



# Agricultural Resource Management Survey ..... (ARMS)



BECAUSE BETTER DATA=

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*Better Decisions*

Just about *every* Federal policy and program that affects U.S. farmers and farm families is based on information from the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

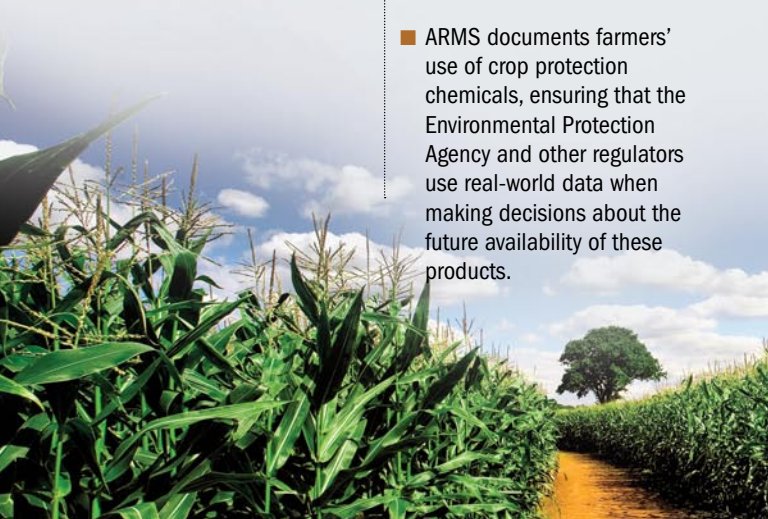
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**ARMS** is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's primary source of information on the production practices, resource use, and economic well-being of America's farm households. This information is used not just by USDA, but also by Congress, farm groups, agribusinesses, and others who make the decisions that shape the future of U.S. agriculture.

ARMS gives U.S. farmers the opportunity to set the record straight about the issues that affect them – and to ensure that policies and programs are based on accurate, real-world data that comes straight from the producers themselves.

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- ARMS provides annual cost-of-production estimates required by Congress for more than 15 commodities covered under farm-support legislation.
- When considering Federal disaster assistance for producers, policymakers rely on ARMS as a source of baseline data.
- ARMS documents farmers' use of crop protection chemicals, ensuring that the Environmental Protection Agency and other regulators use real-world data when making decisions about the future availability of these products.



■ ARMS data underpin USDA's estimates of net farm income and demonstrate agriculture's contribution to the gross domestic product.

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■ ARMS tracks farmers' adoption of new technologies such as bio-engineered seed, livestock waste management practices, chemical and biological pest management alternatives, and information management technologies such as the Internet and GPS (global positioning system).

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■ USDA's Office of Energy Policy and New Uses relies on ARMS data to estimate farmers' annual expenses for gasoline, diesel, natural gas, propane, and other fuels.

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■ The Agricultural Marketing Service uses ARMS data in deriving its monthly cost-of-production estimates for milk production for the United States and five regions.

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■ The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service use ARMS data to determine annual Federal grazing fees on the Nation's public lands.

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■ The Risk Management Agency uses ARMS data to understand levels of farm income and risk management tools used by farmers.

■ USDA is required to report to Congress each year on the status of America's family farms and how they are affected by government programs and Federal laws. The Economic Research Service gathers this information directly from ARMS.

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■ The Agricultural Research Service uses ARMS data to better understand the structural and production characteristics of farms and the demographic characteristics of farm operators for each of its research planning regions.

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■ The Natural Resources Conservation Service uses ARMS data on production costs, input use, and technology adoption to assess the performance of conservation programs.

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■ The Rural Business - Cooperative Service uses ARMS to obtain information about the use of cooperatives by farmers.

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■ The Cooperative Extension System uses ARMS-based data about farm sizes and types to better target farmer education programs.





Your participation in ARMS ensures that decisions affecting you, your family, your business, and your community are based on the facts, straight from the source.

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The information provided by survey respondents is confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). The National Agricultural Statistics Service safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only State- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

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November 2006