#### SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING STATEMENT Part A

# ARMS 1, ARMS 2, ARMS 3, Fruit Chemical Use Survey and State Cooperative Surveys

## **Substantive Change**

#### OMB No. 0535-0218

This substantive change is being submitted as a supplemental supporting statement to the Agricultural Resource Management Surveys (ARMS), the Fruit Chemical Use Survey, and State Cooperative Chemical Use Surveys.

#### A. JUSTIFICATION

## 1. Circumstances making collection of information necessary.

NASS is requesting a substantive change to the ARMS and Chemical Use Survey docket (0535-0218) to accommodate changes to several of the ARMS and Chemical Use surveys along with the addition of one chemical use survey done under a cooperative agreement with the state of Minnesota.

NASS conducts the ARMS program as a part of a cooperative agreement with the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS). In addition, the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) has provided input on the ARMS 2 (chemical use survey) as well as the Fruit and Vegetable Chemical Use Surveys. The Costs and Returns (Phase 3) surveys collect both whole farm data and commodity specific data. The whole farm data can be linked to the cropping practices and chemical use data collected in the ARMS 2 phase. The majority of the questions that are asked in the Phase 3 surveys are a part of the ARMS core program and rarely have any changes made to them. The cooperative agreement allows ERS to ask additional research questions each year to address changes in the farming industry. The OMB approval process is for a three-year period, so NASS projects ahead with the surveys and commodities that will be targeted for the next three years. Each year NASS will provide changes to the questionnaires to OMB for approval. Attached to this submission are listings of the changes made to the questionnaires conducted in 2021.

Historically, the majority of the surveys that are conducted under this OMB approval have been conducted by personal interviews. However, due to the pandemic, NASS has made changes to our data collection efforts to accommodate social distancing. NASS uses the National Association of State Department of Agriculture (NASDA) enumerators to collect the data. The surveys have been changed to allow for data collection by computer assisted web interviews (CAWI) and computer assisted telephone interviews (CATI). Due to these changes the ARMS 2 and ARMS 3 surveys that targeted corn and rice

were not conducted in 2020 and have been moved to 2021. Changes that are being made to the ARMS 2 questionnaires are itemized in attached documents.

Crop Year	Survey	Target Commodity	Reference Year	Year Survey is Conducted
	ARMS Phase 1	ARMS	2021	2021
	ARMS Phase II (PPCR)	Corn and Rice	2021	2021
	ARMS Phase II (PPR)	Cotton	2021	2021
	Chemical Use	Fruit	2021	2021
	ARMS Phase III	CRR, Corn, Rice and Dairy	2021	2022
	Contractor Expense Survey	Various	2021	2021
2021	Maryland Pesticide	All Crops	2021	2021
	Minnesota Pesticide & Fertilizer	Corn, Soybeans, Wheat and All Hay	2021	2021
	Minnesota Pesticide & Fertilizer Best Management Practices (NEW)	Corn, Soybeans, Wheat and All Hay	2021	2021
	Mississippi Cropping Practices Survey	Corn, Soybeans, Rice, Wheat	2021	2021
	Illinois Cultural Practices - Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy	Crops	2021	2021

PPCR - Production Practices and Costs Report

PPR - Production Practices Report

CRR - ARMS Phase III - Costs and Returns Report

In addition, the Best Management Practices survey which is conducted through a cooperative agreement with the Minnesota State Department of Agriculture is being added to this approval.

The objective is to understand the recording and decision making process with regard to fertilizer and pesticide use. Data collected will cover the following topics: how fertilizer use is recorded, application strategies, practices to reduce nitrogen loss from fields, source of pesticide data considered for decision making, and who makes decisions on pesticide use.

This project is requested by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to fulfill its mission under MN Statute 103H.151 where the MDA is required to monitor the effectiveness of Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed by the Department. This survey series is the monitoring method.

