

Non-substantive Change Request to Ag Land Value Survey and the June Area Survey 0535-0213

NASS is requesting non-substantive changes to two different questionnaires – the Ag Land Value survey and the June Area Survey (JAS). Ag Land Value estimates are published based on data collected from these two surveys. The Ag Land Value Survey is used to supplement the data collected in the JAS. Due to the nature of the JAS survey not enough segments are drawn in some States to be able to collect enough data to set land value estimates. Therefore in ten States (Arizona, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and Wyoming) the supplemental Ag Land Value Survey will be used. The non-substantive changes that are being requested will be the same in both questionnaires used in each State.

After conducting over 70 debriefing interviews with enumerators, several minor changes were identified for these questionnaires. Historically, NASS has published a land value for total acres operated, cropland acres, irrigated cropland acres, non-irrigated cropland acres, pasture acres, and value of farmland and buildings. NASS used to collect average market values for land owned, land rented in, and land rented out and then derive an average value of land. To simplify the questionnaire NASS will now only ask for the total market value of all land and buildings on the acres operated.

Previously asked questions:

Acres Operated and Total Value

- The following questions relate to the total acres that you own or operate.
- Total market value should include all land, dwellings, barns, and other buildings.

	Acres	Total Market Value (Dollars)
1. On January 1, 2017, how many acres did this operation:		
a. Own?	+ 901	432
b. Rent or Lease from others or use Rent Free? (Exclude land used on an animal unit month (AUM) basis.)	+ 902	433
c. Rent to others?	- 905	434
2. Then the total acres operated on January 1, 2017 was: [Sum of Item 1a + 1b - 1c]	= 900	

Revised Questions:

1. On January 1, 2020, how many acres did this operation:		Total Acres
a. Own?.....	+	901
b. Rent or lease from others or use rent free?..... EXCLUDE land used on an animal unit month (AUM) basis.	+	902
c. Rent to others?.....	-	905
2. Then the total acres operated on January 1, 2020, was:.....		900
	Sum of Item 1a + 1b - 1c =	
3. What is your best estimate of the total market value of all land, dwellings, barns and other buildings on the total acres operated (reported in question 2).....		Dollars
		999

In addition, on both the Land Values and JAS questionnaires the following question is being dropped -

2. What is the most likely use of this land if it were sold under current market conditions for the value reported above? [Enter code.]		
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Use Only.....	[Enter Code 1.]	} →
<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate Development (Residential or Commercial).....	[Enter Code 2.]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Expected Future Development (Residential or Commercial).....	[Enter Code 3.]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify.....)	[Enter Code 4.]	
		Code
		438

This item was used to assist in editing, but was not published. Many farm operators were not sure what the future owners would be doing with the land.

Changes were made to introduction text, the order of some questions was changed, and some minor grammatical changes have been made to the “include” and “exclude” statements to make the survey easier to understand.

There are no changes to the sample size or respondent burden as a result of these two changes.