February 13, 2020

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

RE: *Federal Register* notice of January 24, 2020 for National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Agricultural Surveys Program (OMB Number: 0535-0213)

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continuation of the NASS Agricultural Surveys Program (ASP). This survey program provides source data for several important components of BEA's economic statistics related to farming.

BEA uses information collected in the ASP to prepare the national income and product, input-output, and the regional economic accounts. More specifically, BEA uses ASP based estimates of farm cash receipts, inventory change, and production from the Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, to prepare its estimates of state and national farm income and farm inventories. Although farm income, inventories, and product are small shares of national income and product, their volatility must be accurately measured to identify the sources of change in the overall economy.

Also, data on the number of farms by state from the ASP's June Agricultural Survey (JAS) serve as the basis for state estimates of the number of farm proprietors, a component of the regional employment series. The JAS also is important because it is used to update and verify the list sampling frame for other NASS surveys used directly or indirectly by BEA.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to these forms and schedules. 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 Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, on 301-278-9618, or by e-mail at Tiffany.Burrell@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 Fixler

Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Economist