



**IDENTIFYING AND CLASSIFYING REASONS FOR NONRESPONSE ON THE 1991 FARM COSTS AND RETURNS SURVEY**, by Terry P. O'Connor. Research Division, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington DC 20250. December 1992. Research Report No. SRB-92-10.

**ABSTRACT**

A research study was conducted during the 1991 Farm Costs and Returns Survey (FCRS) to identify and classify the reasons given to field interviewers by potential respondents who refused to participate in the survey. The reasons given by field interviewers for coding a sampled unit as inaccessible during the survey were also identified and classified.

The research was conducted in all 48 surveyed states, and included 6 FCRS questionnaire versions. Upon receiving a refusal, interviewers were instructed to record the reason given for refusing on the face page of the questionnaire. If no reason was given, or in cases where more than one reason was given, the interviewers were instructed to discuss the concerns of the respondent in regards to completing an interview, and to identify the main reason for refusing. When a sampled unit was coded as inaccessible, interviewers were instructed to explain the reason.

During the manual edit of the questionnaires, the reasons for refusal or being coded as inaccessible were reviewed and compared to a coded list of reasons for nonresponse compiled from previous research into this topic on the FCRS. Statisticians could consider the comments from the interviewers as a match to a pre-coded response, or add additional codes for unique comments.

The nonresponse rate on FCRS averages 30% per year. The reasons behind the nonresponse have been a source of speculation for many years, and previously only anecdotal evidence was available on which to base efforts to maximize response. This research shows the anecdotal evidence to have been sometimes on and other times off the mark.

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## SUMMARY

The Farm Costs and Returns Survey (FCRS) is a face to face interview survey conducted annually during February and March by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). It is a survey of the agricultural sector, and is conducted in the 48 conterminous states to collect detailed information on farm expenditures and income, costs of production and demographic data.

A nonresponse identification research project was conducted during the 1991 FCRS (conducted during February and March, 1992) to identify and classify the reasons given to field interviewers by respondents who refused to participate in the survey. The reasons given by field interviewers for coding a sampled unit as inaccessible during the survey were also identified and classified.

The research was conducted in all 48 surveyed states and included 6 FCRS questionnaire versions. A Chemical Use and Farm Finance Survey (CUFFS) version used only by the Minnesota SSO is not included in this research. Results of the refusal identification indicate that a single reason given by respondents for refusing to participate in the survey ("Would not take the time / too busy") was the first or second most frequent response in 44 states, accounting for 24.6 percent of all refusals received on the FCRS. However, the relative frequency of the reasons for refusing varied considerably among the states.

The most frequent reason for an inaccessible ("Tried several times; could not reach anyone for an appointment. Just an extremely busy person.") was the first or second most frequent response in 33 states, accounting for 27.5 percent of all inaccessibles. There were fewer reasons provided for inaccessibles and less within state variation when compared to the refusal identification.

One benefit of this research is that the number of partially completed FCRS questionnaires is evident for the first time. When interviewers coded a sample unit with an "inaccessible\incomplete" Completion Code, they would further identify the partially completed questionnaires as "incomplete" by assigning them a unique Response Code of 150. For the 1991 survey, 263 questionnaires were coded as incomplete and were not summarized. This amounts to 3.6 percent of the nonresponse, but is only 1.2 percent of the total survey contacts.

Another benefit of collecting this type of information is that it provides motivation for survey managers to make adjustments to the public's perception of a too long interview by testing a shortened version of the questionnaire (as is being planned for the 1992 FCRS). Headquarters can prepare materials to aid Survey Statisticians in training their interviewers to meet the challenges of the refusal types common across states. Survey Statisticians should develop materials for use in their state workshops to

prepare interviewers for refusal situations common to their state. Experienced interviewers who have had success in converting refusals into respondents should share their techniques through panel presentations or group discussions.

In this way, interviewers will maximize response rates on the initial contact by being prepared to discuss concerns and grievances brought up by the respondents, thus avoiding the additional time and money costs of a re-contact.

Determining the reasons given for coding a sampled unit as inaccessible will allow headquarter's staff to consider new surveying techniques, to identify the few non-farms now coded as inaccessible, and to examine modeling assumptions about nonresponse adjustment procedures.

## INTRODUCTION

The Farm Costs and Returns Survey (FCRS) is a face to face interview survey conducted annually during February and March by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). It is a survey of the agricultural sector, and is conducted in the 48 conterminous states to collect detailed information on farm expenditures and income, costs of production and demographic data. The FCRS has a multiple frame design utilizing a list sample of medium and large ranches and farms, and an area nonoverlap sample of Resident Farm Operators (RFOs) not represented by the list, most of whom operate small farms (Rutz, 1991).

