

April 29, 2008

Mr. David Hancock  
NASS Clearance Officer  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 5336 A  
Mail Stop 2024 South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-2024

RE: *Federal Register* notice of March 4, 2008, for the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Agricultural Resource Management Survey and Chemical Use Surveys (OMB Number: 0535-0218)

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the revised and continued collection of data by the National Agriculture Statistics Service' (NASS) Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). The data collected in this survey are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses information collected in the ARMS' Costs and Returns Report to prepare the national income and product, input-output, and the regional economic accounts. The data items that we use directly in our estimates are attached.

In addition, we use many of the items indirectly through their use by the Economic Research Service (ERS) to prepare the national and state estimates of farm income - - the principal basis for BEA's estimates of farm income and product. Although BEA currently uses only the national level data, BEA plans to incorporate the ARMS data for the 15 major states made available by the 2003 expansion of ARMS survey to improve its regional estimates in its next comprehensive revision in 2009. While 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. BEA does not use the Chemical Use Surveys that are part of this NASS filing.

Please keep BEA informed about 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](mailto: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**

### **Direct Use of ARMS Data in Preparation of BEA's Economic Accounts**

**Questions used from 2006 ARMS: Costs and Returns Report  
(CRR Phase 3 Questionnaire)**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Questions(s)</b>	<b>Data Items</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Cash or Open Market Sales</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>2, 5</b>	<b>Other Farm Income</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>1-44</b>	<b>Operating and Capital Expenditures</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Market Value Land and Buildings Owned</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Number of Farm Operators</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>8-10</b>	<b>Legal Status of Operation</b>

**Geographic level: Currently using national level data, but plan to incorporate available state level data in the next comprehensive revision.**