

**SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING STATEMENT Part A****FIELD CROPS PRODUCTION****Substantive Change****OMB No. 0535-0002**

This substantive change is being submitted as a supplemental supporting statement to the Field Crops Production docket. This document identifies changes made to the County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) for crop years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

**A. JUSTIFICATION****1. Circumstances making collection of information necessary.**

NASS is requesting a substantive change to the County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) for crop years 2019, 2020, and 2021 (i.e., the duration of this clearance). Recently, NASS was informed by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) that they will no longer provide funding to support the County Estimates Program. Historically, RMA has provided substantial funds for the County Estimates Program; most recently they provided \$825,000. This loss of funds necessitates a reduction to the County Estimates Program. After a thorough review of the entire County Estimates program and the known needs for NASS's county level data, the following crops are proposed to be dropped from the County Estimates Program (starting with the 2019 crop year):

- Dry Edible Beans
- Flaxseed
- Hay – Alfalfa and Other
- Potatoes
- Sugarbeets
- Sugarcane
- Sunflower – Non-Oil and Oil and
- Tobacco

In addition, NASS will drop county estimates based on irrigated/non-irrigated practices. The approved annual sample size for the CAPS for row crops is approximately 175,000. Removing the above-mentioned crops and irrigated/non-irrigated practices will remove approximately 51,000 operations from the enumerated CAPS sample.

If dropping the above-mentioned row crops do not achieve a sufficient reduction in data collection costs, additional cuts to CAPS for small grains may be proposed to affect the 2020 and 2021 small grains crop years. If this is necessary, an additional change request will be issued in early 2020.

### **External Project Agreements:**

In addition to the county estimates funded in NASS's Federal appropriation, NASS collects some additional CAPS data under External Project Agreements (EPAs). These EPAs are funded by various state cooperators (such as State Departments of Agriculture) and fulfil needs for county-level data not covered under NASS's Federal program. NASS expects to have the following EPAs in place for the 2019 crop year (row crops). This proposed change to the Federal CAPS program will not affect these agreements.

- Montana: Dry Peas, Canola, Lentils, Alfalfa Seed, and Leaf Cutter Bees
- North Dakota: Dry Peas, Canola, and Lentils
- Delaware: Irrigated and Non – Irrigated Corn and Soybeans
- Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming: Winter Wheat Varieties

#### **2. How, by whom, and for what purpose information is to be used.**

There are no changes to the long list of potential people who use the data collected by the small grain and row crop County Agricultural Production Surveys. After careful evaluation of Federal programs, the determination of which commodities to remove from the County Estimates survey was made. NASS will continue to produce US and State level estimates for all the commodities that have historically been in our publications. The only changes will be to county level data.

#### **3. Use of improved information technology.**

The CAPS that are being impacted by this substantive change have already been converted over to electronic data reporting (EDR). Therefore the EDR instruments will be updated to reflect these changes. Overall the percent of questionnaires that are completed by internet remains at 26 percent.

#### **4. Efforts to identify duplication.**

There are no changes from the original approval related to duplication reduction.

#### **5. Methods to minimize burden of small businesses.**

Information requested on surveys included in this docket can be provided with a minimum of difficulty by respondents, generally without having to consult their record books.

Out of the revised, estimated sample size of 124,000 for the row crop CAPS, 100 percent are estimated to be classified as small operations. Overall, out of the total sample size of 575,115, an estimated 488,800 or approximately 85 percent.

**6. Consequence if information collection were less frequent.**

There are no changes to the frequency of these surveys that was originally approved.

**7. Special circumstances.**

No special circumstances are associated with this information collection.

**8. Federal register notice and consultation with outside persons.**

Not applicable.

**9. Payments or gifts to respondents.**

No payments or gifts will be given to respondents.

**10. Confidentiality provided to respondents.**

Confidentiality will be provided to respondents in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2002. All confidentiality protections that are applied to all products released from these surveys will remain the same as originally approved.

**11. Questions of a sensitive nature.**

No questions of sensitive nature will be asked.

**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.**

The following table contains the adjusted, estimated annual burden hours for this group of surveys. Cost to the public for completing the questionnaire is assumed to be comparable to the hourly rate of those requesting the data. Average annual reporting time of 170,789 hours is multiplied by \$36.84 per hour for a total annual cost to the public of \$6,291,866.76.

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.) NASS will add 33% for a total of \$36.84 per hour.

Average completion time per questionnaire is based on time required for other surveys of similar length. Calculation of burden hours is shown in the table below. Estimated response counts are based on an 80% target response rate and minutes per response shown are the average times for all questionnaires used for the commodity.

