

Supporting Statement - Part B

FRUIT, NUTS, AND SPECIALTY CROPS

OMB No. 0535-0039

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

- 1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.**

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, there are just over 247,000 farm operators producing fruits, nuts and/or specialty crops in the United States. The potential respondent universe is approximately 150,000 growers in States with significant commercial production of fruits, nuts, and specialty crops. Complete enumerations of fruit, nut, and specialty crop brokers, buyers handlers, packers, processors, shellers, and shippers (depending on the crop) are conducted because of the small number of firms involved and the significant difference in kind and quantity of product handled. Complete enumerations are also attempted of growers for several of the specialty crops such as coffee, ginger root, grapes (in small production States), hops, all commercial mushroom growers, papayas, and taro. Orchard and vineyard inventory surveys are also conducted as a complete enumeration in order to obtain control data to use in drawing samples for monthly or quarterly production forecasts.

Samples for the monthly fruit and nut inquiries are selected to represent all fruit areas in the target States. Phone and field follow-up contacts for non-respondents are primarily directed at the larger producers. This helps to insure a high level of coverage for each commodity while reducing data collection costs.

Following the Census of Agriculture, conducted by NASS every five years, our Statistics Division reviews all commodities and makes adjustments as to which States are included in the samples each year. States that are no longer a major player in a particular commodity will be dropped from the program for that commodity.

Any specialty commodity that is identified by the Census of Agriculture can also be added to the data collection process. Due to the increase in number of producers of pomegranates, we have added them to this docket request to add them as a new survey.

Response rates for 2008 - 2009 are shown in the table below.

0535-0039 - Response Rates 2008- 2009

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Total Contacts	Total Responses	Response Rate
Tree Fruits								
Apples	General Production Questions	Apple Inquiry	200530 200511	3,409	2	6,818	5,304	77.8%
	Production by Variety	Apple Production by Variety	200585	509	2	1,018	848	83.3%
	Disposition	Apple Production and Disposition	200525	4,424	1	4,424	2,884	65.2%
	Processing	Apple Processing Inquiry	200555, 200560, 200555	178	1	178	122	68.5%
		Apple Cider Mill Inquiry	200590	123	1	123	103	83.7%
	Handlers	Apple Handlers Inquiry	200575	221	1	221	173	78.1%
		Apple Broker/Packer Inquiry	200560					
	Prices	Apple Prices	200595	126	7	882	836	94.8%
Oregon Apple Price Inquiry		200505	5	1	5	3	60.0%	
Cherries	General Production Questions	Sweet or Tart Cherry Inquiry	200306, 000560, 000702, 000709	397	1	397	247	62.2%
		Cherry Report or Cherry Inquiry	000560, 200306, 200306	461	1	461	324	70.2%
	Production, Disposition and/or Utilization	Cherry Production and Disposition Inquiry	200328	474	1	474	369	77.8%
		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	42	1	42	34	81.0%
Handlers	Cherry Price Inquiry - Oregon	QID	21	1	21	16	75.9%	

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Total Contacts	Total Responses	Response Rate
Citrus	General Production Questions	California Citrus Inquiry	000142a, 000142b	430	4	1,720	1,280	74.4%
		Citrus Inquiry - Jan.	060142	35	4	140	122	87.0%
		Citrus Inquiry - Apr.	060142					
		Citrus Inquiry - Oct.	060142					
		Citrus Inquiry - End of Season	QID					
	Prices	Citrus Prices Inquiry	812001	7	8	56	32	57.1%
	Packinghouse	Citrus Packinghouse Inquiry	QID	42	1	42	35	82.3%
Processor	Citrus Processors Inquiry	812001	23	1	23	19	82.6%	
Peaches	General Production Questions	Peach Report	200608	2,327	1	2,327	1,843	79.2%
		Peach Forecast	200607					
		Peach Inquiry	200607					
	Production and/or Utilization	Peach Production and Disposition	200630	1,585	1	1,585	1,217	76.8%
		Peach Production and Utilization	200703b					
	Condition	Peach Condition Report	200601	169	1	169	137	81.3%
Processing	Peach Processing Inquiry	200660	19	1	19	16	84.2%	

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Total Contacts	Total Responses	Response Rate	
Pears	General Production Questions	Pear Forecast	200506	188	1	188	132	70.1%	
	Production and/or Utilization	Pear Production and Disposition Inquiry	000605	292	1	292	182	62.3%	
		Pear Production and Utilization	000605						
	Prices	Oregon Pear Price Inquiry	200711	180	1	180	134	74.3%	
Processing	Pear Processing	200761, 000610, 200456	31	1	31	20	64.5%		
Plums and Prunes	General Production Questions	Prune and Plum Report	200901	219	1	219	184	84.2%	
		Plum Production and Utilization	200723	231	1	231	189	81.9%	
	Processing	Prune and Plum Processing Inquiry	200060	69	1	69	61	89.0%	
	Handlers	Oregon Handler and Packer Survey	200060	41	1	41	38	93.5%	
Mixed Fruit Quest.	General Production Questions	Fruit Inquiry	200008, 200008, 200009, 000506	6,321	4	25,284	17,471	69.1%	
		Fruit and Sweet Corn Inquiry	000136-NH	349	1	349	293	84.0%	
	Packing Costs	Peach and Prune Packing Costs	000605	47	1	47	38	80.7%	
		Apricot and Sweet Cherry Packing Costs	000605						
	Disposition and/or Utilization	Apple, Bartlett Pear and Other Pear Production and Disposition Inquiry	Fruit Production and Disposition Inquiry	200525	483	1	483	346	71.7%
			Fruit Production and Disposition Inquiry	200010	924	1	924	703	76.1%
			November Fruit Survey	200585	1,058	1	1,058	871	82.3%
			Fruit Inquiry	200007					
	Processing	Apricots, Peaches and Prunes Processing Report		060152	219	1	219	150	68.7%
Peach and Plum Processing			200661						

