



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



June 12, 2018

Dr. Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Economist
U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Economic Analysis
1441 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Fixler and Ms. Burrell,

Thank you for the letter of support and sharing the specific uses of the data. NASS has been working to standardize and streamline our data collection process to help reduce any unnecessary burden on the respondents.

The only significant program change that will be made to the upcoming docket will involve several of the dry bean, dry pea and lentil surveys. Several of these surveys have been discontinued as standalone surveys, and the data is now collected through other NASS surveys. The Dry Bean Cleaner and the Dry Bean Dealer Inquiry surveys have both been incorporated into the Dry Bean Inquiry conducted at the end of the season. The Dry Bean Inquiry that used to be collected in mid-season has been replaced by the monthly Ag Yield survey in conjunction with FSA data. The Dry Bean Planting Intentions have been incorporated into the March and June Quarterly Agricultural Surveys. The dry bean, dry pea and lentil data will still be available in the normal NASS publications, only the source of the data has changed.

All other changes to this group of surveys are just minor adjustments to the sample sizes due to changes in the target population since the previous approval in October 2015.

We will keep you informed of any future modifications.

Again, many thanks!

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Parsons
Chairperson, Agricultural Statistics Board
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service