600	15	150	150	150	2	5	155
	Processors	Macadamia Nut Processor Report	QID	10	1	8	8	15	2	2	2	2	0	2
Pecans	General Production Questions	Pecan Inquiry	060051, 060090, 060054	3,500	2	2,800	5,600	15	1,400	700	1,400	2	47	1,447
	Disposition	Pecan Production and Dis position	060072	4,850	1	3,880	3,880	10	647	970	970	2	32	679
	Processors	Pecan Shellers and Processors	060070	850	1	680	680	8	91	170	170	2	6	97
	Buyers	Pecan Buyers Survey	060071	250	1	200	200	8	27	50	50	2	2	29
Pistachios	Handlers	Pistachio Production and Price Inquiry	06117	10	2	8	16	15	4	2	4	2	0	4
Walnuts	Handlers	Walnut Price Inquiry	050133	75	1	60	60	10	10	15	15	2	1	11

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QD	Sample Size	Freq.	Resp. Count	Freq. X Count	Min. / Resp	Burden Hours	Non-Resp Count	Freq. X Count	Min / Non Resp.	Burden Hours	Total Burden
Specialty Crops														
Coffee	Growers	Annual Coffee Grower Survey	060127	350	1	280	280	15	70	70	70	2	2	72
	Millers	Coffee Millers Mid Season Report	060128	20	1	16	16	15	4	4	4	2	0	4
		Coffee Millers Final Report	060128	20	1	16	16	15	4	4	4	2	0	4
Dates	Production and Prices	Date Production and Price Inquiry	050135	10	1	8	8	10	1	2	2	2	0	1
Figs	General Production Questions	Dried Fig Inquiry	200001	15	1	12	12	10	2	3	3	2	0	2
Ginger Root	Growers	Annual Ginger Root Grower Survey	060136	45	1	36	36	15	9	9	9	2	0	9
	Shippers	Annual Ginger Root Shipper Survey	060137	10	1	8	8	15	2	2	2	2	0	2
Hops	General Production Questions	Hop Acres Strung by Variety	060100, 060097	50	2	40	80	10	13	10	20	2	1	14
		August Forecast of Hop Acreage and Production	060089	70	1	56	56	10	9	14	14	2	0	9
	Prices	Hops Sold Ahead Survey	060096	80	1	64	64	10	11	16	16	2	1	12
		Hop Crops - Quantity Purchased and Prices Paid	060095	5	1	4	4	10	1	1	1	2	0	1
Kiwifruit	Prices	Kiwifruit Price Inquiry	050132	45	1	36	36	10	6	9	9	2	0	6

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Resp. Count	Freq. X Count	Min. / Resp	Burden Hrs	Non-Resp Count	Freq. X Count	Min / Nbn Resp.	Burden Hrs	Total Burden
Maple Syrup	General Production Questions	Maple Syrup Inquiry	000520	6,700	1	5,360	5,360	10	893	1,340	1,340	2	45	938
		Maple Syrup Inquiry (French English for New England Office)	000520	40	1	32	32	10	5	8	8	2	0	5
		Maple Syrup Inquiry (Conducted once every 5 years, scheduled to be conducted in NY in 2010)	000520	1,200	0.33	960	317	20	106	240	79	2	3	109
	Buyers	Maple Syrup Buyers Inquiry	000520	50	1	40	40	10	7	10	10	2	0	7
Mushrooms	Growers	Mushroom Grower Inquiry - Agaricus Mushrooms	060084	175	1	140	140	15	35	35	35	2	1	36
		Mushroom Grower Inquiry - Specialty Mushrooms	060086	375	1	300	300	15	75	75	75	2	3	78
		Mushroom Grower Inquiry - Agaricus and Specialty Mushrooms	060084	20	1	16	16	15	4	4	4	2	0	4
Olives	Utilization and Price	Olive Utilization and Price Inquiry	050136	30	1	24	24	10	4	6	6	2	0	4
Papayas	Acreage	Papaya Acreage Survey	060130	20	4	16	64	15	16	4	16	2	1	17
	Prices	Monthly Papaya Price Survey	050041	5	12	4	48	15	12	1	12	2	0	12

