



December Pecan Inquiry Training Materials

Below you will find links to a video, PowerPoint presentation, survey information sheet, and practice interviews for NASS's December Pecan Inquiry. The practice interviews can be used to enter data in CATI or CAPI to get familiar with those data collection instruments.

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Strategic Planning and Business Services Division
Strategic Planning Branch
Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section

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Survey Training

Pecan Inquiry – December



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



Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section



Pecan Inquiry – Uses of the Data

- Helps producers develop marketing plans for their operations.
- Enables the industry to forecast transportation and storage requirements and evaluate export potential.
- Used by USDA agencies to determine crop insurance and disaster aid payments, along with other program benefits.
- Used by grower organizations to help form policy positions.

General Survey Information

- Project Code: **918**
- Questionnaires:
 - Mails mid-November
 - Web reporting option available
- Release:
 - *Crop Production*
 - Typically, around December 8-10, 12.00 PM (Eastern)



NASS website: www.nass.usda.gov/

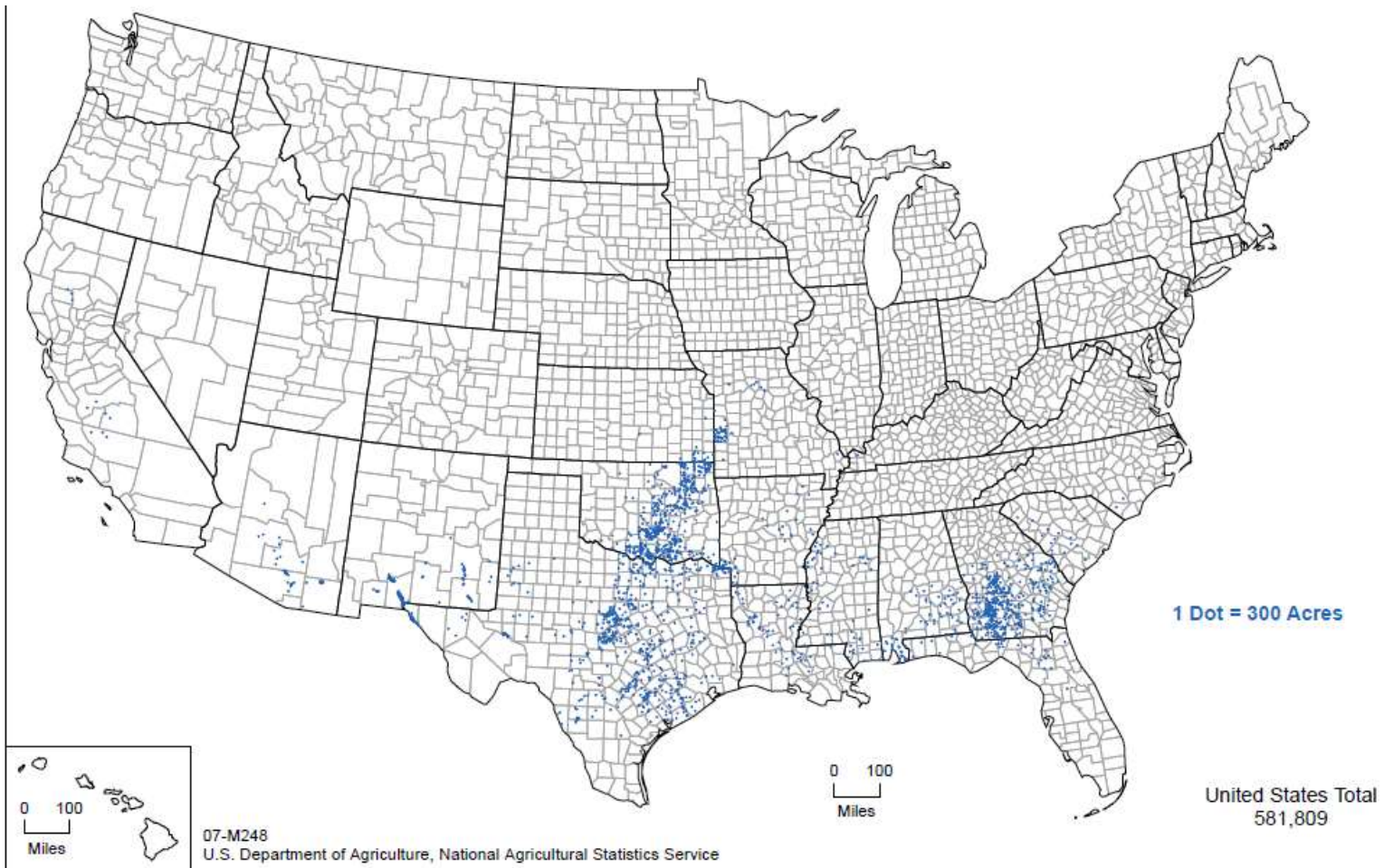
Definitions

- **Improved Varieties:** These trees are the result of careful grafting and budding.
 - Usually planted in managed, cultivated groves.
 - Shell is much thinner than that of the seedling and consequently its meat yield is normally higher.
 - The appearance is nicer and larger, making it a favorite of home cooks and gourmet commercial users.
- **Wild Native or Seedling:** Growing wild, usually unattended and not cultivated.
 - However, there are some large areas where they are well-managed and cultivated.
 - The nut is smaller than the improved type but its flavor and full firm meat make it especially adaptable for commercial uses.

Definitions

- **Total Acres:** Net acres in commercial orchards or groves. Includes bearing and non-bearing acreage.
- **Bearing Acres:** Fruit or nut trees of sufficient age to produce a marketable crop.
- **Alternate Bearing:** Resulting from carbohydrate build-up, this phenomenon produces normal to above normal yields one year, followed by smaller yields the next year.

