

ARS RESIDUE & BIOMASS FIELD SURVEY – 2012 PILOT
September, 2012 Field Sample Permission Form

OMB No. 0535-0248
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Project Code: 516 QID: 248010



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**



National Agricultural Statistics Service
U.S Department of Agriculture
Iowa Field Office
210 Walnut St., Room 833
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Phone: 1-800-772-0825
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Email: nass-ia@nass.usda.gov

We are collecting information on cost and returns and need your help to make the information as accurate as possible. Under Title 7 of the U.S. Code and CIPSEA (Public Law 107-347), facts about your operation are kept **confidential** and used only for statistical purposes. Response is **voluntary**. You may skip any question(s) you prefer not to answer. Thank you for your help.

Dear Operator,

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Iowa Field Office is working on a joint project with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Hydrology and Remote Sensing Lab to conduct research on biomass and crop production in the South Fork watershed area. This study requires sampling corn plants from fields in this watershed area around the mid to late September timeframe. Data on the field crop yields and biomass collected will be used for two purposes:

- (a) Validate crop yield assessment based on satellite images (photos) collected during the growing season to be used in statistical models, which will provide additional parameters to help NASS predict county and state yield estimates more accurately.
- (b) Biomass data from corn fields at the end of the season helps to assess the potential for development of biofuels for ethanol production.

The sample area will be approximately 6 corn plants. There will be two such samples within each field. The plants will be removed from the field and separated into biomass and grain for use in crop yield models.

There will be multiple satellite systems acquiring data over the South Fork watershed. Upon project completion, ARS will be glad to provide you with processed pictures of the South Fork watershed.

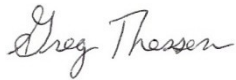
Yes, I give permission _____ (signed name)

Yes, I would like results mailed to me _____ (printed name)

_____ (address)

Please feel free to call my office at 1-800-772-0825 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Greg Thessen
Director , USDA NASS, Iowa Field Office

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0535-0218. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.