While all 48 FCRS states utilize the same survey procedures, the FCRS includes several questionnaire versions used in different combinations across the country. The versions used in a particular state for a given year depend upon the agriculture in that state and the areas of agricultural specialization being studied. Costs of producing the various agricultural commodities are studied on a year-to-year rotating basis. There are variations in geography, sample sizes, farm or ranch types and sizes, economic conditions and respondent attitudes about the survey across the country; therefore, many factors must be considered when making direct state to state comparisons of the survey results (Rutz, 1991).

The 1991 FCRS national response rate was 67.9 percent, with a refusal rate of 24.9 percent and an inaccessible/incomplete rate of 7.2 percent. Response rates on the survey have declined slightly over time, despite extensive efforts to limit nonresponse. While NASS uses farm expense data from the FCRS in its reports, the primary user of the FCRS dataset is the Economic Research Service (ERS), which utilizes all of the FCRS data in producing economic analyses and cost of production reports (Rutz, 1991).

A nonresponse identification research project was conducted in 6 states during the 1990 FCRS. The purpose of the project was to identify and classify the reasons given to field interviewers by respondents who refused to participate in the survey. The reasons given by field interviewers for coding a sampled unit as inaccessible during the survey were also identified and classified. This research was expanded to include all states for the 1991 FCRS. The information gained through this research will be beneficial in aiding interviewers to maximize response rates on the initial contact.

Other NASS projects to minimize nonresponse on the FCRS have included a refusal conversion project, providing individual farm financial analyses to respondents, and extensive media blitzes. According to Rutz (1991), "Despite these extensive efforts, most agree that the best way to increase response rates would be to decrease the length of the questionnaire." The results of the nonresponse identification research seem to support this position.

## BACKGROUND

The research project to identify and classify nonresponse on the FCRS stems from four years of preliminary work which the author completed while on staff in the South Carolina and Indiana State Statistical Offices (SSOs).

Beginning with the 1985 FCRS, the author required that the South Carolina interviewers document the reasons given by respondents who refused to participate in the survey. A similar effort was underway in the California SSO at the time. Previously, interviewers were likely to simply write "refusal" across the questionnaire, and the comments the interviewer received from a refusal were discussed second or third hand if at all, and were sketchy at best.

Then on the 1986 FCRS, South Carolina was selected as one of six states to take part in a refusal conversion research project. All respondents who refused to participate in the survey during the initial contact were to be re-contacted with the purpose of convincing them to complete an interview. It was apparent that interviewers selected to re-contact a refusal in the current survey had an advantage if they were aware of the reason the respondent gave when initially refusing.

The information on "reasons for refusing" gathered during 1985 were discussed during the training workshop for the 1986 FCRS, and responses to the reasons were developed by the interviewers. To prepare for the re-contact required by the research, interviewers were again required to write on the questionnaire the exact reason or circumstances behind each refusal received on the FCRS. In this way, subsequent interviewers were aware of the events of the initial contact.

The primary benefit of identifying the refusal types was that the interviewers could PREPARE for common situations before encountering them in interview situations. According to interviewer comments, this preparation improved their confidence in approaching interviews, and even when they could not prevent a refusal, they were able to set the stage for the respondent's cooperation on other upcoming surveys. The second benefit was that, when approaching a re-contact on the refusal conversion project, the subsequent interviewer could prepare for a specific situation. A third benefit was that interviewers (with their supervisor's approval) could eliminate re-contacts of certain refusal types (violent refusals, death in the family, etc.), saving money and time during the critical data collection period.

Perhaps because the refusal conversion project was new and received much attention, or perhaps because the refusal identification preparation worked, the FCRS response rate in South Carolina for 1986 was 17 percent higher than in 1985 (Dillard, 1987). The

author attributes most of this increase to interviewer preparation on the initial contact since only a small number of refusal conversions were obtained.

Upon transferring to the Indiana SSO, the author again instructed the field interviewers to document the reasons given by refusals. By identifying the most common FCRS refusal types in Indiana, we were able to devote workshop training time prior to the next survey to address these reasons. Comments from interviewers who had successfully converted each refusal type were discussed to better prepare all interviewers in dealing with these situations. The idea was to MAXIMIZE RESPONSE RATES on the initial contact by being prepared to discuss concerns and grievances brought up by the respondents, thus avoiding the additional time and money costs of a re-contact.