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Resp. Count	Freq. X Count	Min. / Resp	Burden Hours	Non-Resp Count	Freq. X Count	Min / Non Resp.	Burden Hours	Total Burden
Pomegranates	General Production Questions	Pomegranate Inquiry	200837	75	2	60	120	5	10	15	30	2	1	11
Taro	General Production Questions	Annual Taro Growers Survey	060132	170	1	136	136	15	34	34	34	2	1	35
	Milling	Quarterly Taro Milling Survey	060133	15	4	12	48	15	12	3	12	2	0	12
Miscellaneous Fruit Surveys	General Production Questions	California Fruit and Nut Inquiry	906016a, 906016a, 906016a	800	1	640	640	10	107	160	160	2	5	112
		Hawaii Fruit Survey	815003	1,400	1	1,120	1,120	30	560	280	280	2	9	569
Totals				63,305		50,644	75,045		15,864	12,661	18,761		625	16,489

- 13. Provide estimates of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information, (do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in items 12 and 14). The cost estimates should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component annualized over its expected useful life; and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component.**

There are no capital/start-up or ongoing operation/maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

- 14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government; provide a description of the method used to estimate cost which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (equipment, overhead, printing, and staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.**

The total cost to the federal government to conduct the fruits, nuts and specialty crops surveys and prepare estimates is approximately \$5.5 million, a reduction of approximately \$500,000. Virtually all of the total costs are for personnel costs associated with data collection, analytical review, summarization, and publication of reports. While there was an overall increase in sample size and respondent burden, NASS was able to reduce overall costs, through the use of improved tools used for data collection, summarization and analysis of data.

- 15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-I (reasons for changes in burden).**

The new annual burden of 16,489 hours is up 3,582 hours above the previous inventory of 12,907 hours. The increase is a result of several miscellaneous factors. Of the total increase in hours 1,245 of these are due to program changes, the remaining increase in hours is due to adjustments in NASS estimates.

The new annual number of responses of 93,806 is up 8,514 above the previous number of 85,292. Of the total increase in responses, 3,700 were due to program changes, the remaining increase in responses of 4,814 is due to adjustments in NASS estimates.

The program changes include the addition of a new pomegranate survey, the renewal of a maple syrup survey that is conducted once every five years, the merging of several smaller specialty surveys into a couple of more comprehensive surveys, along with several other miscellaneous activities. Following the data capture of the 2007 Census of Agriculture data, NASS was able to adjust its sample size estimates. The sample sizes used to calculate the burden hours in the table in paragraph A-12 were based on the data captured from the Census data.

- 16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

Questionnaires for all surveys in this information collection are returned to the State Field Offices and reviewed for reasonableness prior to keying into data processing media for summarization. State statisticians analyze survey results, recommend estimates or forecasts for their State, and transmit the data to Washington, D.C. State survey results are summarized nationally and by major regions or State groupings. Individual State recommendations are reviewed and changed, if necessary, to reach national and regional estimates.

During the forecast season, questionnaires are mailed to growers with a reference date of the first of the month. Most production forecasts are released in the Agency's monthly *Crop Production* report released between the 8th through the 12th of the same month. Exceptions are the mid-June forecasts of sweet and tart cherries and the mid-August forecast of cranberries which are issued separately.

Growers' disposition questionnaires are mailed soon after completion of harvest for non-storage crops or at the end of the marketing season for storage fruits. End-of-season estimates for all noncitrus crops are published in the January *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts Preliminary Summary*. The *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts Summary* report is issued the following July to show final utilization and value estimates for storage crops such as apples, grapes, pears, and tree nuts. Also included are miscellaneous crops in California and Hawaii for which final market records and processor data were not available in December. End-of-season citrus acreage, yield, production, price, and value estimates including final utilization and price data for the previous marketing season are published in the September *Citrus Fruits* release.

Orchard and Vineyard Inventory Surveys are issued as special reports. Generally, inventory surveys are conducted January through March. Bearing acreage and yields per bearing acre are published by State and crop in the *Citrus Fruits Summary* and the *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts Preliminary Summary* and final Summary.

These publications are available on-line immediately after release at:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Reports_By_Title/index.asp.

Once there, select first letter of report title from alphabet list and then specific commodity or publication.

- 17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

There is no request for approval of non-display of the expiration date.

- 18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions" of OMB Form 83-I.**

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

January, 2010