

## 1 Supporting Statement – Part A

### **GRAIN FARM TO MARKET TRANSPORTATION SURVEY**

OMB No. 0535-0264

This supporting statement addresses the new data collection effort for the Grain Farm to Market Transportation Survey for commodity year 2019. This project will collect data from a sample of farmers and ranchers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. The reference period will be commodity year 2019. The survey is planned for only commodity year 2019.

Data collected under this supporting statement are for an interagency agreement between the National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA-AMS). The purpose of the survey is to provide information about farm truck inventory and grain marketing patterns in selected States. Farmers may use the results for their own investment and productivity assessments. Local and regional planners and policy makers can use the information in calibrating travel demand and freight flow models for investment and asset management choices.

#### **A. JUSTIFICATION**

This survey is being conducted by USDA-NASS through an interagency agreement with USDA-AMS under a full-cost recovery basis. USDA-NASS has interagency agreements with some USDA and other Federal agencies to fulfill its mission of providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to United States agriculture. These cooperators often seek USDA-NASS's assistance to provide statistics beneficial to agriculture, but are not covered by USDA-NASS's annual Congressional appropriation. General authority for conducting cooperative projects is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 450a which states that USDA officials may, "enter into agreements with and receive funds...for the purpose of conducting cooperative research projects..."

USDA-NASS benefits from these cooperative agreements by: (1) obtaining additional data to update its list of farm operators; (2) encouraging both parties to coordinate Federal survey activities and activities funded under a cooperative agreement to reduce the need for overlapping data collection and/or spread out respondent burden; and (3) facilitating additional promotion of USDA-NASS surveys and statistical reports funded by annual Congressional appropriations.

Respondents benefit from these cooperative agreements by: (1) having their reported data protected by Federal Law (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1905; U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2276; and Public Law 107-347, Title V (CIPSEA)); (2) having data collection activities for Federal and Cooperative surveys coordinated to minimize respondent burden; and (3) having high-quality agricultural data that are important to a state or region be collected and published.

- 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.**

The primary function of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) is to prepare and issue current official State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, value, disposition, and resource use.

General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204. This statute 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.**

USDA-NASS will conduct a survey of agricultural operations in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. According to the USDA-NASS report "Farms and Land in Farms, 2018 Summary", there are an estimated 318,900 farms combined in the five States. Each selected farmer or rancher will be asked to provide data on:

- Vehicle inventory,
- Vehicles used for grain transportation in crop year 2019, and
- Distance by road type to primary and secondary delivery points in crop year 2019.

The information that will be summarized and published will include:

- Estimated percentage of vehicles reported by vehicle type,
- Average annual mileage by vehicle type in crop year 2019,
- Average distance by road type to primary and secondary delivery points in crop year 2019.

- 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.**

During this data collection, USDA-NASS will mail out a paper questionnaire along with a cover letter and return envelope. There will be two mailings of the

questionnaire, cover letter and return envelope. The mailings will include instructions to respond via Computer Aided Self Interviewing (CASI) – i.e., on the internet. Operators who do not respond to this mailing or by CASI will be contacted by an enumerator using Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) or Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI). CATI and CAPI data will be collected by a trained National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) enumerator.

**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.**

USDA-NASS cooperates with State departments of agriculture, land grant universities, and other State and Federal agencies to conduct surveys. Wherever possible, surveys meet both State and Federal needs, thus eliminating duplication and minimizing reporting burden on the agricultural industry.

USDA-AMS is working with the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI) to analyze the data collected from this survey. The UGPTI is a research, education, and outreach center at North Dakota State University, which is guided, in part, by an advisory council composed of representatives of various organizations, industries, and agencies affecting or affected by transportation.

The UGPTI has published reports for North Dakota, South Dakota, and parts of Montana and Minnesota.

There are no known reports that contain the data (or similar) this proposed survey will generate.

**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.**

This information collection will not have a significant economic impact on small entities. Out of the estimated sample size of 5,000, approximately 85% or 4,250 are estimated to be classified as small operations.

**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.**

A significant component of agriculture is transportation of commodities to market. Effective equipment and infrastructure are necessary for farmers to transport harvested commodities to market. Decisions by farmers and communities will be made from the summarized data. Farmers may use the results for their own investment and productivity assessments. Local and regional planners and policy

makers can use the information in calibrating travel demand and freight flow models for infrastructure investment and asset management choices.

- 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 information collection.

- 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 original Federal Register Notice for this generic docket, soliciting comments was published on Dec. 10, 2018 on page 63468.

**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 record-keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

NASS obtained input from the following individuals on the proposed survey:

1. Bruce Blanton Director – Transportation & Marketing Program, USDA - Agricultural Marketing Service (202) 690-0435
2. Alan Dybing, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, North Dakota State University (701) 231-5988
3. Kimberly Vachal, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Transportation and Logistics, North Dakota State University (701) 231-6425

Throughout the year, numerous NASS statisticians and managers attend private industry and producer's association meetings around the country. They take note of changes within the various industries and update our data collection instruments when possible, to keep our data current and useful to all data users.

