

NASS Survey Training

Cherry Production Inquiry – June 2024 (CHERRIES AP)



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

Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section
May 2024



General Survey Information

- Project Code: **134 - Noncitrus Fruit Survey**
- Questionnaires:
 - Mailed out late May
 - Web reporting option available
- Release:
 - *Crop Production*
 - June 12, 2024, 12PM ET

2022 Cherry Info

- Sweet Cherries:
 - 231,700 tons from 84,500 bearing acres
 - 2.74 tons per acre
 - Washington is #1 state, with 39,000 acres
 - Around 80% of crop is for fresh market
- Tart Cherries:
 - 244.2 million pounds from 31,200 bearing acres
 - 3.9 tons per acre (7,830lbs per acre)
 - Michigan is #1 state with 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, Oregon, Washington
 - V2: Tart Cherries only
 - Utah
 - V3: Sweet and Tart Cherries
 - Michigan

Questionnaire Changes

- Michigan: Sweet Cherries added
- New York, Washington, Wisconsin: Tart Cherries removed

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 2024?
- 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 2024
 - Quantity, unit, pounds per unit
 - Report only in **pounds** for Tart cherries

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 **2024** 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!