

ARS RESIDUE AND BIOMASS SURVEY PERMISSION FORM - MAY 2016 (CORN SCREENING)

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NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE



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Please make corrections to name, address and ZIP Code, if necessary

We are collecting information on residue and biomass and need your help to make the information as accurate as possible. 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. Response is **voluntary**. Multiple contacts may occur. You may skip any item(s) you prefer not to answer.

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 number is 0535-0251. 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.

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 sampling a few 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.) Crop yield data and satellite images (photos) collected during the growing season will help NASS predict county and state yields more accurately.
- b.) Biomass data from corn fields at the end of the season will help assess the potential for development of biofuels for ethanol production.

The sample area will be approximately 6 corn plants. Two samples of 6 plants will be collected in each field. The 12 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. 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 the office at 1-800-772-0825 if you have any questions.