**Part A, Question 12 Original**

Projected Burden for Field Crops (OMB 0535-0002) for 2018 - 2020												
Survey	Estimated Sample Size	Waves of Data Collection	Estimated Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours	
			Resp. Count	Waves x Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Waves x Count	Min./ Non Resp	Burden Hours		
<b>Commodity Specific Surveys</b>												
<b>Alfalfa Seed</b>												
Alfalfa Seed Grower Inquiry <sup>2/</sup>	150	1	120	120	15	30	30	30	2	1		
Grass Seed Forecast - OR <sup>2/</sup>	700	1	560	560	5	47	140	140	2	5		
Alfalfa Seed Cleaners Inquiry <sup>2/</sup>	50	1	40	40	15	10	10	10	2	0		
<b>Dry Beans, Dry Peas &amp; Lentils</b>												
Dry Bean Inquiry (end-of-season - Dec)	6,500	1	5,200	5,200	15	1,300	1,300	1,300	2	43	1,300	
Dry Peas and Lentils (September)	600	1	480	480	10	80	120	120	2	4		
Dry Bean Inquiry (NM) <sup>2/</sup>	20	1	16	16	15	4	4	4	2	0		
<b>Mint</b>												
Mint Grower	500	1	400	400	10	67	100	100	2	3		
<b>Oilseed Crops</b>												
Oilseeds, special	2,100	1	1,680	1,680	15	420	420	420	2	14	420	
Sunflower, non-oil	10	3	8	24	10	4	2	6	2	0		
<b>Popcorn</b>												
Popcorn Grower Inquiry <sup>2/</sup>	150	1	120	120	10	20	30	30	2	1		
Popcorn Processor Inquiry <sup>2/</sup>	15	1	12	12	10	2	3	3	2	0		
<b>Potatoes</b>												
Potato Grower Inquiry (Spring Potatoes)	100	1	80	80	5	7	20	20	2	1		
Potato Grower Inquiry (Summer Potatoes)	250	1	200	200	5	17	50	50	2	2		
Potato Grower Inquiry (Fall Potatoes)	1,100	1	880	880	5	73	220	220	2	7		
Acreage & Disposition (Spring Potatoes)	200	1	160	160	20	53	40	40	2	1		
Acreage & Disposition (Summer Potatoes)	250	1	200	200	20	67	50	50	2	2		

Part A, Question 12 Original (cont.)												
Survey	Estimated Sample Size	Freq	Estimated Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours	
			Resp. Count	Freq x Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Freq. x Count	Min./ Non Resp	Burden Hours		
<b>Sugar Crops</b>												
Sugarbeets	10	7	8	56	30	28	2	14	2	0	28	
Sugar Cane Inquiry	20	11	16	176	15	44	4	44	2	1	45	
<b>Tobacco</b>												
Tobacco Price Inquiry	2,200	2	1,760	3,520	10	587	440	880	2	29	616	
<b>Variety Surveys</b>												
Wheat and Barley <sup>2/</sup>	35,000	1	28,000	28,000	10	4,667	7,000	7,000	2	233	4,900	
Potato Variety Survey <sup>2/</sup>	90	1	72	72	20	24	18	18	2	1	25	
<b>County Estimates</b>												
County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) Small Grains	85,000	1	68,000	68,000	15	17,000	17,000	17,000	2	567	17,567	
County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) Row Crops	175,000	1	140,000	140,000	20	46,667	35,000	35,000	2	1,167	47,834	
<b>Other Surveys</b>												
Crop Progress and Condition Report (Crop Weather)	4,000	40	3,200	128,000	10	21,333	800	32,000	2	1,067	22,400	
Cash Rent Survey	290,000	1	232,000	232,000	10	38,667	58,000	58,000	2	1,933	40,600	
Wildlife Damage Survey <sup>2/</sup>	20,000	1	16,000	16,000	25	6,667	4,000	4,000	2	133	6,800	
<b>Publicity Materials (Cover Letters and EDR Instruction Sheet)</b>												
All Surveys <sup>1/</sup>	625,915		484,732	487,116	5	40,593	141,183	121,779	2	4,059	44,652	
<b>Testing</b>												
Cognitive Testing <sup>3/</sup>	200	1	200	200	30	100	0	0	2	0	100	
<b>Total</b>	<b>626,115</b>		<b>500,932</b>	<b>628,116</b>		<b>179,151</b>	<b>125,183</b>	<b>156,979</b>		<b>9,290</b>	<b>188,441</b>	

<sup>1/</sup> The publicity materials are mailed out with each survey. However, since the Crop Progress Survey is the same sample each week, the publicity materials are mailed out only once to this group.

