

August 17, 2021

Levi S. Harrell
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

RE: *Federal Register* notice of July 29, 2021, for the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS),
Agricultural Labor Survey (OMB Number: 0535-0109)

Dear Mr. Harrell:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the NASS on 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, BEA's regional program uses the survey data to estimate supplements to farm 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 income and product accounts (NIPAs) use 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 a primary data source for estimates of farm employment and hours worked.

BEA's international program also uses this survey in estimating compensation of employees (seasonal agricultural workers) and in estimating expenditures by short-term workers for inclusion in travel. 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. A list of items used by BEA is attached.

As described above, this information has played an important role in a number of our programs. Please keep BEA informed concerning any new developments with this survey. You may contact Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, on 301-278-9618 or by e-mail at Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Economist

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

BEA's Uses of 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 Economic Accounts
Hired Workers and Wage Rates - United States	U.S. Real Farm Value Added; U.S. Farm Employment and Hours Worked	National Economic Accounts
Hired Workers and Wage Rates - United States	Compensation and Expenditures by Seasonal Agricultural Workers	International Economic Accounts (Balance Payments Division)

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