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Total Contacts	Total Responses	Response Rate
Small Fruits								
Multiple Berries	General Production Questions	Berry Acreage and Production	000620	743	1	743	634	85.3%
		Berry Inquiry	000620 36	743	1	743	634	85.3%
	Processing	Berry Processing Inquiry	000620	729	1	729	593	81.3%
Blueberries	General Production Questions	Blueberry Inquiry	000614	1,362	1	1,362	1,019	74.8%
		Maine Wild Blueberries	QID	297	2	594	513	86.3%
	Processing and Disposition	Blueberry Processing	000616	39	1	39	31	79.5%
		Blueberry Production and Utilization	000614	183	1	183	142	77.8%
	Handlers	Maine Wild Blueberries (Handler)	QID	16	1	16	12	75.0%
Cranberries	General Production Questions	Cranberry Grower Inquiry	000613	787	1	787	618	78.5%
	Processing	Cranberry Processor Disposition	000613	497	1	497	437	87.9%
	Handlers	Cranberry Inquiry	000612	130	1	130	87	66.9%

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Total Contacts	Total Responses	Response Rate
Grapes	Forecasts	Grape Forecast	000609	840	2	1,680	1,310	78.0%
	General Production Questions	Grape Inquiry	000701, 200508	1,802	1	1,802	1,168	64.8%
	Disposition	Grape Production and Disposition	000703, 000703-PA	1,747	1	1,747	1,462	83.7%
	Processing	Grape Processing Inquiry	000702	586	1	586	334	57.0%
		Concord and Niagara Grape Processing and Acreage Report	000702					
		Grape Processing	000702, 000702					
	Wine Grapes	Wine Grape Report	060106	397	1	397	334	84.2%
		Grape Survey	QID	178	1	178	145	81.6%
	Vineyards	Oregon Vineyard Survey	060105	538	1	538	458	85.1%
		Oregon Wine Production Survey	060106	272	1	272	218	80.1%
Oregon Vineyard and Wine Production Survey		060106	129	1	129	99	76.7%	

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Total Contacts	Total Responses	Response Rate
Nuts								
Almonds	Handlers	Almond Price Inquiry	050134	104	2	208	126	60.5%
Hazelnuts	Disposition	Hazelnut Tree Survey and Hazelnut Growers Disposition Inquiry	060112	574	1	574	423	73.7%
		Hazelnut Growers Disposition Inquiry	060112	575	1	575	427	74.3%
		Hazelnut Handler Disposition Inquiry	006112	39	1	39	32	82.4%
Macadamias	Growers	Macadamia Nut Grower Report	QID	742	1	742	403	54.3%
	Processors	Macadamia Nut Processor Report	QID	8	1	8	5	62.5%
Pecans	General Production Questions	Pecan Inquiry	060051, 060090, 060054	3,428	2	6,856	5,725	83.5%
	Disposition	Pecan Production and Disposition	060072	4,798	1	4,798	3,901	81.3%
	Processors	Pecan Shellers and Processors	060070	826	1	826	651	78.8%
	Buyers	Pecan Buyers Survey	060071	236	1	236	194	82.2%
Pistachios	Handlers	Pistachio Production and Price Inquiry	06117	9	2	18	12	66.7%
Walnuts	Handlers	Walnut Price Inquiry	050133	59	1	59	39	66.1%

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Total Contacts	Total Responses	Response Rate
Specialty Crops								
Coffee	Growers	Annual Coffee Grower Survey	060127	329	1	329	275	83.6%
	Millers	Coffee Millers Mid Season Report	060128	19	1	19	17	89.5%
		Coffee Millers Final Report	060128	18	1	18	15	83.3%
Dates	Production and Prices	Date Production and Price Inquiry	050135	5	1	5	5	100.0%
Figs	General Production Questions	Dried Fig Inquiry	200001	12	1	12	10	83.3%
Ginger Root	Growers	Annual Ginger Root Grower Survey	060136	42	1	42	38	90.5%
	Shippers	Annual Ginger Root Shipper Survey	060137	8	1	8	7	87.5%
Hops	General Production Questions	Hop Acres Strung by Variety	060100, 060097	50	2	100	96	96.4%
		August Forecast of Hop Acreage and Production	060089	70	1	70	64	91.6%
	Prices	Hops Sold Ahead Survey	060096	70	1	70	69	98.7%
		Hop Crops - Quantity Purchased and Prices Paid	060095	5	1	5	5	100.0%
Kiwifruit	Prices	Kiwifruit Price Inquiry	050132	41	1	41	36	87.8%

