



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Census and Survey Division



July 14, 2014

Steve Savage
Ag Technology Consultant
Blogger/Speaker
760-390-2432

Dear Steve Savage,

Thank you for your supporting comments regarding the Federal Register Notice of the 2014 Organic Survey. The survey is a collection of price information at the commodity level along with acreage, production, and sales data for a variety of organic crop and livestock commodities, and other information.

NASS is pleased to once again conduct the survey in 2014 and understand its importance to the organic and agricultural community. To improve the quality of the survey and its value to its end users, NASS has included in the questionnaire a question pertaining to the gross value of sales of ALL (organic and conventional) agricultural products, and an additional question asking what percent of the gross value of ALL sales is organic.

As it stands, the survey will only have one version which means all producers in all states must answer the same questions. To add information seeking irrigated/non-irrigated production will increase the respondent burden in all states where irrigated/non-irrigated data does not exist. If NASS were to produce a second version of the questionnaire, only an irrigated yield for those operations with 100% of the crop irrigated would be generated, but that population is very small and there would be too much disclosure to publish that data. The possibility of including irrigated and non-irrigated data can be revisited as the number of organic farms increase.

NASS recognizes the importance of the data and the knowledge behind you utilizing the information for your businesses. Thank you again for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Gina Geffrard
Survey Administrator, 2014 Organic Survey