



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



June 10, 2024

Ashley Oeser  
Associate Director of Public Policy & National Affairs Coordinator  
New York Farm Bureau  
Albany, NY

Dear Ms. Oeser:

Thank you for your letter pertaining to the National Agricultural Statistics Service' (NASS) intention to renew the surveys in the Agricultural Labor Information Collection Request (ICR). Your support of the Agricultural Labor Survey is appreciated. Your submitted letter included some recommendations for the upcoming Agricultural Labor Surveys and use of the summarized data from the survey, which will be addressed here.

NASS survey respondents may update their contact information when they complete their surveys, or by calling NASS at 1-888-424-7828 between the hours of 7 A.M. to 4 P.M. ET. Respondents may also provide NASS their contact information by completing a short form on NASS' public website at this link: <https://www.agcounts.usda.gov/static/get-counted.html>.

NASS is transparent in our methodologies for data collection and estimation of the farm labor data. We have held meetings on the Agricultural Labor Survey with stakeholder groups when requested, including the Department of Labor (DOL). The *Farm Labor Methodology and Quality Measures* documents response rates along with information how the surveys are conducted. The *Farm Labor Methodology and Quality Measures* documents and questionnaires used can be found at this link on NASS' public website: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Methodology\\_and\\_Data\\_Quality/Farm\\_Labor/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Methodology_and_Data_Quality/Farm_Labor/index.php)

Data reported by respondents are protected by Federal Law from disclosure as described at this link on NASS' public webpage: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/About\\_NASS/Keeping\\_Data\\_Safe/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/About_NASS/Keeping_Data_Safe/index.php). NASS questionnaires contain information how data are protected on the front page of the questionnaire.

Hopefully, this answers your questions about how data are collected and protected for the Agricultural Labor Survey.

The Agricultural Labor Survey is conducted at a level consistent with appropriated funds from the US Congress. DOL partially funded the NASS farm labor program until FY2021. Additional funding would be required for state-specific information.

The *Farm Labor Methodology and Quality Measures* and other documents pertaining to the Agricultural Labor Survey along with a proposed questionnaire and other comments NASS received will be made available later this summer for a 30-day public comment period. A Federal Register Notice (FRN) for OMB Control Number 0535-0109 will be published when that happens; the FRN will include instructions on how to review and comment further on the survey before official action is taken by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

We will keep you informed of the progression of the Agricultural Labor Survey through Federal Register Notices.

Sincerely,

Lance Honig  
Chair, Agricultural Statistics Board  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service