



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



April 23, 2019

Lucy Norris

Subject: Changing organic standards and naming conventions. – Docket Number 0535 – 0249

Dear Lucy,

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the renewal of the Organic Survey. The primary functions of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, disposition, and prices and to collect information on related environmental and economic factors, whole farm characteristics, and operator demographics. Timely, reliable, and detailed statistics help maintain a stable economic atmosphere and reduce risk for production, marketing, and distribution operations. NASS is the primary data collection Agency of the US Dept. of Agriculture. The Agricultural Marketing Service or AMS is the primary regulatory Agency over the Organic Standards.

The content of the Organic Survey has been developed over the years at the request of numerous data users, including, but not limited to: Risk Management Agency, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Natural Resource and Conservation Service and many others. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be conducting cognitive interviews in the upcoming months to improve the questionnaire. NASS is also looking for ways to streamline the questionnaire while still providing data users with the data they need.

The Organic Survey is extremely important to our data users. Your comments will be provided as a part of this submission to the Office of Management and Budget.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Again, many thanks!

Joseph L. Parsons
Chair, Agricultural Statistics Board
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