



Press Release

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Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

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On: 2004 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SURVEY

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TEXAS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS PROVIDE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

AUSTIN . . . Texas agricultural producers will have the opportunity to “let the facts be known” by participating in the 2004 Agricultural Resource Management Survey conducted by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This survey provides the leading economic indicators about the agricultural industry used by members of the agricultural community and their legislators when making important decisions that support America’s farmers and ranchers. “Reliable, accurate descriptions of the current economic health of Texas farms and ranches are crucial, especially when policymakers, farm organizations, analysts, local USDA agents, news media, farm suppliers, lenders, and others make decisions that affect growers” said Robin Roark, State Director.

In recent years, changes in the rules of trade, shifts in domestic policy and new developments in technology have altered the landscape of global agriculture and the challenges facing American farmers. How are agricultural producers surviving when input costs such as hired labor, fertilizer, and fuel continue to rise? Are government program payments providing producers an adequate safety net to allow them to make investments in land and equipment required of modern farming? Which agriculture sectors show improvement or are under financial stress?

Data provided by producers sampled in the Agriculture Resource Management Survey will help answer these and other questions pertaining to the economic well-being of Texas farm and ranch operators. These data provide an accurate portrayal of the economic conditions as Congress monitors the benefits of the 2002 Farm Bill as well as planning for the next Farm Bill. These data are also vital to the Texas Legislature as they evaluate Texas property tax and school finance reform. All individual data collected are held strictly confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). Only statistical totals are published for selected geographic regions and the Nation.

Producers chosen to participate in the 2004 Agricultural Resource Management Survey will be mailed a questionnaire or visited by an interviewer to complete the report at the farm or ranch operator’s convenience. Results will be published in a series of USDA reports on the current farm financial situation.

Farm Production Expenditures, the first report with results from the survey, will be released in July 2005. For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the National Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.usda.gov/nass/ or call 1-800-727-9540.