

May 23, 2018

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 March 30, 2018, for the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for Field Crops Production (OMB Number: 0535-0002)

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Field Crops Production program. The data collected in this program are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses information collected in the field crop surveys to prepare the national and regional farm income and production estimates. BEA's use of these data is both direct and indirect. Specifically, we use data on crop acreage and yield indirectly through the annual state level cash receipts data produced by the Economic Research Service (ERS), USDA. BEA also uses data from the field crop production program directly through the county crop production data produced by NASS. Although farm income and production is a small share of national income and production, agriculture contributes a significant portion of economic activity in numerous States and rural counties. Its volatility must be accurately measured to identify the sources of change in the economy.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to this form. 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 e-mail at Tiffany.Burrell@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 Economist