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| **ARS RESIDUE & BIOMASS FIELD SURVEY – 2013**  **May, 2013 Field Sample Permission Form** | | | | | |
|  | | | OMB No. 0535-0NEW  Approval Expires: X/XX/20XX  Project Code: 516 QID: 248010 | | |
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| **SURVEY_LOGO_1:USDA_logo_bw.gif** | **new_nass_logo_bw** | **NATIONAL**  **AGRICULTURAL**  **STATISTICS**  **SERVICE** |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  | National Agricultural Statistics Service  U.S Department of Agriculture  Iowa Field Office  210 Walnut St., Room 833Des Moines, IA 50309  Phone: 1-800-772-0825  Fax: 1-800-719-1794  Email: nass-ia@nass.usda.gov |

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| We are collecting information on residue and biomass 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.** Multiple contacts may occur**.** You may skip any item(s) you prefer not to answer. Thank you for your help. |
| Dear Operator,  USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Services’ 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 estimating the level of plant residue at specific points in particular fields. One or more points of interest lie in a field you operate.  The project involves taking pictures of the soil surface to measure corn and soybean residue. The pictures and measurements will then be used by ARS personnel along with satellite images to estimate soil carbon sequestration, or how much carbon is retained in the soil.  Granting permission means 2-4 people will walk into your field the week of May XX, 2013 and take pictures of the residue with a digital camera, as well as use transect lines to measure residue. For a few selected sites, we will also collect small soil and crop residue samples**.** NASS/ARS intends to visit again in September and December to obtain corn samples**.**  As always, your name and any identifying information will be kept confidential.  If you would like the results that pertain to your field, you will be mailed information once it is available.  Yes, I give permission\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(signed name)  No, I do not give permission (enumerator initial)  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,  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 0535-0NEW. 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.  GregT  Greg Thessen  Director , USDA NASS, Iowa Field Office |