

NASS Survey Training

Pecan Shellers & Processors Inquiry – 2023 Crop (PECAN PROC PROD)



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

Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section
January 2024



Survey Overview

- For the **2023** pecan crop
- Collecting information from *processors* on:
- Total amount of 2023 pecans handled
 - Amount of pecans shelled
 - Unshelled pecans sold
 - Pecans in storage
- Provides valuable information to the entire pecan industry on the status of the 2023 crop

General Survey Information

- Project Code: **142-Tree Nut Survey**
- Questionnaires:
 - Mailed out January 30th
- Release:
 - *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts-Annual*
 - May 7, 3 p.m. EST

Introduction and Screening

- Introduction/Screening
 - Name/Address Verification
 - Use any commercial shelling equipment for **2023** pecans?
 - If “No”, end of survey. Make notes...
- For actual survey questions
 - Report for plant or plants operated in 2023
 - Report for 2023 crop to date
 - Provide best estimate if exact figures are unknown
- Questions are broken out by:
 - Improved
 - Wild Native (Seedling)

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/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.

Survey Questions

- Total pounds shelled (unshelled basis)
 - Of total, what is the meat equivalent production (shelled weight)
- Pounds of pecans (in shell) sold
- Unshelled 2023 pecans owned by plant, or possessed on consignment
 - Of these how many do you intend to shell
- Total quantity of **2023** pecans handled
 - Shelled + sold in shell + unshelled stocks

Reluctant Responses

- Why is this important?
 - That's a good question. We contact both processors and growers to get a complete and accurate picture of pecan production and utilization for the entire crop year.
- Small operation
 - I'm glad you brought that up. All 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 small operators.

Conclusion

- Remember, collecting data on **2023** pecan crop
- When in doubt, comment it out.
- Be sure to practice on your iPad
 - *Before* interviewing!
 - Fairly straight forward survey...but there are some important relationships in the questions
- Any questions/comments?
 - Contact your supervisor or local office