

June 9, 2020

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

RE: Federal Register notice of May 8, 2020 for the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Livestock Slaughter Survey (OMB Number: 0535-0005)

Dear Mr. Hancock:

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

BEA uses information collected in the livestock survey to prepare the national income and product, input-output, and the regional economic accounts. BEA's use of these data is indirect, in that the information from this survey is used by the Economic Research Service (ERS) to prepare estimates of farm cash receipts from livestock sales. BEA uses these ERS estimates to prepare its input output accounts, and the national and State estimates of farm gross product and farm proprietors' income.

In addition, BEA uses monthly data collected on the slaughter report form to estimate quarterly changes in national farm inventories of cattle, and for its local area estimates of personal income. Although farm income and product are a small share of national income and product, agriculture contributes a significant portion of economic activity in numerous States and rural counties. Its volatility must be accurately measured to identify the sources of change in the economy.

Please keep BEA informed concerning 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, 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