

SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING STATEMENT Part A
ARMS II, ARMS III, and Vegetable Chemical Use 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).

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 II, ARMS III and Vegetable Chemical Use questionnaires.

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 II (chemical use survey) as well as the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey. The Costs and Returns (Phase III) 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 II phase. The majority of the questions that are asked in the Phase III 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 2020 questionnaires.

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 II and ARMS III surveys that targeted corn have been postponed until 2021.

	Survey	Versions
2020	ARMS Phase II Production Practices and Costs Report (PPCR)	Corn and Rice
	ARMS Phase II Production Practices Report (PPR)	Soybeans
	Chemical Use	Vegetables
	ARMS Phase III Cost and Returns Report	Core, Corn , Rice and Hogs
	Maryland Pesticide	All
	Minnesota Pesticide & Fertilizer	All Wheat, All Hay
	Mississippi Cropping Practices Survey	Corn, Cotton, Rice, Wheat

The MD, MN, and MS surveys are funded through State cooperative agreements.

In addition, several questions have been added to the ARMS III questionnaires to collect data regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has impacted the farming industry in 2020.

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, anyone who is interested in the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the farming industry will be able to use this supplemental data. The additional research questions will also enhance research into additional topics that are impacting US farms and ranches.

3. Use of improved information technology.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing, NASS will be using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) instrument for the first time with this particular group of surveys. In addition, NASS will be offering the ARMS II and ARMS III surveys as a Computer Assisted Web Interview (CAWI). NASS has also been developing a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) instrument that will be available for use when the pandemic has ended and it is safe to interview farmers in person.

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.

6. Consequence if information collection were less frequent.

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

7. Special circumstances.

No special circumstances are associated with this information collection.

8. Federal register notice and consultation with outside persons.

Not applicable.

9. Payments or gifts to respondents.

No payments or gifts will be given to respondents.

10. Confidentiality provided to respondents.

Confidentiality will be provided to respondents in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2002. All confidentiality protections that are applied to all products released from these surveys will remain the same as originally approved.

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 \$3,931.876.98.

	Burden Hours	Estimated Hourly Rate \$	Total Cost \$
Original burden hours for total docket	106,776	\$ 37.47	\$ 4,000,896.72
Decrease in burden hours for changes	1,842	\$ 37.47	\$ 69,019.74
Revised burden hours for total docket	104,934	\$ 37.47	\$ 3,931,876.98

NASS uses the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Occupational Employment Statistics](#) (most recently published on March 31, 2020 for the previous May) to estimate an hourly wage for the burden cost. The May 2019 mean wage for bookkeepers was \$20.65. The mean wage for farm managers was \$38.63. The mean wage for farm supervisors was \$25.25. The mean wage of the three is \$28.18. To calculate the fully loaded wage rate (includes allowances for Social Security, insurance, etc.) NASS will add 33% for a total of \$37.47 per hour.

Original Burden Tables

Respondent Burden for ARMS and Chemical Use Surveys for July 2018 - June 2021 1/												
Survey Year	Survey	Sample Size 5/	Waves of Data Collection	Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours
				Resp. Count	Waves X Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Waves X Count	Min./ Nonr.	Burden Hours	
Agricultural Resource Management Surveys (ARMS) Phases I, II, & III												
2018	Integrated Screening Survey (Phase I) (Mail)1/ 4/	-	1	-	-	15	-	-	-	2	-	-
	ARMS Screening Survey (Phase I) (Enumeration) 6/	-	1	-	-	15	-	-	-	2	-	-
	Production Practices Report (Phase II) 2/	7,500	1	6,000	6,000	35	3,500	1,500	1,500	2	50	3,550
	Production Practices & Costs Report (Phase II) 2/	5,000	1	4,000	4,000	65	4,333	1,000	1,000	2	33	4,366
	Costs & Returns Report Report (Phase III) (Mail) 3/	-	1	-	-	100	-	-	-	2	-	-
	Costs & Returns Report Report (Phase III) (Enumeration) 3/	-	1	-	-	100	-	-	-	2	-	-
	2018 Total	12,500			10,000	10,000		7,833	2,500	2,500		83
2019	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/	3,600	1	2,880	2,880	50	2,400	720	720	2	24	2,424
	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		116,620	116,620		76,160	137,280	137,280		4,576	80,736
2020	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/	7,500	1	6,000	6,000	50	5,000	1,500	1,500	2	50	5,050
	Production Practices & Costs Report (Phase II) 2/	5,000	1	4,000	4,000	75	5,000	1,000	1,000	2	33	5,033
	Costs & Returns Report (Phase III) (Mail) 3/	35,000	1	8,750	8,750	100	14,583	26,250	26,250	2	875	15,458
	Costs & Returns Report (Phase III) (Enumeration) 3/	30,000	1	22,200	22,200	100	37,000	7,800	7,800	2	260	37,260
	2020 Total	110,000		128,950	128,950		83,583	146,550	146,550		4,884	88,467
2021	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	-	-	35	-	-	-	2	-	-
	Production Practices & Costs Report (Phase II) 2/	-	1	-	-	65	-	-	-	2	-	-
	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		109,500	109,500		69,167	135,500	135,500		4,517	73,684
Cognitive Testing												
3 years	Testing approximately 50 ARMS and/or Chemical Use questionnaires per year	50	1	50	50	90	75	-	-		-	75