While the refusal identification and interviewer preparation led to an initial decrease from 35 percent to 31 percent in the refusal rate in Indiana, no additional gains have been evident, with the refusal rate averaging 31 percent over the past five years. The list of refusal types compiled during this time served as the basis of the refusal list utilized for the nonresponse identification project on the 1990 FCRS.

The 1990 FCRS research was conducted during February and March, 1991, in six test states including two states that averaged high nonresponse rates, two states that averaged mid-level nonresponse rates, and two states that averaged low nonresponse rates on the FCRS. Results of the refusal identification indicated that a single reason given by respondents for refusing to participate in the survey ("Would not take the time / too busy") was the first or second most frequent response in each of the six states, accounting for 29.7 percent of all refusals received in these states. However, only four reasons for refusing made the top ten list in every state, and the relative frequency of the respondents' reasons for refusing varied considerably among the six states.

The most frequent reason for an inaccessible among the six states ("The operator is away on an extended vacation") accounted for 13.7 percent of all inaccessibles. There were only three reasons for inaccessibles common to all six states, with fewer reasons provided and less within state variation when compared to the refusal identification.

Comments from the FCRS post-survey evaluations completed by survey statisticians around the country have alluded to problems with certain refusal types, but with only anecdotal information to support their impressions. Recent (1989 and 1990) survey evaluations included the following comments:

- \* "Comments for refusing ranged from 'Not enough time' to 'The Government programs do not help me'."



- \* "Some farmers feel it's none of our business."
- \* "Many of the refusals, I'm convinced, arise from the frequency in which certain operations are sampled for our surveys."
- \* "Many farm operators refused due to the length of the questionnaire."
- \* "Most of the second time contacts were refusals and didn't want to be contacted again."

Some...many...most. The 1990 FCRS nonresponse identification project was expanded to all surveyed states for 1991 in order to put some numbers on these valid concerns, to better determine what NASS is up against when trying to minimize nonresponse on the FCRS.

### RESULTS

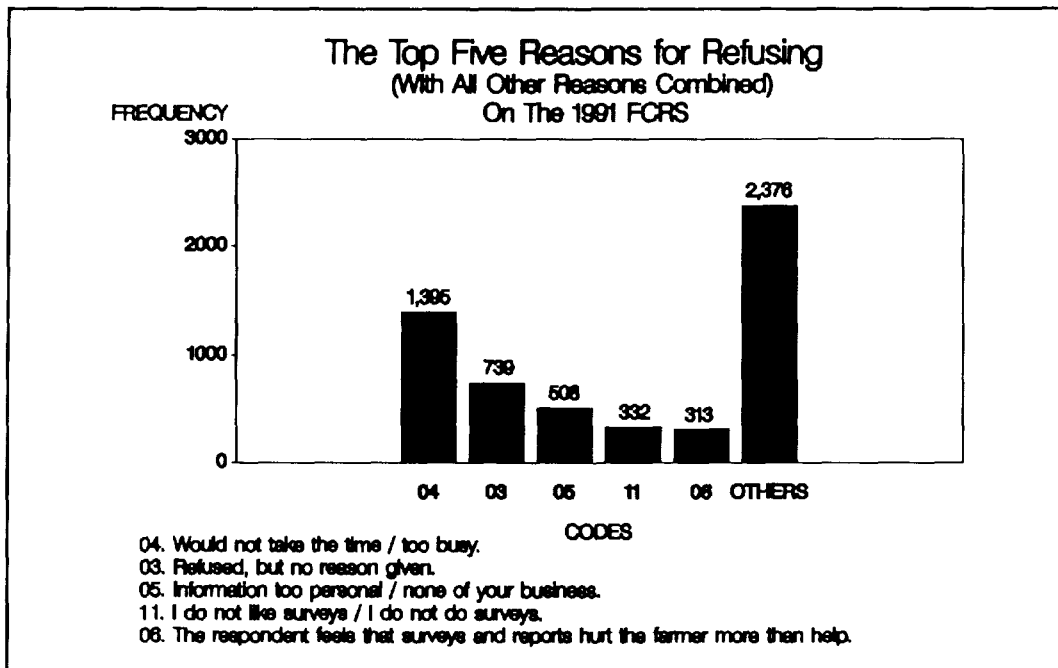
The results of the 1991 refusal identification and classification research are listed in Appendix A in frequency of response order, and in Appendix B in code order. In each case, the first column is a frequency count per refusal type, summed across the 48 states. Column 2 is a code assigned to each refusal type for consistency across states. Column 3 provides the reason for the refusal. Refusal types coded 01 - 53 were provided in the survey instructions; codes 200 - 409 were initially left blank for state use, and the states added refusal types based upon their data collection experiences with the survey.

