



NASS Programs

Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS)

What is the Agricultural Resource Management 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.

Why is ARMS Important?

It's really about helping farmers:

- ARMS is the primary source of financial well-being of the nation's farms and ranches and their households.
- Policymakers use financial information to evaluate impacts of programs introduced in the Farm Bill.
- University extension services use ARMS data in cost of production analysis and forecasting.
- The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis uses ARMS data to calculate the farm sector portion of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).

How USDA Collects Data:

We mail the survey forms in December 2020 to more than 30,000 producers and collect the data in the following ways:

- **Online** – Producers can respond online at 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 can fill out their paper survey and return it by mail or fax.
- **Interviews** - Respondents can be personally interviewed by a USDA enumerator by phone. A USDA representative will contact producers who do not respond by January 18, 2021 to arrange for a personal telephone interview.

Want to Know More?

We will publish the farm economic data in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report, to be released in July 2021 online at nass.usda.gov. All ERS reports will be published online at ers.usda.gov/arms. You can view highlights from ARMS surveys at nass.usda.gov/go/arms.

ARMS Data is Confidential by Law

All information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. The results of this survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

