

May 20, 2009

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 March 26, 2009, for the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) List Sampling Survey (OMB Number: 0535-0140),

Federal Register notice of March 23, 2009, for the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Egg, Chicken, and Turkey Surveys (OMB Number: 0535-0004)

Federal Register notice of March 23, 2009, for the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Floriculture Survey (OMB Number: 0535-0093)

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continuation of the National Agriculture Statistics Survey (NASS) for the List Sampling Frame; Eggs, Chicken, and Turkey Surveys; and Floriculture Surveys. These important surveys are critical to the data quality of several key components of BEA's economic statistics. Although the farm sector is small, it is quite significant for many states and counties. The volatility of farm income at all geographic levels further necessitates the need for accurate survey results. The importance of each survey is described below.

List Sample Survey:

The accuracy of data from several NASS surveys and the Census of Agriculture (COA) depends on the NASS List Sampling Survey to maintain as complete a list as possible of names and addresses of farm operations. This ensures that BEA appropriately captures the agricultural and geographical changes in the economy in its national income and product and wealth accounts (NIPAs), input-output accounts, and regional accounts.

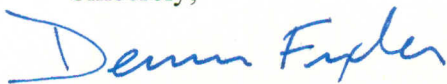
Egg, Chicken, and Turkey Surveys; and Floriculture Survey

The Egg, Chicken, and Turkey Surveys and the Floriculture Survey are an integral part of measuring farm income and agricultural output. BEA uses data from USDA's Economic Research Service, which are based on the information collected by NASS on these surveys, to prepare estimates of farm proprietors income and total personal income for county and States, as well as production at the State level.

The information on quantities and prices of poultry and eggs is also used to prepare estimates of farm product and income in the annual and benchmark I-O accounts and the NIPAs. In addition, data on prices received for farm products and published as an annual index are used by the Industry Accounts to estimate real farm output. BEA supports NASS' request on the Floriculture Survey for the additional detail on area in production, operation value of sales, and agricultural workers.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to these forms. 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