

November 13, 2014

Mr. David Hancock  
NASS Clearance Officer  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 5336 South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250-2024

RE: *Federal Register* notice of September 18, 2014, for the National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) Agricultural Labor Survey (OMB Number: 0535-0109)

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the NASS on the Agricultural Labor Survey. This survey is our main data source for key components of BEA's economic statistics.

Multiple programs in BEA use the Agricultural Labor Survey, directly and indirectly, to prepare various estimates. On a direct basis, the Regional program uses the survey data to estimate supplements to farm wages and salaries and farm wage and salary employment. The employment estimates are a supplement to the income estimates. Specifically, data for hired workers (annual average by state and region) are used from the November *Farm Labor* publications.

The national income and product accounts (NIPAs) use the wage rate for all hired workers from the Farm Labor: "Hired Workers and Wage Rates - United States - Farm Employment – Total" table in the *Farm Labor* report. This series is used in the NIPA calculation of Real Farm Value Added, and is the primary data source for estimates of farm employment and hours worked.

The International program also uses this survey in estimating compensation of employees (seasonal agricultural workers) and in estimating expenditures by short-term workers for inclusion in other private services. In addition, the Agricultural Labor Survey is used indirectly by other BEA programs, including GDP-by-state on farm output estimates and Industry program's annual estimates on farm employment and hours worked. A list of items used by BEA is attached.

Please keep BEA informed about any future 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 Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, at 202-606-9618 or by e-mail at [Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov).

Should you should need assistance in justifying these forms to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis Fixler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dennis" and last name "Fixler" clearly distinguishable.

Dennis J. Fixler  
Chief Statistician

Attachment

## ATTACHMENT

### BEA's Uses of NASS Agricultural Labor Survey

Title	Uses	BEA Programs
Annual Average Number of Hired Workers and Hours Worked - Regions and United States	State-level supplements to Farm Wages and Salaries; State-level Farm Employment	Regional Program (RID and RPD)
Hired Workers and Wage Rates - United States	U.S. Real Farm Value Added; U.S. Farm Employment and Hours Worked	National Program (NIWD)
Hired Workers and Wage Rates - United States	Compensation and Expenditures by Seasonal Agricultural Workers	International Program (BPD)

Note: Tables used are from *Farm Labor Report* November issues.