1/ ARMS and Chemical Use surveys are conducted on a cyclical 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.

2/ 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.

3/ All Phase III questionnaires will be attempted by mail with phone and field enumeration for non-respondents. In 2017 respondents have the option of completing the ARMS III questionnaire and not having to complete the Census of Agriculture. The ARMS III questionnaire contains the same essential questions as the Census.

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

5/ The ARMS Phases II & III are both subsampled from the Phase I Screening Survey.

0535-0218 - Projected Respondent Burden for EPAs in 2018 - 2020														
(External Project Agreement "EPA" are surveys that NASS conducts under cooperative agreements with State 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	Screeners	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	Corn, 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
Maryland	All	Pesticide Applicators	Maryland Pesticide Usage Survey (Mail)	6,800	1	2,040	2,040	45	1,530	4,760	4,760	2	159	1,689
			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
Illinois	Cultural Practices	Crops	Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (1st Mailing)	1,900	1	570	570	25	238	1,330	1,330	2	44	282
			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 ^u														
Cover Letter and/or EDR Instruction Sheet				18,880	1	14,356	14,356	5	1,196	4,524	4,524	2	151	1,347
Cognitive Testing														
Questionnaire Testing				30	1	30	30	120	60	0	0	2	0	60
TOTALS				18,910		14,386	14,386		10,443	4,524	11,744		543	10,986

Respondent Burden for ARMS and Chemical Use Surveys for July 2018 - June 2021 1/												
Survey Year	Survey	Sample Size	Waves of Data Collection	Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours
				Resp. Count	Waves X Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Waves X Count	Min./ Nonr.	Burden Hours	
Contractor Expense Survey 3/												
2019	Contractor Expense Survey	100	1	80	80	45	60	20	20	2	1	61
2020	Contractor Expense Survey	100	1	80	80	45	60	20	20	2	1	61
2021	Contractor Expense Survey	100	1	80	80	45	60	20	20	2	1	61
Total		300		240	240		180	60	60		3	183
Chemical Use Surveys - NASS Program Only												
2018	Vegetable Chem Use	4,200	1	3,360	3,360	45	2,520	840	840	2	28	2,548
2019	Fruit Chem Use	6,700	1	5,360	5,360	60	5,360	1,340	1,340	2	45	5,405
2020	Vegetable Chem Use	4,200	1	3,360	3,360	60	3,360	840	840	2	28	3,388
Total		15,100		12,080	12,080		11,240	3,020	3,020		101	11,341
Microbial Food Saftey Practices -- Packer Survey												
Discontinued	Microbial Food Safety Practices -- Packer Survey	-	1	-	-	30	-	-	-	2	-	-
Total		-		-	-		-	-	-		-	-
Publicity Materials for ALL surveys 2/												
2018	All materials for all versions 4/	16,700	1	13,360	13,360	5	1,113	3,340	3,340	2	111	1,224
2019	All materials for all versions	123,500	1	98,800	98,800	5	8,233	24,700	24,700	2	823	9,056
2020	All materials for all versions	115,800	1	92,640	92,640	5	7,720	23,160	23,160	2	772	8,492
2021	All materials for all versions	100,250	1	80,200	80,200	5	6,683	20,050	20,050	2	668	7,351
Total		356,250		285,000	285,000		23,749	71,250	71,250		2,374	26,123
Quality Control Survey (Telephone Only) - Recontact operators to verify quality of NASDA enumerators. 4/												
2019	Quality Control Worksheet (phone only)	1,500	1	1,500	1,500	5	125	-	-		-	125
2020	Quality Control Worksheet (phone only)	1,500	1	1,500	1,500	5	125	-	-		-	125
2021	Quality Control Worksheet (phone only)	1,500	1	1,500	1,500	5	125	-	-		-	125
Total		4,500		4,500	4,500		375				-	375
Annual Totals 2/												
2018	Annual Totals 4/	35,660	1	27,796	27,796		21,349	7,864	15,924		765	22,114
2019	Annual Totals	125,760	1	100,618	137,996		99,896	25,142	149,884		5,988	105,884
2020	Annual Totals	133,260	1	106,618	148,326		104,806	26,642	159,154		6,228	111,034
2021	Annual Totals	100,150	1	80,120	111,130		76,110	20,030	135,520		5,186	81,296
Annual Averages		131,610		105,051	141,750		100,720	26,559	153,494		6,056	106,776
	Average Burden per Respondent per Year	0.81130613			1.34934411		0.6975755		5.78840		0.03945	