Farmers are direct beneficiaries of the results of this survey. These data allow the MDA staff to promote the voluntary nature of the BMPs by demonstrating the adoption levels and practices farmers are using have remained consistent with the BMP guidelines. This has avoided the need for any mandatory restrictions on chemical use and/or practices.

Also, minor changes will be made to the Fruit Chemical Use Survey, Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Survey, and the Minnesota Pesticide and Fertilizer surveys, these changes are itemized in attached documents.

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

In addition to the long list of data users of the ARMS and chemical use data that was provided in the original approval, the Office of Pest Management Practice

(OPMP), the Economic Research Service (ERS), and the State cooperators will be able to better address changes in the farming practices that have occurred since the original approval of this docket.

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) questions will fulfill multiple needs by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). The MDA is required by an executive order to educate and inform Minnesotans on the use of pesticides judiciously by using IPM. The questions will help us to develop a baseline of the understanding and implementation of IPM in Minnesota. In addition, the best management practices for pesticides include instructions on utilizing IPM in order to control pests. The information gathered through these survey questions will further our understanding on the extent of IPM adoption to control pests in the state.

In addition, the new Best Management Practices survey conducted in Minnesota, will target agricultural operations in Minnesota that grow corn or soybeans. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, there are an estimated 28,086 farms that grow corn for grain and 27,865 soybean farms in Minnesota. Each selected farmer or rancher will be asked to provide data on

- How fertilizer use is recorded for the operation,
- Fertilizer application strategies for the operation,
- Practices to reduce nitrogen loss from fields for the operation,
- Source of pesticide data considered for decision making, as well as
- Who makes decisions on pesticide usage.

The information that will be summarized and published will include summary statistics for the questions asked. It is hoped that enough data will be collected to allow publishing of this data by Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Management Areas (PMA), and Nitrogen Best Management Practices (BMP).

# 3. Use of improved information technology.

The ARMS 2, Fruit Chemical Use Surveys, and cooperator surveys are done by mail, phone and field enumeration. These changes to the questionnaire's content will not change anything as far as use of technology from what was previously approved. The ARMS 3 surveys are available by internet, mail, phone, and field enumeration.

## 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.

With the use of the CATI and CAWI instruments, the incorporated screening

questions and skip patterns should help minimize burden as much as possible. The number of small operations will remain at approximately 85% of the total sample size.

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

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

The new BMP survey will be conducted annually. The objective is to understand the recording and decision making process with regard to fertilizer and pesticide use. Data collected will cover the following topics: how fertilizer use is recorded, application strategies, practices to reduce nitrogen loss from fields, source of pesticide data considered for decision making, and who makes decisions on pesticide use.

Farmers are direct beneficiaries of the results of this survey. These data allow the MDA staff to promote the voluntary nature of the BMPs by demonstrating the adoption levels and practices farmers are using have remained consistent with the BMP guidelines. This has avoided the need for any mandatory restrictions on chemical use and/or practices.

## 7. Special circumstances.

No special circumstances are associated with this information collection.

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

Additional contacts include:

For the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Survey -

Julie Hewitt
Executive Director,
Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council
Julie (Armstrong) Hewitt julie@illinoisnrec.org

Lauren Lurkins
Illinois Farm Bureau
LLurkins@ilfb.org

Jeff Kirwan Chairman, Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council Board of Directors Jeff KIrwan kirwanjeff65@gmail.com For the Minnesota Best Management Practices Survey –

The Corn Herbicide Management questions will fulfill multiple needs by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). The MDA is required by statute and MN pesticide Management Plan to develop voluntary pesticide-specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent or minimize pollution, to the extent practicable, for pesticides that are designated as "common detection pesticides" in groundwater and "surface water pesticides of concern" in surface waters. These questions will assist the MDA in assessing the adoption of the BMP's and provide direction on where additional education may be needed.

Denton Bruening
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Cell: 651-261-1993 Office: 651-201-6399

# 9. Payments or gifts to respondents.

No payments or gifts will be given to respondents.

