



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Census and Survey Division
Survey Administration Branch



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TO: Geoff Cooper
Vice President, Research and Analysis
Renewable Fuels Association

FROM: Jim Johnson
Agricultural Statistician
Room 5322A, Mail Stop 2024-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-2024

RE: Docket Number 0535-0247, Distiller's By-Product Survey

On behalf of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), I would like to thank you and those you represent for your correspondence and suggestions regarding our upcoming Distiller's Co-Products Survey.

Many of your suggestions have already been adopted and I can assure you that all of them are being considered. Your input will no doubt improve the quality of data collected and we especially want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with us in person. Pretesting of the survey instrument is currently being conducted in four states. Lessons learned from pretesting, coupled with valuable input from stakeholders such as yourself, will help shape a valuable product that is useful to diverse groups within the agricultural sector.

Significant changes from the 2006 survey conducted in conjunction with the Nebraska Corn Board include an expansion of states that will be surveyed and the addition of poultry as a category. Current plans are to survey livestock and poultry producers every five years as part of a new Energy Program here at NASS.

We look forward to working with you on this project and other energy related projects in the future. Please give me a call at (202)720-7216 with any concerns or suggestions you may have regarding the 2011 Distiller's Co-Products Survey. I can also be reached by email at Jim_Johnson@nass.usda.gov.

Thank you for your time and participation.