

November 2, 2020

Marketing Order and Agreement Division
Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA
1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237
Washington DC 20250-0237

Sent electronically to www.regulations.gov.

RE: Survey of Hemp Producers and Production Trends.

AGENCY DOCKET NUMBERS

AMS-SC-20-0071

SC20-990-1-N

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85 FR 65788

To Whom It May Concern:

Using the following USDA-NASS reports as a reference I submit my comments for USDA Hemp Producer Survey. These responses correlate to the Docket publication.

(1) Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;

COMMENT: Yes, this information will be useful and practical for the purpose of marketing and sales of Hemp products and where a supplier of materials for this industry could focus their attention. It would also help in Federal and State Regulations of revenue and distribution purposes. For instance, States not growing Hemp should not receive Federal subsidies (USDA, EQUIP, NRCS, etc.) generated by Hemp production from other "grower" States.

(2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

COMMENT: References 1-5 from the USDA-NASS are completed anytime from monthly to every two years and are typically associated with members of a Trade Association for that industry, i.e. National Association of Cut Flowers, Hop Growers of America. Trade Associations are very effective in promoting a USDA Survey so the concept of "burden" on the grower/respondent is minimal.

(3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and

COMMENT: The above-mentioned References are a good starting point for Hemp Methodology and a clarification of assumptions.

(4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

COMMENT: See Comment from (2) above.

ADDITIONAL COMMENT: It would be helpful to know about the “waste product” from production/processing of Hemp. How much waste material is generated? What was it used in/for – paper, compost, packaging material, animal bedding, fodder, fuel, etc.

Respectfully Submitted



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ⁱ REFERENCES

1. USDA-NASS Floriculture Crop ISSN 1949-0917

This annual full-text report presents data on floriculture crops including cut flowers, potted flowering plants, foliage plants, potted herbaceous perennials, annual bedding/garden plants, cut cultivated greens, propagative floriculture material and special Hawaiian crops. The data includes quantity sold, percent of sales at wholesale, wholesale price and value of sales at wholesale for 15 program states and growers having \$100,000 or more in sales. Additionally, the number of growers, growing area and operations with hired workers for growers with \$10,000 or more in sales is also included in the report.

2. Ornamental Wholesale Market Report - Boston, MA

This report contains information on the wholesale market for ornamental plants at the Boston terminal. Data is categorized by commodity and includes prices by bunches/stems by variety of plant.

3. Adams County Indiana Flower And Produce Auction

This report contains the results of the Adams County Indiana Flower and Produce Auction in Monroe, Indiana. Statistics included are weather conditions, volume of produce, and weighted average price.

4. USDA-NASS Hop Stocks ISSN: 1949-1484

This biannual release reports the stocks held by growers, dealers, and brewers for the U.S. Continues Stocks of Hops. The data was obtained via grower's surveys conducted in the three estimating States of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

5. USDA-NASS National Hop Report ISSN: 2158-7825

This report includes acreage, yield, and production, by variety and state, for hops. This annual report presents the area harvested, yield, production, price per pound, and value of production, by variety, state, and U.S., for hops, and notes changes in these values from previous years. The states represented in this report are Idaho, Oregon, Washington.