

June 17, 2016

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 April 19, 2016, on Intent to Seek Approval to Reinstate an Information Collection, the Census of Agriculture (OMB Control Number: 0535-0226)

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of information on the 2017 Census of Agriculture (COA). The data from the COA are critical for several key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses information collected in the COA to prepare the national income and product, input-output, and regional economic accounts. The data items from the 2012 form that we use directly in our estimates are attached. In addition, we use many of the items indirectly through the national and state estimates of farm income prepared by the Economic Research Service (ERS) which are used to prepare the national and state estimates of farm income. These estimates are the principal basis for BEA's estimates of farm income and product. Although farm income and product are small shares of national income and product, their volatility must be accurately measured to identify the sources of change in the overall economy.

At this time, BEA does not have any proposed form modifications for the 2017 collection; however, we will likely have suggestions for the 2022 COA. Please include us on the future call for content suggestions for 2022. 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 Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, on 301-278-9618, or by email at [Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov). If you need assistance in justifying this form to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Fixler  
Chief Economist

Attachment

## Attachment

### 2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE ITEMS USED BY BEA

	<b>I. Items used to estimate the proprietors' share of U.S. net farm income</b>
Section 5	CCC Loans and Federal Farm Programs Payments
Section 6-20	Value of Sales (by commodity)
Section 25	Production Expenses
Section 28	Market Value of Land and Buildings
	<b>II. Items used to estimate the county distribution of farm proprietors' income</b>
Section 1	Acreage in 2012; number of acres
	Question 1. Number of acres owned
	Question 3. Number of acres rented or leased to others
Section 5	Federal and State Agriculture Program and Crop Insurance Acres
	Question 3. Direct, counter cyclical, and ACRE payments received in 2012...
	Question 4. Amount received in 2012 from loan deficiency payments, marketing loan gains, and net value of commodity certificates...
	Question 5: Other Federal agricultural program payments received in 2012
	Questions 6: State and local government agricultural program payments
Section 6	Field Crops
	<i>Field crops – Total Quantity Harvested, Value of Sales</i>
	Corn for grain or seed; Oats for grain or seed; Soybeans for beans; Winter wheat for grain or seed harvested in 2012; Barley for grain; Beans, dry edible, excluding limas; Canola, edible; Cotton, Pima; Cotton, Upland; Flaxseed; Rice; Rye for grain; Safflower; Sorghum for grain or seed, including milo; Sunflower seed, non-oil variety; Sunflower seed, oil variety; Tobacco (all); Wheat, Durum; Wheat, Spring
Section 7	Hay and Forage Crops
	<i>Hay and Forage Crops – Total Tons Harvested, Total Sales</i>
	(all items)

Section 10	Vegetables, Potatoes, and Melons
	<i>Vegetables, Potatoes, and Melons – Total Acres Harvested, Value of Sales</i>
	Potatoes; Sweet Potatoes
Section 11	Fruit and Nuts – Total Acres, Values of Sales
	<i>Fruit and Nuts – Total Acres, Values of Sales</i>
	Apples
Section 13	Cattle and Calves
	Question 2. Total cattle and calves on hand December 31, 2012 – Add items 2a and 2b and 2c
	Value of Sales
Section 14	Hogs and Pigs
	Question 2c. Total hogs and pigs on hand December 31, 2012 - Add items 2a and 2b
	Question 4. Value of Sales
Section 16	Sheep and Goats
	Question 2. Sheep and lambs owned or custom fed Dec. 31, 2012; Value of Sales
Section 18	Poultry
	Question 2. Chickens; inventory on this operation December 31, 2012
	Question 7. Value of Sales
Section 22	Income from Farm-related Sources
	<i>Report amount received before taxes and expenses in 2012</i>
	(all items)
Section 23	Farm Labor
	Question 1. How many hired farm or ranch workers, including paid family members and office workers, worked on this operation in 2012
Section 25	Production Expenses, dollars
	(all items)
Section 28	Market value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Equipment
	Question 1. Estimated current market value of –
	a. All land and buildings owned
	Question 2. Estimated current value of all machinery, equipment, and

	implements used for farm-related activities on this operation, regardless of ownership, on December 31, 2012
Section 36	Type of Organization
	(all items)
	<b>III. Items used to update the capital stock</b>
Section 28	Market Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Equipment
	Question 1. Estimated current market value of –
	a. All land and buildings owned
	Question 2. Estimated current value of all machinery, equipment, and implements used for farm-related activities on this operation, regardless of ownership, on December 31, 2012
	<b>IV. Items Important for future Benchmark Input-Output Accounts</b>
Details included in:	
Sections 6-20	Value of Sales, including items Sales by nursery and greenhouse crops, Sales by grain type, and Sales by livestock type
Section 22	Income from Farm-related sources, including Other Income
Section 25	Production expenses, including Fuel Type
Section 33	Direct Sales for Human Consumption, Value of Sales