The most frequent reason given by the farmers when refusing to participate in the survey was "Would not take the time / too busy". This response was given by 1,395 of the 5,663 refusals encountered (24.6%), and was recorded nearly twice as often as the next most frequent response. This seems to be strong evidence for those involved with the survey who believe that farmers perceive the interview to take too long or to be too involved.

The second most frequent reason recorded was "Refused, but no reason given", mentioned 739 times, or 13.0 percent of the total refusals received. This category represents a difficult type of refusal to convert to a respondent: they just say NO. They may understand what NASS is and its mission, and may even recognize the interviewer from previous contacts, but cut off any attempt at an interview before their concerns can be identified and addressed.

The third most frequent reason recorded was "Information too personal / none of your business", mentioned 508 times, or 9.0 percent of the total refusals received. The FCRS interview is an in-depth analysis of an individual's farming practices and financial standing. Stressing confidentiality may not be enough; these farmers may feel that they are giving deeply to the survey but may perceive that they are receiving nothing in return.

Together these first three reasons account for 46.7 percent of the total refusals received. The top five reasons account for 58 percent, even though 52 different reasons for refusing were mentioned during this research.



There was variation among the states in reasons given, and surprisingly, no single refusal reason was mentioned in all 48 surveyed states. The refusal reasons mentioned most widely are as follows:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 04. Would not take the time / too busy.   | 47 states |
| 05. Information too personal / none of your business.                             | 46 states |
| 03. Refused, but no reason given.   | 43 states |
| 11. "I do not like surveys / I do not do surveys."                                | 39 states |
| 06. The respondent feels that surveys and reports hurt the farmer more than help. | 39 states |

Refusal reasons mentioned as frequently and as widely as these five should be addressed on a national level. However, SSOs must review their state specific data to determine which less widely or less frequently mentioned reasons are important to their state.

This research also involved identifying and classifying the reasons given by an interviewer when coding a sampled unit inaccessible, shown in Appendix C in frequency of response order, and in Appendix D in code order. In each case, the first column is a frequency count per inaccessible type, summed across the 48 states.

Column 2 is a code assigned to each inaccessible type for consistency across states. Column 3 provides the reason for the inaccessible. Inaccessible types coded 75 - 150 were provided in the survey instructions; codes 500 - 709 were initially left blank for state use, and assigned reasons by the states based upon their data collection experiences with the survey. While basically separate from the refusal identification, certain respondent situations (such as "Family illness / death") could be coded either as a refusal, an inaccessible or a valid zero out-of-business depending upon the circumstances encountered.

One benefit of this research is that the number of partially completed questionnaires, that is, those questionnaires for which the respondent could not or would not provide enough information for the interview to be completed, is evident for the first time. For the 1991 survey, 263 questionnaires were coded as incomplete and were not summarized. This amounts to 3.6 percent of the nonresponse, but is only 1.2 percent of the total survey contacts.

The most frequent inaccessible reason recorded by the interviewers was "Tried several times; could not reach anyone for an appointment. Just an extremely busy person.", given for 455 of the 1,653 inaccessibles encountered (27.5%). This is a surprising finding in light of the six week data collection period.

The second most frequent inaccessible reason recorded was "Illness / death in the family prevents the operator from responding", mentioned 182 times, representing 11.0 percent of the total. This is a difficult situation for an interviewer to encounter, and setting the stage to see a respondent under better circumstances in the future is the best that can be accomplished.

The third most frequent reason recorded was "Farm records are not available until after the survey period closes", mentioned 172 times, representing 10.4 percent of the total.

Together these first three reasons account for 48.9 percent of the total inaccessibles recorded, with 23 different reasons for coding an inaccessible mentioned during this research.

There is less variation among the states in inaccessible reasons given, and again, no single reason was mentioned in all 48 surveyed states. The inaccessible reasons mentioned most widely are as follows:

- |      |  |           |
|------|--|-----------|
| 116. | Tried several times; could not reach anyone for an appointment. Just an extremely busy person. | 43 states |
| 84.  | Illness / death in the family prevents the operator from responding.                           | 42 states |
| 85.  | Farm records are not available until after the survey period closes.                           | 42 states |

79. The operator is away on an extended vacation. 35 states  
86. Respondent postponed the interview beyond the 32 states  
end of the survey period.

