Supporting Statement - Part B

CUSTOM WORK SURVEYS

OMB No. 0535-0266

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.

The Custom Work target population is all farm operations in participating states that utilize custom services. The Custom Work Sampling Frame comprises all active farm operations in participating states on NASS's List Frame. Complete enumeration will be attempted due to the desire to publish rates for various custom work by State and sub-State levels. After two attempts to collect data by mail or internet (Computer Assisted Self Interview – CASI) phone follow-up calls will be made to non-respondents to ensure a high level of coverage for each custom work category.

Custom Work surveys were conducted in North Dakota and Pennsylvania during 2022-2024. The response rate for the North Dakota survey was 46.5 percent, while the Pennsylvania survey had a response rate of 57 percent.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:

- **statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection,**
- **estimation procedure,**
- **degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification,**
- **unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures**

Overview – As with all NASS surveys, the goal is to collect data from at least 80% of the records sampled, or to achieve a weighted unit response rate of at least 70% of the production data or production area. We utilize mail, Computer Aided Self Interviewing (CASI), and phone interviews to collect data. In our ongoing effort to collect quality data in a timely and economic manner, NASS utilizes mail as the first method of data collection (with a CASI option) with phone interview follow up for non-response. With limited funds for extensive data

collection, phone enumeration is reserved for non-response follow-up.

Sampling – The Custom Work target population is all farm operations in participating states that utilize custom services. The Custom Work Sampling Frame comprises all active farm operations in participating states on NASS's List Frame. The Custom Work sampling frame may be stratified by region and the sample may be selected within strata after sorting by farm type and farm value of sales. The sample size will be determined using historic survey information and customer specifications and adjusted for no-item of interest and response rates.

3. Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of information collected must be shown to be adequate for intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

NASS Regional Field Office staff routinely visit producers and industry organizations to promote the programs and importance of cooperating. NASS maintains a presence at National industry meetings, often setting up promotional booths at trade shows. Occasionally, letters of endorsement are obtained from industry leaders. Many of the cooperators for this Custom Work Survey actively promote NASS surveys at industry meetings and through university extension agents. Most States conduct a full non-response follow up.

NASS relies on multiple modes for collecting data. The questionnaires are mailed to the respondents who can either return them by postage paid envelope, email, fax, Computer Assisted Self Interviewing, or telephone. If we have not received a response within the allotted time, phone enumerators will be used to contact the respondents.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken.

Data will be analyzed after each survey to determine if cognitive testing is needed prior to the next survey.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Survey design and methodology are determined by the Summary, Estimation, and Disclosure Methodology Branch, Methodology Division; Branch Chief is Lindsay Drunasky. Lindsay's email is lindsay.drunasky@usda.gov and phone number is (202) 690-8141.

Sample sizes for each State are determined by the Sampling, Editing, and Imputation Methodology Branch, Methods Division; Branch Chief is Andrew Dau. Andrew's email is andrew.dau@usda.gov and phone number is (202) 690-8141.

Questionnaire design methodology is determined by the Standards and Survey Development Methodology Branch, Methodology Division; Branch Chief is Dan Beckler. Dan's email is daniel.beckler@usda.gov and phone number is (202) 720-8858.

The NASS survey administration, data collection, estimation, and publication are carried out by NASS Regional Field Offices; Western and Acting Eastern Field Operation's Director is King Whetstone. King's email is king.whetstone@usda.gov. His phone number is (202) 720-9567. The survey administrators are responsible for coordination of sampling, questionnaires, documentation, training, and data processing.

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