

**Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey
and
Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Survey**

OMB No. 0535-0244

A. JUSTIFICATION

This statement covers two triennial surveys, the Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Survey (NFCUS), the Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey (NCTPS) and two smaller annual surveys. The two triennial surveys will be conducted once each during the three year approval period (2014 – 2016). They will be conducted during the same year. The year in which they will be conducted is dependent upon the Federal budget. These surveys are necessary in order to maintain the two data series (chemical use and nursery production). In 2010 the NCTPS was not conducted since the Census of Horticulture was conducted that year and the same production data could be obtained from that survey. This statement also covers the annual Nursery and Greenhouse Survey in Oregon, along with the Oregon Christmas Tree Survey. Both of the Oregon surveys were last conducted in 2010. They were both suspended during 2011 and 2012 due to budget cuts. These two surveys are expected to resume in January 2014 if funding is approved.

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

In February 1997, the Secretary of Agriculture issued the report of the Civil Rights Action Team entitled "Civil Rights at the Department of Agriculture". Civil Rights Implementation Teams were subsequently formed to implement the report recommendations. One of the recommendations that was a direct outcome of the evaluation of this report was the addressing of the conditions of farm workers. The Implementation Team recognized the need for reliable pesticide use information about enterprises that involve farm workers and requested that the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) obtain pesticide use information for commodities which required intensive farm labor. Consequently, Congress appropriated funds for the collection of pesticide use data on nursery and floriculture operations. This chemical data will expand the existing NASS pesticide use database which contains comprehensive annual pesticide use reports as mandated in the 1990 and 1996 farm legislation.

In 2010, NASS used the nursery and floriculture production data obtained from the Census of Horticulture to expand the data obtained from the sub-sample of operations in the six target States (CA, FL, MI, OR, PA and TX) for the chemical use survey

General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204 which specifies that "The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain ... by the collection of statistics ... and shall distribute them among agriculturists."

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

Nursery and Christmas tree production data and nursery and floriculture chemical use data will be used by NASS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the nursery and floriculture industries, and other parties to assess the environmental and economic impact of various programs, policies, and procedures on nursery and floriculture operators and workers. The basic chemical use and farm practices information also will be used to enhance the national chemical use database maintained by NASS. This database is an integral source of data necessary for on-going risk assessments related to dietary exposure to chemicals, worker safety, water quality, and ecological resources.

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture the nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod, and Christmas tree industries, had total sales in 2007 just over \$17,017,000,000, up \$2,316,000,000 from the 2002 total of \$14,701,000,000. Data for the 2012 Census of Agriculture are still being collected at the time of this docket submission. Comprehensive data will not be available for publication until 2014. However, some industry representatives are optimistic that the floriculture and nursery industries will continue to grow. Accurate chemical application and production data will aid in determining the needs of growers, such as appropriation of research funds to target pests and diseases. Producers can better determine which crops to grow and profit from by knowing total production and crop sales as well as changes in chemical usage and application rates. Economists and researchers will be better equipped to estimate the economic impact of the industry on the U.S. economy. Since significant problems are encountered in finding adequate labor for these operations, the data collected will be relied upon when Congress considers minimum wage and migrant workers issues. Information learned will also be useful when decisions must be made regarding the economic impact on domestic producers when importers enter the U.S. market.

The Oregon surveys are conducted under a cooperative agreement with Oregon's State Department of Agriculture. The national Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey is conducted once every three years. The two Oregon surveys are conducted annually. In the year in which they are both scheduled to be conducted we will coordinate the questionnaires and only ask the unique questions that are not included in the national questionnaire. In the past we have had some growers who have refused to participate in the national survey but were willing to participate in the State funded survey, due to a strong loyalty to the State growers associations.

- 3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

Web-based data reporting has been implemented for most of the NASS information collections (a small number will be impractical or otherwise unsuitable). The Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Survey is one of those surveys that it is impractical to be converted to web based data collection due to the complexity of the questionnaire. However, the nursery production surveys will be available for internet data collection.

- 4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

NASS is very careful not to duplicate work planned by other Government agencies. NASS Field Offices were contacted and asked to document any State programs that overlap with the surveys contained in this docket. NASS is making every attempt to use existing data and only ask additional questions that are needed. Internal committees within USDA that include NASS, the Economic Research Service, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, and the Natural Resource and Conservation Service have been formed to help coordinate all aspects of these data collection efforts. USDA's Office of Pesticide Management Policy provides coordination and oversight for the Department with EPA. The NASS Advisory Committee on Agricultural Statistics, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, also provided advice on this program area. This committee is composed of a diverse representation of experts from private industry, government, and universities.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities (Item 5 of OMB Form 83-I), describe any methods used to minimize burden.

