

Non-substantive Change Request

0535-0249 –Organic Survey

The Organic Survey is a follow-up survey to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. All operations that reported organic agricultural activity in the U.S. are included in this survey. In the 2014 follow-up survey, a new question was added to the questionnaire which asked respondents if they had ever experienced an economic loss due to the unintended presence of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in their crop. The wording of the question, particularly the use of the word “GMO,” prompted the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to request that NASS confirm that responses to the question were accurate.

NASS is approved to conduct up to 500 quality control checks on this data collection. NASS would like to use the modified quality control form to confirm the quality of the data that were collected by this survey. This non-substantive change will impact approximately 80 respondents to this survey.

The quality control checks are also a mechanism to determine the future wording use of “GMO” in future NASS organic surveys.