

December 13, 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 November 16, 2012, for National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Agricultural Prices Program Survey Forms (OMB Number: 0535-0003)


Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the NASS through the agricultural prices survey forms. The data collected on these forms are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics. BEA's use of the data will not be affected by the proposed changes to the target population, sample design, and questionnaire length.

BEA uses data from these forms in the national income and product accounts (NIPAs) and the regional economic accounts. Data on unit prices received and paid by farmers and the related price indexes constructed from the data collected on these forms are used to prepare estimates of the government consumption expenditures, personal consumption expenditures, and farm inventory components of gross domestic product (GDP). They are also used to prepare estimates of gross farm product, the contribution to GDP of the farm sector, and state and county farm income. In addition, BEA's estimates of farm income and product are based on data from USDA's Economic Research Service which depends heavily on the price indexes from this program. A list of the data used is attached.

Please keep BEA informed concerning any modifications to this form. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the form's 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
NASS Agricultural Prices Program Data Used by BEA

Data Used	Used to
Unit prices received, used annually and monthly Crops: Wheat, all Tobacco, all Rice, rough Flaxseed Corn Peanuts, in-shell Barley, all Beans, dry edible Sorghum grain Canola Soybeans Safflower Oats Rye Cotton, American Potatoes upland Sweet potatoes Hay, all, baled Sunflower Cottonseed Apples, fresh use Livestock: Cattle, all beef Chickens Hogs, all Broilers, live Sheep Turkeys	Estimate the following GDP components in the NIPAs: personal consumption expenditures government consumption expenditures change in farm inventory
Index numbers of prices received, used monthly Not seasonally adjusted: Crops: Food grains Fruit, fresh market Feed grains & hay Commercial vegetables Cotton Commercial vegetables, fresh market Tobacco Potatoes & dry beans Oil-bearing crops Fruit, all Livestock: Meat animals Poultry & eggs Dairy products Seasonally adjusted: Crops: Fresh market fruits Livestock: Fresh market vegetables Dairy products Poultry and Eggs	Estimate the following in the Industry Economic accounts: gross farm product farm sector contribution to GDP
Index numbers of prices received, used monthly (1914=100): All crops, livestock and farm products	Estimate state and county farm income in the Regional Economic Accounts
Index numbers of prices paid, U.S., used annually (1990-92=100): Feed Feeder livestock Seed Fertilizer Agricultural chemicals Fuels & energy Farm & motor supplies Building & fencing Farm services & cash rent	