

SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING STATEMENT Part A

Cooperator Funded Chemical Use Surveys

Substantive Change

OMB No. 0535-0273

This substantive change is being submitted as a supplemental supporting statement for the Minnesota Best Management Practices Survey and the Minnesota Annual Pesticide and Fertilizer Survey. These surveys are funded under a cooperative agreement with Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MnDA) under full cost recovery.

The Minnesota Best Management Practices survey was previously done in 2021. The questionnaire was updated based in results of the 2021 survey to simplify questions for respondent and better match future data needs.

To summarize the majority of changes from the currently approved version of the Best Management Practices Survey:

- Section 1 - only total corn and soybean acres are kept. The others have been either moved or removed.
- Section 2 - Record Keeping for Fertilizer Applications has been removed.
- Section 3 - Nitrogen Management. The questions on practices and strategies have been removed for application rates, precision agriculture tools, cover crops, manure use, groundwater, inhibitors, and sidedressings.
- Section 4 - The table on decisionmaking for pesticide use has been replaced with questions on who applied, scouting, precision agriculture tools, drift prevention techniques, tillage, etc.
- New sections are being added for Acetochlor Use in Corn/Soybeans and Atrazine Use in Corn.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture requested some additional questions on irrigation and the use of nitrogen inhibitor/stabilizer to the annual Pesticide and Fertilizer Survey that are included in this change request.

To summarize the changes from the currently approved version of the Annual Pesticide and Fertilizer Survey:

- Section 6 – Fertilizer Management for Corn
 - o Introduction statement

- From “I will now ask you about your fertilizer inputs on [CORN] acres.”
 - To “I will now ask you about your fertilizer and irrigation for your [Corn] acres”.
 - o New question A0: “A0. How many irrigated [Corn] acres did you have in 2023? _____ acres”
- Section 7 – [Corn] Manure Management
 - o Question M2
 - From “How many of your 2023 [CORN] acres received manure? _____ acres”
 - To “How many manured [Corn] acres did you have in 2023? _____ acres”
 - o New Question M15 “Did you use a nitrogen inhibitor or stabilizer to your field?” (1) YES (3) NO
- Sections 8 & 9 Wheat will be a crop of interest for the 2023 survey enumerated in 2024 instead of Soybeans. Substitute Wheat in place of soybeans.
- Section 8 – [[Wheat]] Fertilizer Management
 - o Introduction statement
 - From “I will now ask you about your fertilizer inputs on [WHEAT] acres.”
 - To “I will now ask you about your fertilizer and irrigation for your [WHEAT] acres”.
- Section 9 – [Wheat] Manure Management
 - o Question M2
 - From “How many of your 2023 [WHEAT] acres received manure? _____ acres”
 - To “How many manured [WHEAT] acres did you have in 2023? _____ acres”
 - o New Question M15 “Did you use a nitrogen inhibitor or stabilizer to your field?” (1) YES (3) NO

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Circumstances making collection of information necessary.

NASS is requesting a substantive change to the Cooperator Funded Chemical Use Surveys ICR (0535-0273) to accommodate requested changes from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

NASS conducts the Minnesota Best Management Practices Survey under a cooperative agreement with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The survey is typically done in years the full Minnesota Pesticide and Fertilizer Survey (in this ICR) is not conducted. Results from the Minnesota Pesticide and Fertilizer Best Management Practices Survey will allow the MnDA 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. If verified, this will avoid the need for any mandatory restrictions on chemical use and/or practices.

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

There are no changes from the original approval for the purposes of the information collected.

3. Use of improved information technology.

There are no changes from the original approval for the use of information technology.

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 updated questionnaire, burden should be minimized 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 of 2018, Title III of Pub. L. No. 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35 and other applicable Federal laws. All

confidentially 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.

This substantive change request results no change in approved burden.

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 cost to the Federal Government since the surveys in this ICR are conducted under a full cost recovery basis.

15. Reasons for changes in burden.

This substantive change request results no change in approved burden.

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.

March 2023