Part A, Question 12 Revised (Page 2)

Survey	Estimated Sample Size	Freq	Estimated Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours
			Resp. Count	Freq x Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Freq. x Count	Min./ Non Resp	Burden Hours	
<b>Sugar Crops</b>											
Sugarbeets	10	7	8	56	30	28	2	14	2	0	28
Sugar Cane Inquiry	20	11	16	176	15	44	4	44	2	1	45
<b>Tobacco</b>											
Tobacco Price Inquiry	2,200	2	1,760	3,520	10	587	440	880	2	29	616
<b>Variety Surveys</b>											
Wheat and Barley <sup>2/</sup>	35,000	1	28,000	28,000	10	4,667	7,000	7,000	2	233	4,900
Potato Variety Survey <sup>2/</sup>	90	1	72	72	20	24	18	18	2	1	25
<b>County Estimates</b>											
County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) Small Grains	85,000	1	68,000	68,000	15	17,000	17,000	17,000	2	567	17,567
County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) Row Crops	124,000	1	99,200	99,200	20	33,067	24,800	24,800	2	827	33,894
<b>Other Surveys</b>											
Crop Progress and Condition Report (Crop Weather)	4,000	40	3,200	128,000	10	21,333	800	32,000	2	1,067	22,400
Cash Rent Survey	290,000	1	232,000	232,000	10	38,667	58,000	58,000	2	1,933	40,600
Wildlife Damage Survey <sup>2/</sup>	20,000	1	16,000	16,000	25	6,667	4,000	4,000	2	133	6,800
<b>Publicity Materials (Cover Letters and EDR Instruction Sheet)</b>											
All Surveys <sup>1/</sup>	574,915		443,932	446,316	5	37,193	130,983	111,579	2	3,719	40,912
<b>Testing</b>											
Cognitive Testing <sup>3/</sup>	200	1	200	200	30	100	0	0	2	0	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>575,115</b>		<b>460,132</b>	<b>587,316</b>		<b>162,179</b>	<b>114,983</b>	<b>146,779</b>		<b>8,610</b>	<b>170,789</b>

<sup>1/</sup> The publicity materials are mailed out with each survey. However, since the Crop Progress Survey is the same sample each week, the publicity materials are mailed out only once to this group.

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information.**

There is no cost burden to respondents.

**14. Annualized costs to federal government.**

The change to the total annual cost or \$12.0 million for the field crop programs will be a reduction of \$825,000 for a new total of \$11.2 million.

**15. Reasons for changes in burden.**

The revised total burden of 170,789 hours is down 17,680 hours from the current inventory of 188,469 hours. The decrease is due to reduction in CAPS for row crops.

Type of Change	Responses		Non-Responses	
	Responses	Burden Hours	Responses	Burden Hours
<b>Program Changes</b>				
Reduced County Estimates (Row Crops) Sample Size of Enumerated Records	(40,800)	(13,600)	(10,200)	(
Reduced Burden for Publicity Materials for Reduced County Estimates Sample		(3,400)		(
Subtotal	(40,800)	(17,000)	(10,200)	(
<b>Program Adjustment</b>				
Subtotal	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Changes</b>	<b>(40,800)</b>	<b>(17,000)</b>	<b>(10,200)</b>	<b>(</b>

Totals	Responses	Burden Hours
Program Changes	(51,000)	(17,680)

**16. Tabulation, analysis, and publication plans.**

The only planned changes to publications are due to changes in the CAPS for row crops. County level data will not be summarized or published for the commodities listed in Item 1 above. Any state(s) that only had county estimates published, historically, for the commodities listed in Item 1 will be dropped from any of the county estimates publications. In addition, data for some smaller counties in some states may need to be suppressed due to confidentiality rules.

**2020 Field Crops Production Surveys**  
**(State and National Estimates will still be published according to the dates below.)**

Survey	Data Collection Period	Publication	
		Publication Name	Release Date
Alfalfa/Grass Seed	Jan	<i>FO monthly release</i>	Feb - Mar
Dry Beans	Nov - Dec	<i>Annual Summary</i>	January
Mint	Nov	<i>Annual Summary</i>	January
Oilseeds, Special	Nov - Dec	<i>Annual Summary</i>	January
Potatoes	May, Aug, Sept, Nov & Dec	<i>Crop Production</i>	12 <sup>th</sup> of month
		<i>Potatoes</i>	Sep 20
Sugar beets	Mar, Jun, Aug-Nov	<i>Crop Production</i>	12 <sup>th</sup> of month
Sugarcane	Jun; Aug-Mar	<i>Crop Production</i>	12 <sup>th</sup> of month
Sunflower, Non-oil	Mar, Jun, Dec	<i>Prospective Planting and Acreage</i>	Annual
Sweet potatoes	Feb, Jun	<i>Ag Prices</i>	End of month
Tobacco - Price	Feb & May	<i>Ag Prices</i>	End of month
Variety Surveys: Barley	Jan	<i>Variety Summaries</i>	Feb
Crop Progress	weekly Apr-Nov	<i>Crop Progress</i>	Mondays

All NASS publications are available on-line immediately after release at:

<https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/>.

Once there, you can select publications by date, subject, keyword, title, release date, etc. Here are links to some of the reports covered by this docket renewal.

National Crop Progress and Condition Reports:

<https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1048>.

Crop Production Releases:

<https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1046>.

Potatoes Annual Summaries:

<https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1123>.

Agricultural Land Values:

<https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1446>

Statistics by State for specialty commodities:

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/index.php)

**17. Request for approval of non-display of expiration date.**

There is no request for approval of non-display of the expiration date.

**18. Exceptions to certification statement.**

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

November 2019