1/ ARMS and Chemical Use surveys are conducted on a cyclical 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.

2/ 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.

3/ 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.

Revisions for 2020 – sheet 1

Respondent Burden for ARMS and Chemical Use Surveys for July 2018 - June 2021 1/												
Survey Year	Survey	Sample Size 5/	Waves of Data Collection	Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours
				Resp. Count	Waves X Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Waves X Count	Min./ Nonr.	Burden Hours	
Agricultural Resource Management Surveys (ARMS) Phases I, II, & III												
2018	Integrated Screening Survey (Phase I) (Mail)1/ 4/	-	1	-	-	15	-	-	-	2	-	-
	ARMS Screening Survey (Phase I) (Enumeration) 6/	-	1	-	-	15	-	-	-	2	-	-
	Production Practices Report (Phase II) 2/	7,500	1	6,000	6,000	35	3,500	1,500	1,500	2	50	3,550
	Production Practices & Costs Report (Phase II) 2/	5,000	1	4,000	4,000	65	4,333	1,000	1,000	2	33	4,366
	Costs & Returns Report Report (Phase III) (Mail) 3/	-	1	-	-	100	-	-	-	2	-	-
	Costs & Returns Report Report (Phase III) (Enumeration) 3/	-	1	-	-	100	-	-	-	2	-	-
	2018 Total	12,500		10,000	10,000		7,833	2,500	2,500		83	7,916
2019	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/	3,600	1	2,880	2,880	50	2,400	720	720	2	24	2,424
	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
2020	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/	1,300	1	1,040	1,040	75	1,300	260	260	2	9	1,309
	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 & Rice Ver.	3,200	1	800	800	115	1,533	2,400	2,400	2	80	1,613
	Costs & Returns Report (Phase III) (Enumeration) 3/	2,400	1	1,776	1,776	115	3,404	624	624	2	21	3,425
	2020 Total	110,000		88,000	120,576		78,131	29,924	144,324		4,811	82,942
2021	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	-	-	35	-	-	-	2	-	-
	Production Practices & Costs Report (Phase II) 2/	-	1	-	-	65	-	-	-	2	-	-
	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	109,500		69,167	27,500	135,500		4,517	73,684
Cognitive Testing												
3 years	Testing approximately 50 ARMS and/or Chemical Use questionnaires per year	50	1	50	50	90	75	-	-		-	75

1/ ARMS and Chemical Use surveys are conducted on a cyclical 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.

2/ 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.

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

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

5/ The ARMS Phases II & III are both subsampled from the Phase I Screening Survey.

