

November 20, 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 October 4, 2012, for the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) List Sampling Frame Surveys (OMB Number: 0535-0140)

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continuation of the List Sampling Frame Surveys by National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS). 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 accuracy of data from NASS surveys and the Census of Agriculture (COA) depends on the NASS List Sampling Surveys to maintain as complete a list as possible of names and addresses of farm operations. A comprehensive list 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.

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