NASS Survey Training

Cherry Production Inquiry – June 2023
(Cherries AP)

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section
April 2023
General Survey Information

• Project Code: **134 - Noncitrus Fruit Survey**

• Questionnaires:
  – Mailed out around May 22
  – Web reporting option available

• Release:
  – *Crop Production*
  – June 9, 2023, 12PM ET
2021 Cherry Info

• Sweet Cherries:
  – 378,300 tons from 84,500 bearing acres
    • 4.48 tons per acre
  – Washington has 39,000 acres
  – 80% of crop for fresh market

• Tart Cherries:
  – 172 million pounds from 30,500 bearing acres
    • 2.82 tons per acre
  – Michigan has 23,000 acres
  – 99% of crop for processing
Tart vs. Sweet Cherries

- Almost all tart cherries grown in the U.S. are the Montmorency variety.
- Montmorency tart cherries, also known as sour cherries, are bright red when harvested, and they retain that bold color when dried, frozen or juiced.
- Tart cherries are typically used for processing.
- Sweet cherries are usually consumed fresh.
  - Some sweet cherry varieties include Bing, Lambert, Rainier, Burlat, and Royal Ann
Questionnaire Versions

• 3 Versions:
  – V1: Sweet Cherries only.
    • California and Oregon
  – V2: Tart Cherries only
    • Michigan, New York, Utah, Wisconsin
  – V3: Sweet and Tart Cherries
    • Washington
Screening for Cherry Tree Acres

• Any cherry tree acres?
  – If “NO”, Will this operation have any I the future?
    • Yes, No, or DK – then go to conclusion

• No additional screening questions at this point, so good notes about the operation’s status are *vital*
  – Leave good notes if the operation is completely out of business (no agricultural activity)
  – What happened? New operator? Any other info?
Survey Information

• Looking for **2023 expected** production of Sweet and/or Tart cherries (depending on state)

• Like with most fruits and vegetables:
  – A wide variety of units may be reported
  – Sometimes with varying weights
Survey Questions

• Any cherry tree acres during 2023?
• Total acres of [sweet or tart] cherries
  – Of these, how many were bearing age this year
    • Report acres if they are of bearing age even if they will
      not produce a crop this year due to frost, disease, etc.
• Expected total production for 2023
  – Quantity, unit, pounds per unit
• Same questions for either type of cherries
• Comments about 2023 crop for their locality
Things to Watch Out For

- Current total and/or bearing acres differs from previous
- Bearing acres cannot be greater than total acres
- Low bearing to total acres ratio
  - We are asking about *bearing age*...and not what will actually bear a crop this year
    - This can cause some confusion if there is a late frost, disease/insect issues, etc. that impact production
- Bearing acres reported but no production reported
  - Can be possible: crop was lost to a late freeze, etc.
- Yield seems high or low
Conclusion

- Referring to **2023** crop year *expected* production
- Watch the decimal points:
  - Acres, pounds per unit
- Encounter anything odd or unexpected? Leave a note.
- Practice on your iPad
- Contact your supervisor or RFO with any questions
- Have a Great Survey!