



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



September 27, 2023

Mr. Dominic Mancini
Deputy Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Mancini,

Pursuant to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures established at 5 C.F.R. Part 1320, Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public, I request that the proposed USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) information collection entitled, *2023 Hawaii Agricultural Disaster Survey* be processed as an emergency clearance request in accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 1320.13, Emergency Processing.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture has requested USDA NASS to conduct a survey to assess agricultural losses related to recent wildfires. Specifically, the survey would collect data on: loss of crops and livestock; loss of commodity and product sales; damaged equipment and farm structures; and other infrastructure losses (such as seeds, etc.). The survey results are vital for affected farmers and ranchers to file claims and to recover from the disaster as quickly as possible. Agriculture agencies and associations such as the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Hawaii Cattlemen Association, the Maui Department of Agriculture, and USDA Farm Service Agency are in full support of this request.

Because of the nature of the emergency and the urgent need for this collection, it is impracticable for USDA to consult in advance with interested agencies and members of the public in order to minimize the burden of the collection of information. Therefore, USDA NASS requests a 180-day emergency clearance to establish the data collection covered by the *2023 Hawaii Agricultural Disaster Survey*. The 180-day emergency clearance will provide sufficient time to collect all data associated with this survey. As this request for approval concerns an urgent need, USDA is also seeking OMB's approval to waive the need for the standard Federal Register Notices otherwise required by 5 C.F.R. §§ 1320.5(a)(1)(iv) and 1320.8(d)(1) prior to publication and implementation of this disclosure. Instead, USDA NASS will issue a Federal Register Notice that will alert the public of this data collection and provide a five-day public comment period.

We would appreciate if you could please provide a determination on this request to collect information under an emergency clearance 5-days after the completion of the Federal Register Notice comment period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin L. Barnes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Kevin L. Barnes
Associate Administrator
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service