

NASS Survey Training

2021 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS 1)



**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service**



National Operations Division – Training Group
April 2021



General Survey Information

- Project Code: **905 - ARMS Phase 1 Screener**
- Questionnaires:
 - Mailed out May 14th
 - Web reporting option available
- No publication/release for this survey
 - Screener only
 - ARMS II and ARMS III have their own publications

ARMS 1 Overview

- **Screening** Survey for:
 - ARMS II
 - ARMS III
 - Also screens for commodities in the Chemical Usage Program
- Asks general agricultural activity questions
 - Acres operated
 - Target commodities
 - Gross value of sales
 - Category of gross sales (type of operation)

ARMS 1 Overview

- Also identifies operations producing target commodities of interest:
 - Corn
 - Rice
 - Cotton
 - Dairy
- Accurate screening is critically important:
 - Directly impacts quality of results in ARMS II and ARMS III
 - Year long “repercussions”

ARMS Program Purpose

- ARMS data are the USDA's primary source of information on:
 - Agricultural resource use and costs
 - Farm sector financial conditions
 - Farm Household finances
- Three Phases
 - ARMS I
 - Used to screen operations for the other two phases
 - Operations in business with commodities of interest will be eligible for ARMS II and ARMS III
 - ARMS II (Oct – Dec '21)
 - Production practices
 - Resource use
 - Production costs
 - ARMS III (Jan – Apr '22)
 - Whole farm finance information
 - Operator characteristics



Use of ARMS Data

- Benefits farmers *indirectly* through a variety of reports generated from ARMS II and ARMS III
- Which *directly* affect policy decisions:
 - Provides only national perspective on the financial conditions of production agriculture
 - Provides farm sector portion of the GDP
 - Identifies agricultural management strategies

Target Commodities

Corn	Rice	Cotton	Dairy
<p>Acres planted and to be planted for all purposes</p> <p>Acres harvested and to be harvested for Grain</p>		<p>Acres planted and to be planted for all purposes</p> <p>Acres harvested and to be harvested for lint</p>	<p>Peak number dairy cows in 2021</p> <p>Produce certified organic milk?</p>

Target Commodities, Continued

- There are 2 versions of the questionnaire.
 - Version 1 = No target commodities
 - Only asks acres operated, value of sales, type of operation.
 - Version 2 = Corn, Rice, Cotton, Dairy
 - Version 1 questions plus target commodity questions

Survey Information

- NASS's typical screening questions
 - If “Yes” to any - survey continues
 - If “No” to all:
 - Change in operator? (Leave explanatory note)
- Acres operated
 - Owned + rent from – rent to = Total Operated
- How many acres of cropland?

Value of Sales, Cont'd.

- Is the 2020 gross value of sales and government agricultural payments for this operation \$1,000 or more?
 - If Yes: Operator no longer has to provide value range
- If no:
 - Record all 2021 crops, land uses, and livestock or poultry on the total acres operated.
- Which category represents the largest portion of the gross income from the operation in 2020?
 - 16 categories, can only pick 1

Watch For:

- This is a short survey, so most issues are common sense and should be easy to spot:
 - Total acres operated less than or equal to 0
 - Are they only a landlord? Code “Out Of Business”
 - Cropland acres can’t exceed total acres in the operation
 - Sum of planted acres can’t be more than total cropland acres
 - Extremely high number of dairy cows
 - Make sure they’re not including beef cattle, etc.
- As always, leave notes for any unusual data!

The Reluctant Respondent

- “I just gave the USDA this information”
 - I do realize that you may have just completed another production survey– and we thank you for your participation. This particular survey is conducted annually, and the results actually provide the only national perspective on the financial conditions of U.S. agriculture – data that are used to help legislators and state agricultural departments make policy decisions and develop programs that can benefit you and other operators.
- “I’m not a farm” – “I don’t sell anything”
 - I can see why you might wonder about that. Whether operations are large or small, or whether they’re operated as a business or just a hobby, information from a large variety of sources helps provide an accurate, factual picture of U.S. agriculture. Your information is just as important to that picture as the information we gather from large commercial operations.



Things to remember

- High level of completions is extremely important
 - Since this is a screening survey, response rate has significant implications for the next 2 phases
- **Notes**
 - This is a screening survey: accurate info is vital
 - Leave explanatory comments for warnings, refusals to any question, “don’t know” responses, and any unusual situations
 - Add explanatory notes for any additional information the operator may provide
- Complete some practice records before calling
 - Become familiar with different survey routing possibilities, points section, etc.

Any Questions?

