Berry Production and Disposition Inquiry - Information

Overview

- <u>Project code</u>: 134 – Non-Citrus Fruit Survey
  - <u>Mailed out</u>: January 24th, 2023
- <u>Data Release</u>: "Non-Citrus Fruits and Nuts - Annual" – May 8th, 2023, 3pm ET
- <u>Reference Period</u>: 2022 Crop
- <u>Purpose</u>: To collect acreage, production, and sales data for a wide variety of berry crops. Collecting this data provides the industry with a reliable source of information, and growers can use this data to help make informed decisions for their operations.

  NASS waits several months after harvest is complete to collect final marketing and price information because berries can be placed in cold storage and marketed and priced at a later date.

  Berry crops should most likely have been removed from storage and sold by the survey reference date as berries cannot be held in cold storage for an extended period of time.

Screening:

- Did this operation have any berry crop acres?
  - If NO, "How many total acres of fruit, citrus, grape, berry, and nut crops were on the operation?"

  - There will be an additional screening question for each berry crop asking if the operation had any acres of that type of berry.

This is all of the screening there is for the Berry Production and Disposition Inquiry so you will need to leave plenty of notes to explain what the current status of the operation is.

If the operation is completely out of business please leave notes as to what happened to the operation, new operator contact information, etc. This information is needed to update our records.

Survey Questions:

- Survey questions will be identical for all berry crops
- We will ask for total acres of each type of berry crop.
- Then, of these total acres, how many were harvested?
    - Some may not have produced a crop during the survey year due to age of the plants, freeze damage, disease, drought, etc.
- A wide variety of units can be reported for quantities harvested and quantities sold. We then need the weight of the unit reported so we can calculate total production and price per pound.
    - For example: an operator may report that he harvested 4000 crates of berries. We then need to know how much one of those crates weighed so we can calculate his total production.
    Then he may say he sold 10,000 boxes of berries for $8 per box. We need the weight of one of those boxes so we can calculate the price per pound.
- If any berries would happen to still be in storage, the operator should estimate how he intends to sell those berries and include it in that category (fresh or processing) along with the price he expects/hopes to get.
- The "harvested but not sold" category is referring to any berries that will **not** be sold due to poor quality, marketing restrictions, etc.
- We need to account for all berries harvested, so the sum of all sold plus used to make processed items plus harvested that will not be sold must equal the total harvested.
- Also, record any comments the producer has about the berry crop.

Some things to keep in mind:

- Looking for acres production, and prices from the 2022 crop year not what they expect to get for the 2023 crop
- Watch your decimal points on acres, weight per unit, and prices
- There could be a wide variety of yields and prices across your area
- Please leave plenty of notes explaining anything you think the statisticians may need to know
- Please verify any reports of "Black Raspberries". Be sure they are not actually reporting "Blackberries"