# 10. Confidentiality provided to respondents.

Questionnaires include a statement that individual reports are confidential. U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1905; U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2276; and Title III of Pub. L. No. 115-435 (CIPSEA) provide for confidentiality of reported information. All employees of NASS and all enumerators hired and supervised under a cooperative agreement with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) must read the regulations and sign a statement of compliance.

Additionally, NASS employees and NASS contractors comply with the OMB implementation guidance document, "Implementation Guidance for Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018, Title III of Pub. L. No. 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35" CIPSEA supports NASS's pledge of confidentiality to all respondents and facilitates the agency's efforts to reduce burden by supporting statistical activities of collaborative agencies through designation of NASS agents, subject to the limitations and penalties described in CIPSEA.

The following confidentiality pledge statement will appear on all NASS questionnaires.

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. Your responses will be kept confidential and any person who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you or your operation is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both. This survey is conducted in accordance with the

Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018, Title III of Pub. L. No. 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35 and other applicable Federal laws. For more information on how we protect your information please visit: <a href="https://www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality">https://www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality</a>. Response to this survey is voluntary.

## 11. Questions of a sensitive nature.

No questions of sensitive nature will be asked.

## 12. Hour burden and annualized costs to respondents.

The following table contains the estimated burden hours for the surveys included in this supplemental supporting statement. Cost to the public for completing the questionnaire is assumed to be comparable to the hourly rate of those requesting the data. The adjusted overall cost to the public is estimated at \$4,467,011.16.

	Burden Hours	Estimated Hourly Rate \$	Total Cost \$
Original burden hours for total docket	105,029	\$ 36.97	\$ 3,882,922.1
Increase in burden hours for changes	15,799	\$ 36.97	\$ 584,089.0
Revised burden hours for total docket	120,828	\$ 36.97	\$ 4,467,011.1

NASS uses the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics (most recently published on March 31, 2021 for the previous May) to estimate an hourly wage for the burden cost. The May 2020 mean wage for bookkeepers was \$21.20. The mean wage for farm managers was \$36.93. The mean wage for farm supervisors was \$25.25. The mean wage of the three is \$27.79. To calculate the fully loaded wage rate (includes allowances for Social Security, insurance, etc.) NASS will add 33% for a total of \$36.97 per hour.