Pecan Growing Regions



Survey Questions Vers. 1 (AZ, GA, NM)

- Any pecan acreage this year?
- Total acres of pecan trees maintained?
- How many bearing age acres this year?
- Total pounds harvested/to be harvested this year

- Note:
 - Acres are collected to nearest tenth.
 - Production in total pounds. Leave a note if yield/acre is given or if a different unit is used.
 - In shell weight

Survey Questions Vers. 2 (OK, TX)

- Improved Varieties and Wild Native/Seedling Varieties asked separately.
 - Questions are the same as Version 1 for each variety.
- For Wild Native variety, operator may report number of trees instead of number of acres.

Example: 2022 Pecan Data

- Average yield: 679 lbs/acre
 - Highest: Arizona 1,700 lbs/acre
 - Lowest: Oklahoma 75 lbs/acre
- Bearing Acres: 409,000
 - Georgia #1 with 147,000 acres
- 277,700,000 lbs produced
 - Improved variety accounts for 97% of total crop



Watch For:

- Large acreage
- Large changes in acreage
- Low bearing to total acres
- High/low yield
 - If low yields are result of bad weather or alternate-bearing please leave a note

Things to Be Aware Of

- Some farmers may say it's too soon to know production. Ask for best estimate
- Asking for current year crop
 - Harvest begins in the fall for some and extends into the next year
- We want them to only include harvest information for fall of current year, Jan-Mar of next year

Things to Be Aware Of

- If the respondent doesn't know which variety he or she has, record the acreage, and leave a comment!
- If the respondent gives a name for the tree, for example Pawnee or Kiowa, it's likely an improved variety. Leave a comment!
- If trees are scattered in a pasture, get the best estimate of tree acres and not pasture acres.

Reluctant Responses

- Small farmer/operation
 - I'm glad you brought that up. All pecan growing operations are important, big or small. The management practices of a smaller operation are different from the larger ones, and this is your chance to let your voice be heard. Information you provide can help others become aware of the challenges facing smaller pecan growers such as yourself.

Conclusion

- Notes are your friend:
 - When in doubt, comment it out
 - Extra information is especially important for specialty crops
- Reach out to your supervisor or RFO if you have any questions



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Pecan Inquiry Extra Information

General: Some farmers don't understand the terminology NASS uses, namely improved, seedling and native varieties. If a farmer says they don't know what their variety is, or they insist they don't grow improved varieties, ask for their bearing acres and production anyway and key it anyway or put it in a note. Specify in comments that the farmer said variety was not improved.

Watch for number of trees reported instead of acres. Bearing acres should be equal to or less than total acres. When asking bearing acres, make sure to ask for all bearing acres. Not just the acres they harvested from.

The improved varieties are planted in New Mexico and other parts of the southwest, native and seedling varieties are not grown in New Mexico. Acres are on the rise in New Mexico.

Federal marketing order: The marketing order requires the farmer pay a few cents per pound sold so that money can be used for the benefit of the pecan industry. The marketing order was designed to gather credible data on inventories, imports, supply & demand. As a side note, the pecan industry is the driving force behind the order, not the USDA. The USDA is administering it at the request of the industry.

Pecan Marketing Order:

For more marketing order

info: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/13/2021-00328/pecan-promotion-research-and-information-order#:~:text=The%20pecan%20marketing%20order%20authorizes,grown%20in%20the%20production%20area.>

The Federal Marketing Order for Pecans has been specifically tailored to the Pecan industry's challenges and is used to:

- Market and promote Pecans to increase demand and prices
- Gather and publish accurate industry data
- Coordinate and invest in Pecan research, including product development
- Establish grade, quality and size standards
- Establish packaging and container standards



Practice Interviews

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Practice Interview 1: (Version 1 questionnaire for AZ, GA, and NM)

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone numbers that I have for this operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**

Did this operation have any pecan acreage in 20XX? **Yes**

How many total acres of pecan trees were maintained in 20XX? **15**

How many bearing age acres of pecan trees were maintained in 20XX? **14.8**

How many total pounds of the 20XX pecan crop were or will be harvested?
10,500

Comments about the 20XX pecan crop in your locality. **No**

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another farm or ranch? **No**

Would you rather have a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**



Practice Interview 2: (Version 2 questionnaire for OK and TX)

Who is responding? **Spouse, Suzie Farmer**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone number that I have for this operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**

Did this operation have any improved pecan acreage in 20XX? **Yes**

How many total acres of improved variety pecan trees were maintained in 20XX? **5**

How many of the acres of improved variety pecan trees had trees of bearing age during 20XX? **5**

How many total pounds of the 20XX improved varieties pecan crop were or will be harvested?
1,750

Did this operation have any wild native pecan acreage in 20XX? **Yes**

How many total acres of wild native pecan trees were maintained in 20XX? **Don't know**

If number of wild native acres is unknown, provide number of wild native trees. **220**

How many of the acres of wild native variety pecan trees had trees of bearing age during 20XX?

Don't know

If number of wild native bearing age acres is unknown, provide number of wild native bearing age trees. **220**

How many total pounds of the 20XX wild native varieties pecan crop were or will be harvested?
1,200

Comments about the 20XX pecan crop in your locality. **“Had some trees lost due to a tornado, which caused a decreased in overall production.”**

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another farm or ranch? **No**

Would you rather have a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**

Additional Practice:

For extra practice, make sure you're comfortable coding an operation that is out of business, one that's in business but does not have pecan trees, etc. Additionally, code a record as a refusal because the farmer was too busy to complete the survey.