



NASS Programs

Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) - Phase 3

About the Survey

The Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) is an annual USDA survey of farmers and ranchers to gather objective information on the finances and production practices of U.S. farms and the characteristics and economic well-being of farm households.

ARMS is a major source of data for effective policy and decision-making in government and the agriculture industry.

ARMS targets selected commodities on a rotating basis. The 2017 survey has a version that focuses on the wheat sector in selected states.

NASS will publish the farm economic data in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report, to be released on August 2, 2018, online at www.nass.usda.gov. All ERS reports will be published online at www.ers.usda.gov. You can view highlights from ARMS surveys at www.nass.usda.gov/go/ARMS.

How NASS Collects Data

NASS will collect data by mail, online, and via personal interviews. The agency will mail the survey forms in December 2017 to more than 35,000 producers. The survey will cover all states, except Alaska and Hawaii. Completing this survey fulfills your 2017 Census of Agriculture requirement.

Respondents may respond in either of the following ways:

- **Online – Respond online at www.agcounts.usda.gov.** Responding online is easy, cost-effective and secure. To get started, all you need is your identification number, which is included on your survey form.
- **By mail or fax** – Producers fill out the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided or via fax.

Additionally, 10,000 respondents will be personally interviewed by NASS enumerators. A NASS representative will also contact producers who do not respond to arrange a personal interview.

Why is ARMS 3 important?

- ARMS is the only survey that assesses the economic state of the agriculture sector.
- The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses ARMS data to calculate the farm sector portion of the U.S. gross domestic product.
- University extension services use ARMS data extensively in cost of production analysis and forecasting.
- Policy makers have no other way of knowing the costs incurred by farmers and ranchers. They need this information to help them make informed decisions.
- Policymakers will use financial information published in NASS and ERS reports to evaluate impacts of programs introduced in the 2014 Farm Bill.

