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 (7,830 lbs 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
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 in 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!