

September 25, 2012

Mr. David Hancock
NASS Clearance Officer
National Agricultural Statistics Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 5336 South Building
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250-2024

RE: *Federal Register* notice of August 7, 2012, for the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Labor Survey (OMB Number: 0535-0109)

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by NASS for the Agricultural Labor Survey. This survey is our main data source for key components of BEA's economic statistics.

Multiple programs in BEA use the Agricultural Labor Survey directly and indirectly to prepare various estimates. On a direct basis, the Regional Accounts uses the survey data to estimate farm supplements to wages and salaries, and farm wage and salary employment. The employment estimates are a supplement to the income estimates. Specifically, data for hired workers (annual average by state and region) are used from the November *Farm Labor* publications.

The National Accounts, specifically the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs), uses the wage rate for all hired workers from the Farm Labor: "Hired Workers and Wage Rates - United States - Farm Employment - Total" table in the *Farm Labor* report. This series is used in the NIPA calculation of Real Farm Value Added, and is the primary data source for estimates of farm employment and hours worked.

The International Accounts also uses this survey in estimating compensation of employees (seasonal agricultural workers) and in estimating expenditures by short-term workers for inclusion in other private services. In addition, the Agricultural Labor Survey is used indirectly by other BEA programs, including GDP-by-state on farm output estimates and Industry program's annual estimates on farm employment and hours worked.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to the survey. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the forms' approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Ruth Bramblett, Source Data Coordinator, on (202) 606-9653, or by e-mail at Ruth.Bramblett@bea.gov. Should you need assistance in justifying these forms to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

BEA's Uses of the NASS Agricultural Labor Survey

Title	Uses	BEA Programs
Annual Average Number of Hired Workers and Hours Worked - Regions and United States	State-level supplements to Farm Wages and Salaries; State-level Farm Employment	Regional Accounts
Hired Workers and Wage Rates - United States	U.S. Real Farm Value Added; U.S. Farm Employment and Hours Worked	National Accounts
Hired Workers and Wage Rates - United States	Compensation and Expenditures by Seasonal Agricultural Workers	International Accounts

Note: Tables used are from *Farm Labor Report* November issue.