



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CERTIFIED ORGANIC PRODUCTION SURVEY

What is the Certified Organic Production Survey?

The Certified Organic Production Survey is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's wide-scale survey of USDA certified organic farming in the United States.

Why should I respond to the 2011 Certified Organic Production Survey?

Your responses will ensure the continued growth and sustainability of organic production in the United States by helping shape decisions regarding farm policy, funding allocations, availability of goods and services, and many other key issues. In addition, survey results can help you make informed decisions about the future of your own organic operation.

How will the survey be conducted?

Survey forms will be mailed in early December to more than 12,000 producers nationwide who are known to produce USDA certified agricultural products. Responses are due by December 20, 2011.

Can I respond online?

Yes. Survey participants are encouraged to use the secure, convenient online response system at www.nass.usda.gov. This not only saves you time, but it saves the government money on return postage and data entry. You will need the ID number printed on the mailing label of your survey form.

What types of questions will be asked?

The survey will look at organic farming activities during 2011, including:

- Production of field crops, vegetables, fruits, tree nuts, berries, livestock and poultry;
- Marketing practices, including wholesale, retail and direct-to-consumer sales; and

In order for me to participate in the survey, does my operation have to be certified organic?

Yes. The survey is intended for USDA certified organic producers.

Must I respond to the survey?

No. Response to the 2011 Certified Organic Production Survey is voluntary.

Will my information be kept confidential?

Absolutely. Respondents are guaranteed by law ([Title 7, U.S. Code](#)) that their individual information will be kept confidential. NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals.

When will results of the survey be released?

Survey results will be published in late 2012 and will be available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

What if I want more information or need help completing my form?

Call the toll-free number listed on your survey form or visit www.nass.usda.gov.