Survey Training

Fruit Production Inquiry - August 2021
(APPLE PEACH PEAR AP)

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

NOD-Training Group
July 2021

General Survey Information

- "Essentially" an Ag Yield survey for apples, peaches, and pears

- Project Code: **134 - Non-citrus Fruit Survey**

- Questionnaires:
  - Mail date: July 22nd
  - Web reporting option available

- Release:
  - *Crop Production*
  - August 12, 12PM (eastern)

States and Crops

- Apples only
  - NY VA
- Peaches only
  - CO GA NJ SC
- Apples and Peaches
  - MI PA
- Apples, Freestone Peaches, Clingstone Peaches, Pears
  - CA
- Apples, Pears
  - OR
- Apples, Peaches, Pears
  - WA

Fresh Picked 2020 Data

- **Apples**
  - 295,300 total bearing acres
    - WA #1 with 175,000; NY MI PA CA round out the top 5 states
  - Average yield per acre: 34,700 pounds
    - WA had the highest yield per acre: 39,500 pounds
- **Peaches**
  - 73,000 total bearing acres
    - CA #1 with 35,000; SC GA NJ PA round out the top 5 states
    - Average yield per acre: 8.46 tons
      - Yields ranged from 1.71 to 13.40
- **Pears**
  - 43,500 bearing acres
    - WA has 19,700; OR and CA round out the top 3
  - Average yield per acre: 15.4 tons

Survey Information

- Looking for 2021 *expected* production of Apples, Peaches, and/or Pears
  - Depending on state
    - Some states also break out peaches and pears into different types
- At this point, we're not asking about end use
  - Just expected production…regardless of if the fruit will be used for fresh market, processing, etc
- Like with most fruits and vegetables:
  - A wide variety of units may be reported
  - Often with varying weights

Extra Peach Information

- Clingstone Peaches: Flesh that clings to the stone
  - When cut in half, very difficult to separate the two halves because the flesh is stuck to the pit
    - Used for commercial canning and are mechanically separated
    - Often measured in TONS and producers more likely to provide a yield estimate
- Freestone Peaches: Flesh separates easily from the stone.
  - When the fruit is cut in half, there is easy separation at the pit and the pit can be removed by hand
    - May be preferred for eating, easier to utilize in home canning
    - If sold for FRESH use, producers more likely to report in terms of boxes and will need to supply their WEIGHT per BOX.

Screening

- Any [specific fruit] tree acres?
  - If "**NO**", any [specific fruit] tree acres in the future?
  - If "**NO**" to all varieties, has this operation been sold, rented…?
    - If "**NO**", will the land be used for any agricultural purposes….
    - Enter notes explaining what will become of the operation
    - Comments about the 2021 fruit tree crop in their locality

Survey Questions

- If "**YES**" to screening questions for:
  - Any [specific fruit] tree acres in 2021?
- **Total acres** of [fruit] this year
  - Of these, how many are **bearing age** this year
    - Even if no *production* this year (due to freeze, disease, etc), still record the *bearing age* acres
- Expected **total production OR expected yield** for 2021
  - Quantity, unit, pounds per unit (Box, Bin, Bushel, etc.)

Things to Watch Out For

- Current total and/or bearing acres differs from previous

- Bearing acres greater than total acres

- Low bearing to total acres ratio

- Bearing acres reported but no expected production reported

- Yield seems high or low
  - Total production / bearing acres (in pounds)

Things to remember

- Referring to 2021 crop year expected production

- Watch the decimal points: acres, pounds per unit

- Get all details surrounding unit
  - Yield/acre can be lbs, boxes, or bins per acre
  - 'Bin' and even 'Bushel' can have different lbs

- Remember, *bearing age*
  - Even in cases of limited or no production this year

Notes are Important

- Be sure to leave comments explaining unusual situations
  - Statisticians *depend* on your notes
    - Weather, diseases, insects, markets, labor, etc
  - As they review the data, set their estimates and communicate with HQ

Conclusion

- Practice exercises available

- Contact your supervisor or RFO if you have questions