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Total Contacts	Total Responses	Response Rate
Maple Syrup	General Production Questions	Maple Syrup Inquiry	000520	6,638	1	6,638	4,009	60.4%
		Maple Syrup Inquiry (French English for New England Office)	000520	37	1	37	30	82.3%
		Maple Syrup Inquiry (Conducted once every 5 years, scheduled to be conducted in NY in 2010)	000520	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Buyers	Maple Syrup Buyers Inquiry	000520	47	1	47	37	79.1%
Mushrooms	Growers	Mushroom Grower Inquiry - Agaricus Mushrooms	060084	159	1	159	137	86.2%
		Mushroom Grower Inquiry - Specialty Mushrooms	060086	356	1	356	279	78.4%
		Mushroom Grower Inquiry - Agaricus and Specialty Mushrooms	060084	17	1	17	14	82.4%
Olives	Utilization and Price	Olive Utilization and Price Inquiry	050136	27	1	27	25	94.3%
Papayas	Acreage	Papaya Acreage Survey	060130	18	4	72	68	94.4%
	Prices	Monthly Papaya Price Survey	050041	5	12	60	45	75.0%

Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	QID	Sample Size	Freq.	Total Contacts	Total Responses	Response Rate
Pomegranates	General Production Questions	Pomegranate Inquiry (NEW)	200837	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Taro	General Production Questions	Annual Taro Growers Survey	060132	164	1	164	122	74.4%
	Milling	Quarterly Taro Milling Survey	060133	13	4	52	43	83.4%
Miscellaneous Fruit Surveys	General Production Questions	California Fruit and Nut Inquiry	906016a, 906016a, 906016a	788	1	788	619	78.6%
		Hawaii Fruit Survey	815003	1,376	1	1,376	854	62.1%
Totals				59,406		89,363	65,884	73.7%

2. **Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:**
- **statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection,**
 - **estimation procedure,**
 - **degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification,**
 - **unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures**

Overview - With all NASS surveys, the goal is to collect data from at least 80% of the records sampled and more importantly, achieve coverage for at least 80% of the production data or production area. We utilize mail, phone and personal interviews to collect data. In our ongoing effort to collect quality data in a timely and economic manner, NASS utilizes the mail as the first method of data collection with selected phone or personal interview follow up for non-response. With limited funds for extensive data collection, phone and field enumeration is targeted for the larger operations that will help achieve 80% coverage of production or production area.

Low Response Rates - With surveys that have persistently low response rates, NASS looks for alternative ways of collecting the data; particularly sources of administrative data. In instances where these data provide sufficient coverage and accuracy, we consider the opportunity to discontinue collections and reduce burden.

Sampling - Most fruit, nut, and specialty surveys are non-probability surveys selected to represent and provide coverage for fruit, nut and specialty crop producing regions of each State. Samples are selected based on acreage control data to ensure coverage of all size operations.

3. **Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of information collected must be shown to be adequate for intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.**

Field Office staff routinely visit producers and industry organizations to promote the program and importance of cooperating. NASS maintains a presence at National industry meetings, often setting up promotional booths at trade shows. Occasionally, letters of endorsement are obtained from industry leaders. Most States conduct a full non-response follow up.

Some of the specialty surveys may have only a few respondents who account for a majority of the data for that given commodity. State Field Offices, in their efforts to reduce respondent burden as well as reduce the costs of data collection will concentrate their data collection efforts on the major producers for each of the commodities. Questionnaires are mailed out to the smaller respondents with minimal follow up. The information received in the mail is used to update control data as well as help States to establish the number of growers for each of the

commodities. However, in most cases the total production, prices, area in production, etc. are estimated from data received from the larger operations. More importantly than getting the 80% good response rate for each survey, States strive to get greater than 80% coverage of data for all surveys.

As mentioned in the Supporting Statement Part A, justification, NASS is undertaking several new initiatives to improve all aspects of the NASS mission statement. This will include the continued development and improvement of Electronic Data Reporting (EDR) tools. This will give farm operators the flexibility to respond whenever it is convenient for them and should result in higher response rates in the future.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken.

All data collections follow standardized procedures to ensure accurate estimates. Check data are available for most of the crops after the marketing season ends.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Sample sizes for each State are reviewed by the Agency's Statistical Methods Branch, Statistics Division; Branch Chief is Dave Aune, (202)720-4008.

Data collection is carried out by NASS Field Offices; Deputy Administrator for Field Operations is Marshall Dantzler, (202)720-8220.

Estimates are compiled and reviewed by the Agency's Statistics Division, Crops Branch; Branch Chief is Lance Honig, (202)720-2127.

Survey data are collected, reviewed, and summarized by the State Field Offices. Publications are released from the State Offices and Headquarters.

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