NASS Survey Training
Berry Production and Disposition Inquiry
February 2023

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section
February 2023
Grower Inquiry Overview

• Berry Production and Disposition Inquiries are conducted:
  – To help producers develop marketing plans for their operations, determine what to produce, and determine when and how to sell their products.
  – To enable the industry to forecast transportation and storage requirements, and to evaluate export potential.
  – To provide farm organizations information to help form policy positions and develop producer programs.

  • Grower Associations can use the data to help promote the industry.
Survey Overview

• **2022** crop year production, utilization, and prices for some of the major berry crops
  – Acreage
  – Total production
  – Fresh market and processing sales and prices
  – Other end uses
• **Final 2022** marketing and price info asked now because
  • Some berries can be placed in cold storage and marketed quite some time after harvest
  • Some prices that growers receive are not finalized until after the entire crop has been marketed
General Survey Information

• Project Code: 134
• Questionnaires:
  – Mailed out around January 24th
  – Web reporting instructions included
• Release:
  – Non-Citrus Fruits and Nuts – Annual
  – May 8th, 2023 at 3:00 pm EST
Berry Crops
(varies by state)

- Blueberries (Tame)
  - “High Bush”, “Cultivated” Blueberries
- Blueberries (Wild) – ME only
- Raspberries (all types combined)
- Strawberries
Screening for Berry Crop Acres

• Any berry crop acres in 2022?
  – If NO, go to Conclusion
    • How many total acres of fruit, citrus, grape, berry, and tree nut crops were on this operation in 2022?

• May not have berries but could still be in business with other commodities. (Leave notes)

• Leave good notes if the operation is completely out of business (no agricultural activity)
  – What happened? New operator? Any other info?
Survey Questions

• Additional screening for each type of berry crop:
  – Any [specific berry] acres, bearing or non-bearing in 2021?

• Acres during **2022**:  
  – Total acres  
  – Of these, how many were harvested?  
    • May not have harvested all acres due to a late freeze, drought, etc
Survey Questions

• **Total** quantity harvested during 2022
  – Include berries harvested and not used
  – If producer only knows his yield per acre leave that information in a note or calculate the total quantity harvested.
  – Disposition questions **must** sum back to quantity harvested
Survey Questions: Sales

• Quantity sold and prices for:
  – Fresh market (Broken into separate categories as prices can vary)
    • Local/direct sales to consumers
      – Would include sales at U-pick, roadside stands, farmers markets, etc.
    • Wholesale sales (bulk sales, F.O.B. sales, grower packed sales, etc.)
  – Processed
    • Commercial processing
      – NOT broken down by different end uses
Survey Questions: Sales

• A wide variety of units can be reported
  – Often with varying weights
  – AND different units within one report
    • Example: Production in pounds, sales by the ton, and priced by the carton

• Prices are “at local shipping point after packing and marketing charges”
  – Collecting what the grower actually received
Survey Questions

• Quantity:
  – Processed by this operation
    • Made into jams, jellies, etc.
    • Exclude items for home use
  – Harvested but not sold (and won’t be sold)
    • Can be due to poor quality, spoilage, market restrictions, etc.
Survey Questions

• Has the total [berry crop] been marketed?
• How many total acres of fruit, citrus, grape, berry, and tree nut crops were on this operation in 2022?
• Comments about the 2022 growing season
Things to watch out for:

- Current total and/or harvested acres differs from previous
- Harvested acres greater than total acres
- Yield seems high or low
  - Total production / bearing acres
- Berry Acres reported but no Harvested Acres
- No harvested acres but production reported
More things to watch out for:

• Sum of disposition does not equal total production
  – Individual items more than total production
  – Sum of items more than total production
  – Sum of items must equal total production
• Acres reported but no production
  – Was the entire crop lost due to frost, drought, etc.?
• High or low sales price per pound
Things to remember

• Looking for 2022 production not 2023 forecast
• Watch the decimal points:
  – Acres, pounds per unit, prices
• Be mindful of differences across your area
  – May see a wide variety of yields, prices, etc
    • Leave good notes
• Verify all reported “Black Raspberries” to be sure they are not actually “Blackberries”!
More things to remember

• Anything odd or unexpected: Be sure to leave a comment explaining the situation
  – Statisticians *depend* on your notes
    • Weather, diseases, insects, markets, labor, etc
    • That “extra” information is vital to their specialty crop knowledge

• Work through a few practices
  – *Before* interviewing farmers
  – Make sure to know how the different “pieces” all fit together
Berry Production and Disposition Survey and NERD

• What is NERD?
  – Non Edited Respondent Data
    • Formally Previously Reported Data
  – We now use Raw, unedited data from respondent/operator
  – Sources: Web, Field, Phone, Mail
Berry Production and Disposition Inquiry NERD

• What will you or the operator see?
  • Prefilled data from the operator during a previous survey in each applicable data box.
    • All data available will be displayed when you enter the record.

• Data will show on the Web (CASI) and CAPI instruments, only

Example of Non-Edited Respondent Data data in CAPI

*Which survey the data came from is not included*
Berry Production and Disposition Inquiry NERD

Items that may have Non-Edited Respondent Data For Berry PDI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>Blueberries (Tame) Total Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3470</td>
<td>Blueberries (Wild) Total Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1815</td>
<td>Raspberries Total Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2501</td>
<td>Strawberries Total Acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use the "Reminder / Still Method"

Example of the question:
“Last time we recorded that this operation had **40 Acres** RENTED or LEASED FROM others. Is this information **still** correct?”

Respondent says "**YES**":
The enumerator should accept the prefilled information as the current answer and move on to the next question.

Respondent says "**NO**":
The enumerator should ask the standard question as it is worded in the instrument and change the prefilled answer to reflect the respondent’s current answer.
Berry Production and Disposition Inquiry NERD

- Enumerators reporting OOB, Refusal, & Inaccessible records
  - Do not have to worry about removing NERD data from CAPI. These records will be scrubbed before being read into Blaise. Please follow your normal procedures.
- If you are entering Complete data (9901 = 1) from paper you will have to change all non-valid NERD pre-filled in CAPI.
Pre-Survey Letters will be sent from each RFO with the NERD Impact Statement.

NERD Impact Statement:

- Some answers in your online questionnaire may be pre-filled with information from previous NASS surveys of your operation.
2021 By the Numbers...

- Blueberries (cultivated)
  - Yield: 6,740 lb/ac
  - Avg. Price: $1.55/lb

- Blueberries (wild)
  - Yield: 5,000 lb/ac
  - Avg. Price: $0.77

- Raspberries
  - Yield: 10,720 lb/ac
  - Avg. Price: $2.97/lb

- Strawberries
  - Yield: 540 cwt/ac
  - Avg. Price: $128/cwt
Conclusion

• Any questions or concerns contact your supervisor or Regional Field Office

• Hope you have a “BERRY” good survey!