

August 10, 2020

Ruth Brown
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer
U.S. Department of Agriculture

RE: *Federal Register* notice of July 24, 2020 for the National Agriculture Statistics Service's (NASS) Agricultural Resource Management Survey and Chemical Use Surveys (OMB Number: 0535-0218)

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the revised and continued collection of data by the National Agriculture Statistics Service's (NASS) Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). The data collected in this survey are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses information collected in the ARMS to prepare the national income and product, input-output, and the regional economic accounts. The data items that we use directly in our estimates are attached.

In addition, we use many of the items indirectly through their use by the Economic Research Service (ERS) to prepare the national and state estimates of farm income — the principal basis for BEA's estimates of farm income and product. Though farm income 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. BEA does not use the Chemical Use Surveys that are part of this NASS filing.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to this form. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the form's approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Tiffany Burrell, BEA Source Data Coordinator, on 301-278-9618, or by e-mail at Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov. Should you need assistance in justifying this form to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Economist

Attachment

Direct Use of ARMS Data in Preparation of BEA's Economic Accounts

Data Items by Legal Form of Organization	Level of Geography	Used For
Total Open Market Sales, Crops	U.S.	National and Regional Personal Income Accounts
Total Open Market Sales, Livestock	U.S.	
Total Farm Production Expenditures	U.S.	
Government Payments, Operator Total	U.S.	
Land Value, Land and Buildings Owned	U.S.	
Number of Farms	U.S.	Regional Farm Employment Accounts