#### Revisions for 2021 – sheet 1

IVENDIC	Revisions for 2021 – Sheet 1											
	Respondent Burden for ARMS and Chemical Use Surveys for 2019 - 2021 1/											
Survey		Sample	Waves of		Respo	onses		Non-response				Total
Year	Survey	Size 5/	Data Collection	Resp. Count	Waves X Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Waves X Count	Min./ Nonr.	Burden Hours	Burden Hours
Agricultur	gricultural Resource Management Surveys (ARMS) Phases I, II, & III											
	Integrated Screening Survey (Phase I) (Mail)1/ 4/		1	20,000	20,000	15	5,000	80,000	80,000	2	2,667	7,667
	ARMS Screening Survey (Phase I) (Enumeration) 6/	80,000	1	60,000	60,000	15	15,000	20,000	20,000	2	667	15,667
	Production Practices Report (Phase II) 2/	3,600	1	2,880	2,880	50	2,400	720	720	2	24	2,424
2019	Production Practices & Costs Report (Phase II) 2/	5,300	1	4,240	4,240	65	4,593	1,060	1,060	2	35	4,628
	Costs & Returns Report Report (Phase III) (Mail) 3/	35,000	1	7,000	7,000	100	11,667	28,000	28,000	2	933	12,600
	Costs & Returns Report Report (Phase III) (Enumeration) 3/	30,000	1	22,500	22,500	100	37,500	7,500	7,500	2	250	37,750
	2019 Total	100,000		80,000	116,620		76,160	29,280	137,280		4,576	80,736
	ARMS Screening Survey (Phase I) (Mail) 1/	110,000	1	22,000	22,000	15	5,500	88,000	88,000	2	2,933	8,433
	ARMS Screening Survey (Phase I) (Enumeration) 6/	88,000	1	66,000	66,000	15	16,500	22,000	22,000	2	733	17,233
	Production Practices Report (Phase II) 2/	4,000	1	3,200	3,200	50	2,667	800	800	2	27	2,694
	Production Practices & Costs Report (Phase II) 2/	-	1	-	-	75	-	-	-	2	-	-
2020	Costs & Returns Report (Phase III) (Mail) 3/ CRR Version	32,000	1	8,000	8,000	110	14,667	24,000	24,000	2	800	15,467
	Costs & Returns Report (Phase III) (Enumeration) 3/	24,000	1	17,760	17,760	110	32,560	6,240	6,240	2	208	32,768
	Costs & Returns Report (Phase III) (Mail) 3/ Hogs	2,200	1	550	550	115	1,054	1,650	1,650	2	55	1,109
	Costs & Returns Report (Phase III) (Enumeration) 3/	1,650	1	1,221	1,221	115	2,340	429	429	2	14	2,354
	2020 Total	110,000		88,000	118,731		75,288	29,469	143,119		4,770	80,058
	Integrated Screening Survey (Phase I) (Mail)1/ 4/	100,000	1	20,000	20,000	15	5,000	80,000	80,000	2	2,667	7,667
	ARMS Screening Survey (Phase I) (Enumeration) 6/	80,000	1	60,000	60,000	15	15,000	20,000	20,000	2	667	15,667
	Production Practices Report (Phase II) 2/	1,850	1	1,480	1,480	50	1,233	370	370	2	12	1,245
2021	Production Practices & Costs Report (Phase II) 2/	4,900	1	3,920	3,920	65	4,247	980	980	2	33	4,280
	Costs & Returns Report (Phase III) (Mail) 3/	35,000	1	7,000	7,000	100	11,667	28,000	28,000	2	933	12,600
	Costs & Returns Report (Phase III) (Enumeration) 3/	30,000	1	22,500	22,500	100	37,500	7,500	7,500	2	250	37,750
	2021 Total	100,000		80,000	114,900		74,647	27,500	136,850		4,562	79,209
Cognitive												
3 years	Testing approximately 50 ARMS and/or Chemical Use questionnaires per year	50	1	50	50	90	75	-	-		-	75

<sup>1/</sup> ARMS and Chemical Use surveys are conducted on a cyclicle basis that does not follow a calendar year, but instead follows the crop production year. The ARMS phase 1 is conducted in the Spring and early Summer for that crop year. The ARMS II and Chemical Use Surveys are conducted in the Autumn for the current production cycle. The ARMS III is conducted the following year for the previous years expenses and income for both whole farm and commodity specific data.

<sup>2/</sup> Phase II surveys are all conducted as face to face interviews. Field enumerators can copy much of the chemical use data from the farm operator's record books. The remainder of the data can be obtained directly from the farm operator. The chemical data is related to a specific field selected of each farm sampled for this survey.

<sup>3/</sup> All Phase III questionnaires will be attempted by mail and internet first with phone and field enumeration for non-respondents.

<sup>4/</sup> In 2016 and 2018 the ARMS Phase I Screener will also be used to pre-screen for the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey.

<sup>5/</sup> The ARMS Phasess II & III are both subsampled from the Phase I Screening Survey.

