Pecan AP Survey Information

Overview:

- Project Code: 142 – Tree Nut Survey
- Looking at current year production
- 2 Questionnaire Versions:
    - V1: Improved only, AZ, GA, NM
    - V2: Improved and Native/Wild, OK, TX
- Total acres maintained
- Total pounds harvested
    - Pounds of Improved varieties
    - Pounds of Wild Native varieties
    - Average price received

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.
- Wild Native/Seedling Varieties:
    - Grow wild, usually unattended and not cultivated.
    - Nut is typically smaller but flavor and full firm meat make it especially adaptable for commercial uses.

Things to Watch Out For:

- Sum of parts **<u>must</u>** equal
    - Improved + Native = Total Pounds
    - Version 2 only
- Total pounds sold cannot be greater than pounds harvested
- Bearing acres cannot be greater than total acres
    - Include all bearing acres, even if they haven't harvested from them
- If a variety name is given it is probably NOT a native/seedling type
- If trees are scattered in a pasture, be sure to get tree acres and not entire pasture acres
- Make notes about any low yields or prices that are reported

General: The report forms asks for improved variety pecan data. 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.

Pecan 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. Some think this will merely drive prices higher. 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.

For more marketing order info: https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/research-promotion/pecan

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

Neither the USDA nor the Federal Government charges the Pecan industry or its participants to assist the Pecan industry in the creation and management of the Federal Marketing Order for Pecans – it is Pecan money utilized solely for the benefit of Pecans.

Georgia normally accounts for about 45 percent of the U.S. crop but this percentage varies widely.

Pecans are native to the Mississippi River Basin, the river bottoms of Texas, and northern Mexico. These seedling trees (also known as "native" varieties) make up more than half of the commercial trees in Texas and Oklahoma. Arizona, California, and New Mexico grow only improved varieties. Improved varieties normally account for two-thirds of the total crop but this varies from 50 to 75 percent of total U.S. production.

One pound contains 70 to 75 nuts and yields 40 to 45 percent meats. Normally about 75 percent of the total crop is sold on a shelled basis but this will vary from 70 to 90 percent depending upon prices, size of crop, improved versus seedling production, cold storage holdings, etc.