

## Survey Training

# Fruit Production Inquiry - August 2023 (APPLE PEACH PEAR AP)



**United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service**

Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section  
July 2023



# General Survey Information

- “Essentially” an Ag Yield survey for apples, peaches, and pears
- Project Code: **134 - Non-citrus Fruit Survey**
- Questionnaires:
  - Mail date: July 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Web reporting option available
- Release:
  - *Crop Production*
  - August 11, 12PM (eastern)



# States and Crops

- Apples only
  - NY VA
- Peaches only
  - CO GA NJ SC
- Apples and Peaches
  - MI PA
- Apples, Freestone Peaches, Clingstone Peaches, Pears
  - CA
- Apples, Pears
  - OR
- Apples, Peaches, Pears
  - WA

# Fresh Picked 2022 Data

- **Apples**

- 288,500 total bearing acres
  - WA #1 with 173,000; NY MI PA CA round out the top 5 states
- Average yield per acre: 33,800 pounds
  - WA had the highest yield per acre: 42,500 pounds

- **Peaches**

- 72,500 total bearing acres
  - CA #1 with 36,400; SC GA NJ PA round out the top 5 states
  - Average yield per acre: 8.63 tons
    - Yields ranged from 2.5 to 15.0

- **Pears**

- 40,600 bearing acres
  - WA has 17,500; OR and CA round out the top 3
- Average yield per acre: 15.9 tons

# Survey Information

- Looking for 2023 *expected* production of Apples, Peaches, and/or Pears
  - Depending on state
    - Some states also break out peaches and pears into different types
- At this point, we're not asking about end use
  - Just expected production...regardless of if the fruit will be used for fresh market, processing, etc
- Like with most fruits and vegetables:
  - A wide variety of units may be reported
  - Often with varying weights

# Extra Peach Information

- Clingstone Peaches: Flesh that clings to the stone
  - When cut in half, very difficult to separate the two halves because the flesh is stuck to the pit
    - Used for commercial canning and are mechanically separated
    - Often measured in TONS and producers more likely to provide a yield estimate
- Freestone Peaches: Flesh separates easily from the stone.
  - When the fruit is cut in half, there is easy separation at the pit and the pit can be removed by hand
    - May be preferred for eating, easier to utilize in home canning
    - If sold for FRESH use, producers more likely to report in terms of boxes and will need to supply their WEIGHT per BOX.

# Screening

- Any [specific fruit] tree acres?
  - If “**NO**”, any [specific fruit] tree acres in the future?
  - If “**NO**” to all varieties, has this operation been sold, rented...?
    - If “**NO**”, will the land be used for any agricultural purposes....
    - Enter notes explaining what will become of the operation
    - Comments about the 2023 fruit tree crop in their locality

# Survey Questions

- If “**YES**” to screening questions for:
  - Any [specific fruit] tree acres in 2023?
- **Total acres** of [fruit] this year
  - Of these, how many are **bearing age** this year
    - Even if no *production* this year (due to freeze, disease, etc), still record the *bearing age* acres
- Expected **total production OR expected yield** for 2023
  - Quantity, unit, pounds per unit (Box, Bin, Bushel, etc.)



# Things to Watch Out For

- Current total and/or bearing acres differs from previous
- Bearing acres greater than total acres
- Low bearing to total acres ratio
- Bearing acres reported but no expected production reported
- Yield seems high or low
  - Total production / bearing acres (in pounds)

# Things to remember

- Referring to 2023 crop year expected production
- Watch the decimal points: acres, pounds per unit
- Get all details surrounding unit
  - Yield/acre can be lbs, boxes, or bins per acre
  - ‘Bin’ and even ‘Bushel’ can have different lbs
- Remember, *bearing age*
  - Even in cases of limited or no production this year

# Notes are Important

- Be sure to leave comments explaining unusual situations
  - Statisticians *depend* on your notes
    - Weather, diseases, insects, markets, labor, etc
  - As they review the data, set their estimates and communicate with HQ

# Conclusion

- Contact your supervisor or RFO if you have questions