Chemical data will be collected from operations with sales greater than \$10,000 of horticultural specialty crops (floriculture, nursery, Christmas trees, etc.) based on data obtained from the 2010 Horticulture Census and the annual Commercial Floriculture Survey. Sample Design will target on the operations that have the greatest impact on this industry, so the number of small operations will be kept relatively low.

NASS tries to identify those data items absolutely necessary to answer the needs of data users. Information requested on these surveys may require respondents to refer to their records for the answers. To minimize the interview time, branching is used throughout the questionnaires to skip those sections not applicable to particular respondents. Enumerators also attend State training schools for instruction and practice on using the questionnaires. Data collection for these surveys is coordinated with other surveys to minimize contacts with respondents. Field enumerators are trained to collect the chemical data from the respondent's own records. This allows the operator to return to work while much of the data is being collected. Once all of the chemical records have been recorded, the enumerator will meet with the respondent again to collect some data regarding the overall operation of the business.

NASS has a working group currently developing a respondent burden management tracking system to monitor respondent burden across surveys. The processing system will further refine sampling procedures and management of surveys. NASS continues to conduct research on potentially new sampling and data modeling strategies to reduce data requirements and respondent burden.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

NASS is charged with the responsibility of providing the Secretary of Agriculture, the Congress, the Executive Branch, farm groups, and the public with reliable, up-to-date information concerning the Nation's farms and ranches. The Floriculture and Nursery Chemical Use Survey will be conducted every 3 years to help provide a complete picture of this agricultural sector. The Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey is conducted once every three years also. This data is used to expand the chemical data collected in the 6 target States (CA, FL, MI, OR, PA, and TX) to U.S. levels.

The inclusion of floriculture and nursery chemical use into the chemical use database is needed to answer fundamental questions about the safety of our

Nation's water supplies and potential worker exposure. Sound policy decisions cannot be made without reliable, unbiased data. NASS feels an adequate database can be constructed by conducting these surveys every three years. Without timely, real world data on chemical use, EPA will be forced to make maximum label rate assumptions in their chemical risk assessments. Collecting environmental data is critical to the mission of USDA, Congress, other governmental agencies, and the private sector.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the general information guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.

There are no special circumstances associated with this survey.

8. Provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8 (d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments.

The Federal Register Notice soliciting comments was published on February 14, 2013, on pages 10597-10598. One comment was received from Ms. Jean Public. The comment and reply are both attached to this docket.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Other USDA agencies, other Federal Departments, and State Departments of Agriculture along with the Society of American Florists (SAF) and the American Nursery and Landscape Association (AN&LA) have been involved in the development and improvement of these surveys.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents.
There are no payments or gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

All questionnaires include a statement that individual reports are kept confidential. U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1905 and U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2276 provide for the confidentiality of reported information. All employees of NASS and all enumerators hired and supervised under a cooperative agreement

with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture must read the regulations and sign a statement of compliance.

Additionally, NASS and NASS contractors comply with OMB Implementation Guidance, "Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA), (Public Law 107-347). CIPSEA supports NASS' pledge of confidentiality to all respondents and facilitates the agency's efforts to reduce burden by supporting statistical activities of collaborative agencies through designation of NASS agents; subject to the limitations and penalties described in CIPSEA.

The following CIPSEA Pledge statement will appear on all future NASS questionnaires.

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, your responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents. By law, every employee and agent has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you or your operation.

Minor changes were made to the wording of the pledge so that it would be consistent with NASS procedures.

- 11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.**

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

- 12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated.**

Average completion time per questionnaire is based on previous year's surveys and the time required for other surveys of similar length. Calculation of burden hours is shown in the table below. Estimated response counts are based on an 80% target response rate.

Cost to the public for completing the questionnaire is assumed to be comparable to the hourly rate of those requesting the data. Average annual reporting time of

5,075 hours, are multiplied by \$25 per hour for a total annual cost to the public of \$126,875. NASS regularly checks the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Occupational Employment Statistics](#). Mean wage rates for bookkeepers, farm managers, and farm supervisors are averaged to obtain the wage for the burden cost. The May, 2012 mean wage for bookkeepers is \$17.62. The mean wage for farm managers is \$35.45. The mean wage for farm supervisors is \$22.31. The mean wage of the three is \$25.13.

