NASS Enumerator Survey Training

Tobacco Price Inquiry - March 2022

(TOBACCO PR)

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

NOD-Training Group
February 2022
Survey Overview

• USDA uses prices received data to determine the value of agricultural production.

• The Risk Management Agency (RMA) uses state level price data to administer insurance programs.

• The Farm Service Agency (FSA) uses prices received estimates in computing counter cyclical and disaster payments.
Survey Information

• Project Code: **172 - Prices Received**

• Questionnaires:
  – Mailed March 1\(^{st}\)
  – Web reporting option available

• Release:
  – *Agricultural Prices*
  – May 31, 2022, 3PM (EST)
Additional Information

• Types of Tobacco & Avg. Price/lb.*
  – Flue Cured $1.979
  – Fire Cured $2.755
  – Burley $2.004
  – Maryland $1.96
  – Dark Air Cured $2.461
  – Pennsylvania Seedleaf $2.98

• Type of tobacco production varies geographically

• Tobacco is normally sold by the **pound** AND under **contract**
  – BUT auctions are still around
Additional Information

• “Curing” is the process by which green tobacco leaves are dried

• Four methods of curing:
  – Air Cured: tobacco is hung in well ventilated barns to dry out
  – Flue Cured: tobacco is dried via an external heat source that is piped in via flues
  – Fire Cured: tobacco that is dried using burning/smoldering wood.
  – Sun Cured: tobacco is left out in the open to sun dry
    • Not common in US
Introduction/Screening Questions

• Series of questions used to determine:
  – Whether the operation is still in business
  – Name and address verification

• Screening question/items of interest for the survey:
  – Did this operation harvest any tobacco in 2021?
  – Has this operation sold any of the 2021 tobacco crop?
Survey Questions

• For each type of tobacco:
  – Quantity *sold under contract* AND
    • Average price (per lb.) OR total dollars received
  – Quantity *sold at auction/open market* AND
    • Average price (per lb.) OR total dollars received

• Type(s) of tobacco will vary by state

• Total 2021 crop been marketed?
Out of Business

• If operator says, they are out of business and/or no longer farming:
  – Determine if they are TRULY out of business
    • Operation been sold, rented, or turned over to someone else?
    • Will land be used for any agricultural purposes by them or someone else in the next year?
    • Will they grow any field crops, hay, or specialty crops such as fruits, vegetables, or floriculture?
    • Own or raise any livestock or poultry?
    • Have any facilities for storing whole grains, pulse crops, or oilseeds?
    • Own or operate any CRP/WRP, pasture, woodland, idle land?
Special Request for OoB Records

• 2022 Census of Agriculture
  – Mails out this December
  – We need to contact every operation that was in business for any part of 2022
  – If an operation is Out of Business
    • Please ask if they were in business at any time during 2022 and leave a note
    • We can update the record to still be mailed the Census form
Reluctant Responses

• “I haven’t sold all my tobacco yet, call me back in another month.”
  – By reporting even part of your sales, you are making more information available so that you and other farmers will be able to make well informed decisions.
Things to Remember

• Watch decimal points
• Anything odd or unexpected: Be sure to leave a comment explaining the situation
  – Statisticians depend on your notes
  – As they review data, set their estimates and communicate with HQ
    • Your “extra” information is vital to accurate results
• Practice some exercises on your iPad
• Contact your supervisor/local office for any questions specific to your area
• Thanks and have a good survey!