

§ 3601.1

7 CFR Ch. XXXVI (1–1–05 Edition)

§ 3601.1 General statement.

This part is issued in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture in part 1, subpart A of this title and appendix A thereto, implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), and governs the availability of records of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to the public.

§ 3601.2 Public inspection, copying, and indexing.

5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2) requires that certain materials be made available for public inspection and copying and that a current index of these materials be published quarterly or otherwise be made available. Members of the public may request access to such materials maintained by NASS at the following office: Information Staff, ARS, REE, USDA, Room 1-2248, Mail Stop 5128, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-5128; Telephone (301) 504-1640 or (301) 504-1655; TTY-VOICE (301) 504-1743. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information maintained in our electronic reading room can be accessed at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/foia/#Electronic>.

§ 3601.3 Requests for records.

Requests for records of NASS under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(3) shall be made in accordance with §1.5 of this title and submitted to the FOIA Coordinator, Information Staff, ARS, REE, USDA, Mail Stop 5128, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705-5128; Telephone (301) 504-1640 or (301) 504-1655; TTY-VOICE (301) 504-1643; Facsimile (301) 504-1648; e-mail vherberger@ars.usda.gov or shutchison@ars.usda.gov. The FOIA Coordinator is delegated authority to make determinations regarding such requests in accordance with §1.3(c) of this title.

§ 3601.4 Multitrack processing.

(a) When NASS has a significant number of requests, the nature of which precludes a determination within 20 working days, the requests may be processed in a multitrack processing system, based on the date of receipt, the amount of work and time involved in processing the request, and whether the request qualifies for expedited processing.

(b) NASS may establish as many processing tracks as appropriate; processing within each track shall be based on a first-in, first-out concept, and rank-ordered by the date of receipt of the request.

(c) A requester whose request does not qualify for the fastest track may be given an opportunity to limit the scope of the request in order to qualify for the fastest track. This multitrack processing system does not lessen agency responsibility to exercise due diligence in processing requests in the most expeditious manner possible.

(d) NASS shall process requests in each track on a "first-in, first-out" basis, unless there are unusual circumstances as set forth in §1.16 of this title, or the requester is entitled to expedited processing as set forth in §1.9 of this title.

§ 3601.5 Denials.

If the FOIA Coordinator determines that a requested record is exempt from mandatory disclosure and that discretionary release would be improper, the FOIA Coordinator shall give written notice of denial in accordance with §1.7(a) of this title.

§ 3601.6 Appeals.

Any person whose request is denied shall have the right to appeal such denial. Appeals shall be made in accordance with §1.13 of this title and should be addressed as follows: Administrator, NASS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

§ 3601.7 Requests for published data and information.

(a) Published data and reports produced by NASS since 1995 are available via the NASS Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/> or an e-mail subscription may be established via the website under Publications. Searching on the website is available by topic, by title, or by date. The titles displayed in the search include NASS's published periodicals and annual reports. Full text of all the titles is available at no cost (PDF Files beginning 1999). Printed copies and reports published after 1996 can be purchased from the ERS-NASS sales desk at the National Technical Information Center at 1 (800) 999-