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\textsuperscript{st}
  – 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