Projected Annual Response Burden for 2013 - 2015
Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey,
Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Survey,
Oregon Nursery Survey, and
Oregon Christmas Tree Survey

| Survey | Sample Size | Freq | Responses | | | | Non-response | | | | Total Burden Hours |
|---|--------------|------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | | | Resp. Count | Freq x Count | Min./ Resp. | Burden Hours | Nonresp Count | Freq. x Count | Min./ Nonr. | Burden Hours | |
| Nusery and Christmas Tree Production Survey (NCTPS) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Publicity Letter for NCTPS | 15,000 | 0.33 | 12,000 | 3,960 | 10 | 660 | 3,000 | 990 | 2 | 33 | 69 |
| First Mailing | 15,000 | 0.33 | 4,500 | 1,485 | 30 | 743 | 10,500 | 3,465 | 2 | 116 | 85 |
| Second Mailing | 10,500 | 0.33 | 2,625 | 866 | 30 | 433 | 7,875 | 2,599 | 2 | 87 | 52 |
| Enumeration for non-response | 7,875 | 0.33 | 5,119 | 1,689 | 30 | 845 | 2,756 | 910 | 2 | 30 | 87 |
| Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Survey (NFCUS) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Advance Letter for NFCUS | 4,200 | 0.33 | 3,360 | 1,109 | 10 | 185 | 840 | 277 | 2 | 9 | 19 |
| Enumerated Survey | 4,200 | 0.33 | 3,360 | 1,109 | 60 | 1,109 | 840 | 277 | 2 | 9 | 1,11 |
| Oregon Nursery Survey | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First Mailing | 800 | 1.00 | 240 | 240 | 30 | 120 | 560 | 560 | 2 | 19 | 13 |
| Second Mailing | 560 | 1.00 | 140 | 140 | 30 | 70 | 420 | 420 | 2 | 14 | 8 |
| Enumeration for non-response | 420 | 1.00 | 273 | 273 | 30 | 137 | 147 | 147 | 2 | 5 | 14 |
| Oregon Christmas Tree Survey | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First Mailing | 1,000 | 1.00 | 300 | 300 | 20 | 100 | 700 | 700 | 2 | 23 | 12 |
| Second Mailing | 700 | 1.00 | 175 | 175 | 20 | 58 | 525 | 525 | 2 | 18 | 7 |
| Enumeration for non-response | 525 | 1.00 | 341 | 341 | 20 | 114 | 184 | 184 | 2 | 6 | 12 |
| Publicity Materials for Oregon | 1,800 | 1.00 | 1,440 | 1,440 | 5 | 120 | 360 | 360 | 2 | 12 | 13 |
| Total | 8,136 | | 5,609 | 13,127 | | 4,694 | 2,527 | 11,413 | | 381 | 5,07 |

- 13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information.**

There are no capital/start-up or ongoing operation/maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

- 14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government; provide a description of the method used to estimate cost which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (equipment, overhead, printing, and staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.**

The total yearly cost to the Federal Government is approximately \$1.6 million, for enumeration and other personnel costs, travel, training, data processing, printing, telephone, and postage.

- 15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported (reasons for changes in burden).**

There are two primary program changes that have resulted in an overall increase in total burden hours. In the previous approval NASS did not conduct the Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey, since this production data could be obtained for that reference year from the Census of Horticulture Survey. This production data is used in the expansion of the Chemical Use data to obtain US levels. The other program change is a modest increase in sample size for the chemical use survey.

The overall total annual burden will have an increase of 3,135 hours and 16,359 contacts.

- 16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Survey results are published after each triennial survey. Beginning in May 2010, NASS agricultural chemical use data are published to the Quick Stats 2.0 database only.

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_Subject/Environmental/index.asp

Data are available for the following subject areas:

- 2009 Fruit
- 2009 Nursery and Floriculture
- 2009 Wheat
- 2009-2010 Wheat, Postharvest
- 2010 Corn, Upland Cotton, Fall Potatoes
- 2010 Sheep and Sheep Facilities
- 2010 Vegetables
- 2011 Barley and Sorghum
- 2011 Fruit

To aid telephone and field follow-up by enumerators, each will receive an Enumerator's Manual. To aid statisticians in the edit and analysis of reported data, Field Offices will receive a Survey Administration Manual.

Nursery and floriculture production data are normally published in their own separate publications. In 2010 NASS did not conduct the 2 production surveys (Floriculture or Nursery), instead we collected production data through the use of the 2009 Census of Horticultural Specialties.

Data from this survey can be found at:

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Census_of_Horticulture_Specialties/

Data from the previous Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Surveys can be found at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1115>

Data from the annual Commercial Floriculture Survey (OMB No. 0535-0093) can be found at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1072>

Oregon Nursery Survey results are published after each annual survey. The two publication names are "*Oregon Nursery and Greenhouse Survey*" and "*Oregon Christmas Trees*". The results of both Oregon surveys will be published at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Oregon/Publications/Horticulture/index.asp

- 17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

There is no request for approval of non-display of the expiration date.

- 18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions of OMB Form 83-I.**

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

May, 2013
Revised September, 2013