# Revisions for 2021 – sheet 2

KEVISIOII	CEVISIONS TO ZUZI — STEEL Z  0535-0218 - Projected Respondent Burden for EPAs in 2021														
		(Exte	mal Project Agreement "EPA" a		•				ts with Stat	e agencies.)	)				
State	Commodity	Sector	Survey Name	Sample Size	Waves of Data Collection	Resp. Count	Waves X Count	Min. / Resp	Burden Hours	Non-Resp Count	Waves X Count	Min / Non Resp.	Burden Hours	Total Burden Hours	
Mississippi	All (crops)	Growers	Screener	1,350	1	473	473	15	118	878	878	2	29	147	
Mississippi	Wheat	Growers	Cropping Practices - Wheat	70	1	56	56	90	84	14	14	2	0	84	
Mississippi	Corn	Growers	Cropping Practices - Corn	115	1	92	92	90	138	23	23	2	1	139	
Mississippi	Rice	Growers	Cropping Practices - Rice	40	1	32	32	90	48	8	8	2	0	48	
Mississippi	Cotton	Growers	Cropping Practices - Cotton	90	1	72	72	90	108	18	18	2	1	109	
Mississippi	Soybeans	Growers	Cropping Practices - Soybeans	115	1	92	92	90	138	23	23	2	1	139	
Minnesota	Com, Soybeans, Wheat, Hay	Growers	Pesticide & Fertilizer Use in Minnesota	8,400	1	6,720	6,720	35	3,920	1,680	1,680	2	56	3,976	
			Pesticide & Fertilizer Best Management Practices in Minnesota (1st Mailing)	7,600	1	1,140	1,140	15	285	6,460	6,460	2	215	500	
			Growers	Pesticide & Fertilizer Best Management Practices in Minnesota (2nd Mailing)	6,460	1	969	969	15	242	5,491	5,491	2	183	425
			Pesticide & Fertilizer Best Management Practices in Minnesota (Phone Follow-Up)	5,491	1	3,954	3,954	15	988	1,537	1,537	2	51	1,039	
Maryland	All	Pesticide	Maryland Pesticide Usage Survey (Mail)	6,800	1	2,040	2,040	45	1,530	4,760	4,760	2	159	1,689	
iviai yiai iu	All	Applicators	Maryland Pesticide Usage Survey (Phone Follow-Up)	4,760	1	3,332	3,332	45	2,499	1,428	1,428	2	48	2,547	
			Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (1st Mailing)	1,900	1	570	570	25	238	1,330	1,330	2	44	282	
Illinois Cultural Practices		Crops	Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, (2nd Mailing)	1,330	1	200	200	25	83	1,131	1,131	. 2	38	121	
			Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (Phone Follow-Up)	1,131	1	678	678	25	283	452	452	2	15	298	
Publicity Materials <sup>1</sup> Cover Letter and/or EDR Instruction Sheet 26						00.460	00.440	_	4.700	F 001	F 001		400	4.000	
		struction Sheet		26,050	1	20,419	20,419	5	1,702	5,631	5,631	2	188	1,890	
Cognitive Test			The state of the s	-		30	30	120	60	0	0		ما		
TOTALS	nnaire Testing			26.080	1	20,449	20,449	120	12,464	5,631	25,233	2	1,029	60 13,493	
TOTALS				20,080		20,449	20,449		12,404	5,031	25,233		1,029	13,493	