- 9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents.**

No payment or gifts will be provided to respondents.

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

Questionnaires include a statement that individual reports are confidential. U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1905; U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2276; and Public Law 107-347, Title V (CIPSEA) provide for 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 (NASDA) must read the regulations and sign a statement of compliance.

Additionally, USDA-NASS employees and USDA-NASS contractors comply with the OMB implementation guidance document, "Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA)." CIPSEA supports NASS's 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 USDA-NASS agents, subject to the limitations and penalties described in CIPSEA.

The following confidentiality pledge statement will appear on all USDA-NASS questionnaires.

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. Your responses will be kept confidential and any person who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you or your operation is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both. This survey is conducted in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws. For more information on how we protect your information please visit:  
<https://www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality>.

All individuals who may access these confidential data for research are also covered under Titles 18 and CIPSEA and must complete a Certification and Restrictions on Use of Unpublished Data (ADM-043) agreement.

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature.**

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. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-I. Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories.**

Burden hours based on the average completion time per questionnaire are summarized below.

Burden hour calculations are shown below. The minutes-per-response figures were estimated based on like-previous surveys. Cost to the public of completing the questionnaire is assumed to be comparable to the hourly rate of those requesting the data. Reporting time of 2,337 hours is multiplied by \$36.84 per hour for a total cost to the public of \$86,095.08.

USDA-NASS uses the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Occupational Employment Statistics](#) (most recently published on March 29, 2019 for the previous May) to estimate an hourly wage for the burden cost. The May 2018 mean wage for bookkeepers was \$20.25. The mean wage for farm managers was \$38.43. The mean wage for farm supervisors was \$24.42. The mean wage of the three is \$27.70. To calculate the fully loaded wage rate (includes allowances for Social Security, insurance, etc.) USDA-NASS will add 33% for a total of \$36.84 per hour.

0535-0264 - Projected Respondent Burden for 2020															
Commodity	Sector	State	Sample Size	Waves of Data Collection	Resp. Count	Waves X Count	Min. / Resp	Burden Hours	Non-Resp Count	Waves X Count	Min / Non Resp.	Burden Hours	Total Burden Hours		
Corn, Soybeans, Wheat	Growers	<b>First Mailing</b>													
		Illinois	900	1	135	135	20	45	765	765	2	26	71		
		Indiana	900	1	135	135	20	45	765	765	2	26	71		
		Iowa	1,100	1	165	165	20	55	935	935	2	31	86		
		Kansas	1,300	1	195	195	20	65	1,105	1,105	2	37	102		
		Nebraska	800	1	120	120	20	40	680	680	2	23	63		
		<b>Second Mailing</b>													
		Illinois	765	1	115	115	20	38	650	650	2	22	60		
		Indiana	765	1	115	115	20	38	650	650	2	22	60		
		Iowa	935	1	140	140	20	47	795	795	2	27	74		
		Kansas	1,105	1	166	166	20	55	939	939	2	31	86		
		Nebraska	680	1	102	102	20	34	578	578	2	19	53		
		<b>Subtotal</b>			5,000		1,388	1,388		462	7,862	7,862		264	726
		<b>Phone Follow-Up</b>			3,612	1	2,601	2,601	25	1,084	1,011	1,011	2	34	1,118
<b>Publicity Materials</b>															
Cover Letter and/or EDR Instruction Sheet Two mailings at 5 minutes each			5,000		1,388	1,388	10	231	7,862	7,862	2	262	493		
<b>TOTALS</b>			5,000		3,989	3,989		1,777	1,011	8,873		560	2,337		

**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, and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.**

The projected annual cost to conduct the Grain Farm to Market Transportation Survey is approximately \$321,000, most of which is staff costs. The costs will be reimbursed to USDA-NASS by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-I (reasons for changes in burden).**

This is a new request, so there is no current inventory.

**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.**

USDA-NASS's Regional Field Office (RFO) is responsible for manually editing and processing the questionnaires. The RFO creates and provides editing guidelines and estimation documentation to help ensure that all questionnaires are edited and analyzed in a consistent manner. After the data have been key entered and run through computer edits, survey data will be made available to approved USDA-AMS and UGPTI personnel for analysis and summarization through a secure USDA-NASS data lab. Only summarized data that meets NASS disclosure standards will leave the data lab.

Before December 31, 2021, summarized statistics will be published in a report that is published by AMS and UGPTI.

2019 (crop year) Survey:

Survey design.....	June - October, 2019
Sample selection.....	October - November, 2019
Questionnaire design.....	June - July, 2019
Mail Survey.....	February, 2020
Phone Follow-up.....	April, 2020
End of Data Collection.....	May 9, 2020

Publication.....by December 31, 2021

- 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.**

No approval is requested for 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.

September, 2019