

July 26, 2012

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 June 20, 2012, for the National Agriculture Statistics Service's (NASS) Floriculture Survey (OMB Number: 0535-0093)

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports continued collection of the National Agriculture Statistics Service's (NASS) Floriculture Survey. This important survey is 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 Floriculture Survey is an integral part of measuring farm income and agricultural output. BEA uses the quantities and prices data from USDA's Economic Research Service, which are based on the information collected by NASS on this survey, 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 is used to prepare estimates of farm product and income in the annual and benchmark I-O accounts and the NIPAs as well. 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. The attached table shows the various BEA program areas using the data and how the data are used.

BEA's use of the data will not be affected by changes in the size of the target population, sampling design, and/or questionnaire length.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to this form. 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

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Data used by BEA from the NASS Floriculture Survey

BEA Account area:	Data used:	Data are used:
Regional Accounts	Production, Inventories, Prices	Indirectly through ERS-USDA accounts in measuring farm proprietors' income as part of total personal income for states and counties. Also used indirectly in preparing estimates of farm production as part of gross domestic product by state.
Industry Accounts	Production, Prices	To prepare estimates for farm product and income in I-0 accounts. Prices used to derive "real" farm output.
National Accounts	Production, Prices	To prepare estimates for farm product and income in the NIPAs.