## Revisions for 2020 - sheet 3

	Nonr.   Burden Hours   Burden Hour	2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1
Survey Year   Survey   Sample Size   Data Collection   Resp.   Count   Resp.   Count   Nonresp   Waves X   Min.   Nonresp   Count   Count   Nonresp   Count   Nonresp   Count   Count   Nonresp   Count   Count   Nonresp   Count   Count   Nonresp   Count   Count   Count   Nonresp   Count   Coun	Min./ Burden Hours Burden Hours  2 1 1 2 1 3 3 3 4 5 2 28 2 45 118 5 5	2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1
2019   Contractor Expense Survey   100   1   80   80   45   60   20   20	2 1 2 1 3 3 2 45 2 28 2 45 118	2 1 3 3 2 45 5 4 118 12
2020   Contractor Expense Survey   100   1   80   80   45   60   20   20	2 1 2 1 3 3 2 45 2 28 2 45 118	2 1 3 3 2 45 5 4 118 12
2021   Contractor Expense Survey   100   1   80   80   45   60   20   20	2 1 3 2 45 2 28 2 45 118 :	2
Total   300   240   240   180   60   60	2 45 2 28 2 45 118	2 45 5 2 28 3 2 45 4 118 12
Chemical Use Surveys - NASS Program Only	2 45 2 28 2 45 118	2 45 5 2 28 3 2 45 4 118 12
Pruit Chem Use	2 28 2 45 118	2 28 3 2 45 4 118 12
2020   Vegetable Chem Use   4,200   1   3,360   3,360   60   3,360   840   840	2 28 2 45 118	2 28 3 2 45 4 118 12
2021   Fruit Chem Use   6,700   1   5,360   5,360   45   4,020   1,340   1,340   1,340   17,600   14,080   14,080   14,080   12,740   3,520   3,520   1,340	2 45 118	2 45 4 118 12
Total   17,600   14,080   14,080   12,740   3,520   3,520	118	118 12
Microbial Food Saftey Practices Packer Survey           Discontinued         Microbial Food Safety Practices Packer Survey         -         1         -         -         30         - <td></td> <td></td>		
Discontinued         Microbial Food Safety Practices Packer Survey         -         1         -         -         30         -	2 -	2 -
Total   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -	2 -	2 -
Publicity Materials for ALL surveys 2/       2019     All materials for all versions     104,300     1     83,440     122,060     5     10,172     20,860     138,640       2020     All materials for all versions     115,800     1     92,640     122,171     5     10,181     23,160     143,979       2021     All materials for all versions     100,250     1     80,200     120,340     5     10,028     20,050     138,210       Total     320,350     256,280     364,571     30,381     64,070     420,829		
2019         All materials for all versions         104,300         1         83,440         122,060         5         10,172         20,860         138,640           2020         All materials for all versions         115,800         1         92,640         122,171         5         10,181         23,160         143,979           2021         All materials for all versions         100,250         1         80,200         120,340         5         10,028         20,050         138,210           Total         320,350         256,280         364,571         30,381         64,070         420,829	-	-
2020         All materials for all versions         115,800         1         92,640         122,171         5         10,181         23,160         143,979           2021         All materials for all versions         100,250         1         80,200         120,340         5         10,028         20,050         138,210           Total         320,350         256,280         364,571         30,381         64,070         420,829		
2021         All materials for all versions         100,250         1         80,200         120,340         5         10,028         20,050         138,210           Total         320,350         256,280         364,571         30,381         64,070         420,829	2 4,621	2 4,621 14
Total 320,350 256,280 364,571 30,381 64,070 420,829	2 4,799	2 4,799 14
	2 4,607	2 4,607 14
Quality Control Survey (Telephone Only) - Recontact operators to verify quality of NASDA enumerators. 4/	14,027	14,027 44
2019         Quality Control Worksheet (phone only)         1,500         1         1,500         5         125         -         -	-	-
2020         Quality Control Worksheet (phone only)         1,500         1         1,500         5         125         -         -	-	-
2021         Quality Control Worksheet (phone only)         1,500         1         1,500         5         125         -         -	-	-
Total         4,500         4,500         4,500         375	-	-
Annual Totals 2/		
<b>2019</b> Annual Totals 125,760 1 100,608 137,996 112,401 25,152 149,884	10,272 13	10,272 122
<b>2020</b> Annual Totals 133,260 1 106,618 138,107 109,538 26,642 155,723	10,627 12	10,627 120
<b>2021</b> Annual Totals 126,230 1 100,984 128,994 109,404 25,246 162,103	10,244 1:	10,244 119
Annual Averages         128,417         102,737         135,033         110,447         25,680         155,903	10,381 1:	10,381 120
Average Burden per Respondent per Year         0.9409097         1.3143558         0.8179324         6.07100	0.06659	0.06659

<sup>1/</sup> ARMS and Chemical Use surveys are conducted on a cyclicle basis that does not follow a calendar year, but instead follows the crop production year. The ARMS phase 1 is conducted in the Spring and early Summer for that crop year. The ARMS II and Chemical Use Surveys are conducted in the Autumn for the current production cycle. The ARMS III is conducted the following year for the previous years expenses and income for both whole farm and commodity specific data.

