

NASS Survey Training

2026 Integrated Screening Survey (ARMS 1)



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

Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section
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General Survey Information

- Project Code: **905 - ARMS Phase 1 Screener**
- Questionnaires:
 - Mail date June 1st
- No publication/release for this survey
 - Screener only
 - ARMS II and ARMS III have their own publications

ARMS 1 Overview

- **Screening Survey for:**
 - ARMS II
 - ARMS III
 - Also screens for commodities in the Chemical Usage Program
- **Asks general agricultural activity questions**
 - Acres operated
 - Target commodities (select states)
 - Gross value of sales
 - Category of gross value of sales (type of operation)

ARMS 1 Overview

- Also identifies operations producing target commodities of interest:
 - Corn
 - Rice
 - Peanuts
 - Dairy Cows
- Accurate screening is critically important:
 - Directly impacts quality of results in ARMS II and ARMS III
 - Year long repercussions based on what's collected during ARMS 1

ARMS Program Purpose

- ARMS data are the USDA's primary source of information on:
 - Agricultural resource use and costs
 - Farm sector financial conditions
 - Farm Household finances
- Three Phases
 - ARMS I
 - Used to screen operations for the other two phases
 - Operations in business with commodities of interest will be eligible for ARMS II and ARMS III
 - ARMS II (Oct – Dec '26)
 - Production practices
 - Resource use
 - Production costs
 - ARMS III (Jan – Apr '27)
 - Whole farm finance information
 - Operator characteristics

Use of ARMS Data

- Benefits farmers *indirectly* through a variety of reports generated from ARMS II and ARMS III
- Which *directly* affect policy decisions:
 - Provides only national perspective on the financial conditions of production agriculture
 - Provides farm sector portion of the GDP
 - Identifies agricultural management strategies

Target Commodities

Corn	Rice	Peanuts	Dairy
Acres Planted Acres Harvested	Acres Planted Acres Harvested	Acres Planted Acres Harvested	Peak number of dairy cows on operation

Target Commodities, Continued

- There are 2 versions of the questionnaire.
 - Version 1 = Corn, Rice, Peanuts, Dairy Cows, Vegetables
 - Version 1 questions plus target commodity questions
 - Version 2: Arizona only
 - Asks about AZ pesticide usage
 - Dairy Cows
 - Vegetables

Survey Information

- NASS's typical screening questions
 - If “Yes” to any - survey continues
 - If “No” to all:
 - Change in operator? (Leave explanatory note)
- Acres operated
 - Owned + rent from – rent to = Total Operated
- How many acres of cropland?

Value of Sales

- Is the 2025 gross value of sales and government agricultural payments for this operation \$1,000 or more?
 - If Yes: Operator no longer has to provide value range
- If no:
 - Record all 2026 crops, land uses, and livestock or poultry on the total acres operated.
- Which category represents the largest portion of the gross income from the operation in 2025?
 - 16 categories, can only pick 1

Watch For:

- This is a short survey, so most issues are common sense and should be easy to spot:
 - Total acres operated less than or equal to 0
 - Are they only a landlord? Code “Out Of Business”
 - Cropland acres can’t exceed total acres in the operation
 - Sum of planted acres can’t be more than total cropland acres
 - Extremely high number of dairy cows
 - Make sure they’re not including beef cattle, etc.
- As always, leave notes for any unusual data!

Things to remember

- High level of completions is extremely important
 - Since this is a screening survey, response rate has significant implications for the next 2 phases
- **Notes**
 - This is a screening survey: accurate info is vital
 - Leave explanatory comments for warnings, refusals to any question, “don’t know” responses, and any unusual situations
 - Add explanatory notes for any additional information the operator may provide
- Complete some practice records before calling
 - Become familiar with different survey routing possibilities, points section, etc.

Conclusion

Please contact a coach or supervisor with any questions you may have.

Thank you for all your efforts on this and all of NASS's surveys!

