

## 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!