



Press Release

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On: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SURVEY

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AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED

Austin . . . What new production technologies and management practices are used to successfully improve the market income of U.S. farmers? What land conservation practices are agricultural producers using? What agricultural products do producers need to maintain high yields? How do producers successfully control pests?

To answer these and other important questions about U.S. agriculture, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Texas Office will conduct the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). During the fall of 2005 this survey will gather information on production practices, chemical applications, and pest management practices. In addition, some of the costs to produce the crops will be recorded.

Texas producers selected to participate in the ARMS will be making an important contribution to the overall welfare of the U.S. agricultural community. This survey gives participants an opportunity to set the record straight about issues that affect them, such as the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

"The cotton industry is always in need of data on agricultural practices and survey data on inputs", said Dr. Frank Carter, Senior Scientist for the National Cotton Council. "Solid information on chemical use enables our industry to respond to issues where such data are essential".

"The ARMS survey is an excellent opportunity for a farmer to insure that people outside mainstream agriculture have accurate views about what, and how we do things on the farm," says Executive Vice President of Plains Cotton Growers Inc., Steve Verett. "This information will eventually be used to analyze a variety of legislative and regulatory issues and could ultimately influence the development of laws and regulations that impact so much of what we do every day."

Texas farm operators selected to participate in this year's survey are being notified by letter, and interviewers will visit them to collect their reports at their convenience. USDA will use the results to publish information on agricultural chemical usage and analyze commodity production costs and returns in a series of reports in 2006.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Robin Roark, Texas State Director USDA/NASS, said. "Data about individual operations are combined with other responses to produce summary data which are published at the national, regional and state level."

All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at www.usda.gov/nass/. For more information, call 1-800-626-3142.

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REMINDER

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