<sup>2/</sup> For annual totals the sample size does not include the counts from the publicity materials, since it is the same operators. However, the burden counts do include the burden associated with the publicity materials. The surveys that are attempted by mail will have the publicity materials included with the initial mailing. No publicity materials are sent out with the Contractor Expense Surveys.

<sup>3/</sup> Contractor Expense Survey is conducted to collect and summarize the amount of farm input provided by contractors. This data is summarized and used to complete surveys when the farm operator cannot provide the contractor inputs for their farming operation.

## 13. Total annual cost burden to respondents.

No start-up or ongoing operation/maintenance costs are associated with this information collection.

## 14. Annualized costs to federal government.

There are no changes to the total annual cost of \$18 million for the Agricultural Resource Management Surveys and the Chemical Use programs as a result of these changes.

The projected annual cost to conduct the Best Management Practices Survey is approximately \$65,800, most of which is staff costs. The costs will be reimbursed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. There will be no cost to the Federal government for this new survey.

## 15. Reasons for changes in burden.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing, NASS and our enumerators have had to alter the modes of data collection to begin using internet responses and an increase in data collection by telephone. With the anticipated decrease in response rates, NASS and ERS postponed the ARMS 2 and ARMS 3 corn and rice versions until 2021 and concentrated our data collection efforts on the remaining surveys. The sample sizes and respondent burden have been adjusted to account for these program changes. Several questionnaire changes were made to the ARMS 2 and ARMS 3 surveys.

The cooperative agreement with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture added a new survey to collect Best Management Practices data, along with some minor modifications to the Pesticide and Fertilizer Use survey.

Finally, the Fruit Chemical Use survey had several pest management practices, questions removed this year.

Detailed listings of the questions added and deleted are attached to this submission.

There is an adjustment to respondent burden associated with publicity materials, due to a miscalculation in the previous submission.

Explanation for Changes in Burden and Responses							
	Total Number of	Annual Burden					
	Responses	Hours					
Overall Beginning Balances	291,710	105,029					
Changes to IC	R1						
Beginning Balance for ICR 1	138,958	98,998					
Program Changes							
Best Management Practices MN - New	6,063	1,515					
Fruit Chem Use - Reduced Questions		(447)					
Rotation of Fruit and Veg. Samples	667	220					
Increased use of Publicity Materials		9,740					
Subtotal	6,730	11,028					
Adjustment							
Rotation of ARMS Commodity Samples	(10,655)	(12,079)					
Correction for Calculation of Burden for		12 500					
Publicity Materials Previously reported		12,500					
Subtotal	(10,655)	421					
Ending Balance for ICR 1	135,033	110,447					
Changes to ICR 2							
Beginning Balance for ICR 2	152,752	6,031					
Program Changes							
Best Management Practices MN - New	13,488	449					
Rotation of Fruit and Veg. Samples	167	6					
Subtotal	13,655	455					
Adjustment							
Rotation of ARMS Commodity Samples	(10,504)	3,895					
	,						
Subtotal	(10,504)	3,895					
Ending Balance for ICR 2	155,903	10,381					
Changes to To	·						
Program Changes	20,385	11,483					
		· 					
Adjustment	(21,159)	4,316					

05/20/2021		Responses			T. 15			
	Resp. Count	Waves X Count	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Waves X Count	Burden Hours	Total Burden Hours	
Revised 3 Year Average	102,737	135,033	110,447	25,680	155,903	10,381	120,828	
Previous 3 Year Average	105,051	138,958	98,998	20,559	152,752	6,031	105,029	
Difference	(2,314)	(3,925)	11,449	5,121	3,151	4,350	15,799	

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

The changes to the questionnaires will be incorporated in the publications that are listed in the original approval docket.

For the new, 2021 Best Management Practices survey:

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

No request is being made for approval of non-display of the expiration date.

## 18. Exceptions to certification statement.

No exceptions to the certification statement are requested.

May 2021