Revisions for 2020 - sheet 3

Respondent Burden for ARMS and Chemical Use Surveys for July 2018 - June 2021 1/												
Survey Year	Survey	Sample Size	Waves of Data Collection	Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours
				Resp. Count	Waves X Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Waves X Count	Min./ Nonr.	Burden Hours	
Contractor Expense Survey 3/												
2019	Contractor Expense Survey	100	1	80	80	45	60	20	20	2	1	61
2020	Contractor Expense Survey	100	1	80	80	45	60	20	20	2	1	61
2021	Contractor Expense Survey	100	1	80	80	45	60	20	20	2	1	61
Total		300		240	240		180	60	60		3	183
Chemical Use Surveys - NASS Program Only												
2018	Vegetable Chem Use	4,200	1	3,360	3,360	45	2,520	840	840	2	28	2,548
2019	Fruit Chem Use	6,700	1	5,360	5,360	60	5,360	1,340	1,340	2	45	5,405
2020	Vegetable Chem Use	4,200	1	3,360	3,360	60	3,360	840	840	2	28	3,388
Total		15,100		12,080	12,080		11,240	3,020	3,020		101	11,341
Microbial Food Safety Practices -- Packer Survey												
Discontinued	Microbial Food Safety Practices -- Packer Survey	-	1	-	-	30	-	-	-	2	-	-
Total		-		-	-		-	-	-		-	-
Publicity Materials for ALL surveys 2/												
2018	All materials for all versions 4/	16,700	1	13,360	13,360	5	1,113	3,340	3,340	2	111	1,224
2019	All materials for all versions	123,500	1	98,800	98,800	5	8,233	24,700	24,700	2	823	9,056
2020	All materials for all versions	115,800	1	92,640	92,640	5	7,720	23,160	23,160	2	772	8,492
2021	All materials for all versions	100,250	1	80,200	80,200	5	6,683	20,050	20,050	2	668	7,351
Total		356,250		285,000	285,000		23,749	71,250	71,250		2,374	26,123
Quality Control Survey (Telephone Only) - Recontact operators to verify quality of NASDA enumerators. 4/												
2019	Quality Control Worksheet (phone only)	1,500	1	1,500	1,500	5	125	-	-		-	125
2020	Quality Control Worksheet (phone only)	1,500	1	1,500	1,500	5	125	-	-		-	125
2021	Quality Control Worksheet (phone only)	1,500	1	1,500	1,500	5	125	-	-		-	125
Total		4,500		4,500	4,500		375				-	375
Annual Totals 2/												
2018	Annual Totals 4/	35,660	1	27,796	27,796		21,349	7,864	15,924		765	22,114
2019	Annual Totals	125,760	1	100,618	137,996		99,896	25,142	149,884		5,988	105,884
2020	Annual Totals	133,260	1	106,618	139,952		99,354	26,642	156,928		6,155	105,509
2021	Annual Totals	100,150	1	80,120	111,130		76,110	20,030	135,520		5,186	81,296
Annual Averages		131,610		105,051	138,958		98,903	26,559	152,752		6,031	104,934
	Average Burden per Respondent per Year	0.79731277			1.32277283		0.6975755		5.78840		0.03948	

1/ ARMS and Chemical Use surveys are conducted on a cyclical 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.

2/ 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.

3/ 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.

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 felt it would be best to postpone the ARMS II and ARMS III corn versions until 2021 and concentrate our data collection efforts on the remaining versions. The sample sizes for the remaining versions were increased slightly to help increase the number of positive reports for the remaining versions.

Many of the questions that were added to the questionnaires deal with the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the farming industry.

The burden minutes for the ARMS III questionnaires were increased to account for the additional questions added to each version.

Finally, the Vegetable Chemical Use survey has two additional questions added.

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

The delaying of the ARMS II and ARMS III corn surveys till 2021 results in an overall decrease in respondent burden for 2020 as displayed in the table below.

Adjustments to Burden for 2020 (ARMS II, ARMS III, & Vegetable Chemical Use) Surveys						
	Approved Sample Size	Revised Sample Size	Difference	Approved Burden Minutes per Questionnaire	Revised Burden Minutes per Questionnaire	Difference
Production Practices & Cost Report (ARMS II)	1,300	5,000	3,700	75	75	-
Commodity (Rice)						
Production Practices Report (ARMS II)	4,000	7,500	3,500	50	50	-
Commodity (Soybeans)						
Vegetable Chemical Use Survey	4,200	4,200	-	60	60	-
Cost and Returns Report (ARMS III)	30,000	32,000	2,000	100	110	10
Core Version						
Cost and Returns Report (ARMS III)	5,000	3,200	(1,800)	100	115	15

07/16/20	Responses			Non-response			Total Burden Hours
	Resp. Count	Waves X Count	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Waves X Count	Burden Hours	
Revised 3 Year Average	105,051	138,958	98,903	20,559	152,752	6,031	104,934
Previous 3 Year Average	105,051	141,750	100,720	26,559	153,494	6,056	106,776
Difference	-	(2,792)	(1,817)	(6,000)	(742)	(25)	(1,842)

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.

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.

July 2020