The "Illness / death" inaccessible reason is commented on above, but reasons mentioned as frequently and as widely as these other four inaccessible types should be addressed on a national level. SSOs must review their state specific data to determine which additional reasons are important to their state. For instance, "The operator is away on an extended vacation", normally thought to be a Midwest or Northern situation for escaping the snow, was also mentioned in California, Florida and other warm weather states.

For information, Appendix E shows the refusal and inaccessible rates for the 48 states and the U.S. for the 1990 and 1991 surveys, and the 1991 number of contacts for a comparison of FCRS sample sizes by state. By providing examples of refusal and inaccessible types, this research assisted the interviewers in accurately categorizing the nonresponse components.

Identifying the reasons behind the nonresponse on the FCRS will be beneficial in training by preparing interviewers for the common situations they are likely to encounter, and provides food for thought to survey managers for developing procedures, survey instruments or new initiatives aimed at maximizing survey response rates. Additionally, the information is useful in the evaluation of nonresponse adjustment models.

According to Turner (1992) the FCRS nonresponse adjustment factor is based on an assumption that all nonrespondents are operating farms; that is, they would provide positive data if interviewed. The 1991 FCRS Supervising and Editing (S&E) Manual specifically directs that a questionnaire for a potential respondent be coded as a refusal or an inaccessible "...only if the operator was qualified for an interview. If it appears that the sampled name was not operating anytime the previous year, moved to another State before the previous year, or represents an operation that never existed, code the questionnaire completion code 4 - non-farm."

Incorrectly coding valid zero reports as nonrespondents will result in an upward bias in the expanded indications. Turner (1992) states that, "Identifying these (nonresponse) reasons will enable enumerators to improve classification of cases where no farm appears to exist as a valid zero. Continued emphasis should be given to classifying only positives as refusals and inaccessibles. Those nonrespondents that have no indication of being in business should be coded as out of business."

Appendix F shows the number by type for refusals received on the different FCRS questionnaire versions. What is striking about the information in this appendix is that the pattern of refusal types across the separate versions is so similar, and varies little from

the overall, or national pattern of refusal types. One would have expected some variation in the relative importance of the refusal types among the versions, especially on the COPS versions where specific, different types of farms are contacted. The similarity of the version patterns is also of note since the refusal rates per version vary from 15.1 percent to 32.9 percent.

Appendix G provides the version information for the survey inaccessible and incompletes. Again, the versions display a pattern nearly identical to each other and to the national pattern of inaccessible and incompletes, while the inaccessible / incomplete rates vary by version from 6.6 percent to 8.5 percent.

#### DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Data analysts, survey managers, statisticians and interviewers are concerned about the levels of nonresponse on the FCRS. Being close to the survey, they develop impressions about what factors are "driving" the nonresponse. The purpose of this research is to identify the reasons for nonresponse, and to attach some numbers to them in order to rank their relative importance.

Considering the nature of the FCRS, that it is a long, detailed interview of a respondent's operating procedures, income and expenses, assets and liabilities and demographic information, many survey organizations would be thrilled to have a national response rate averaging 70 percent. Rather than defend this position, the survey managers at NASS and ERS continually strive to improve the response rate on the survey.

Following a discussion of the preliminary results of this study and from previous consideration of the subject, NASS and ERS have agreed to test a shortened version of the questionnaire for the 1992 survey (conducted in February and March, 1993). A detailed discussion of the benefits of a shortened questionnaire version can be found in Dillard (1991). Additionally, NASS will provide training and materials to the survey statisticians at the regional workshops in January, 1993, to aid in training their field interviewers during state workshops. These materials will help to prepare interviewers to discuss the concerns of those who might decline to participate in the survey, with the goal of converting these individuals into respondents on the initial contact.

Look at the pattern of nonresponse across the data collection period, and an interesting picture appears (Appendix H displays the number of refusals received by day on the 1991 FCRS). In five of the seven weeks depicted, more refusals occurred on Mondays than on any other single day, and during the other two weeks, the number of Monday refusals is near the peak for the week. This is a by-product of more interviews being attempted on Mondays, but it may indicate that Mondays are not the best day to attempt a long interview without a prior appointment. Otherwise, the distribution

of refusals seems normally spread throughout the survey period. Not all survey refusals are represented on this histogram, since coding of the interview Julian date was not required for refusals, inaccessible or incomplete questionnaires.

Appendix I shows the number of inaccessible received by day on the 1991 FCRS. As might be expected, the number of inaccessible peaks near the end of the data collection period when time constraints force the interviewers to begin to give up on respondents who either cannot be located or who continue to put off the interview when contacted. Not all survey inaccessible are represented on this histogram, since coding of the interview Julian date was not required for inaccessible.

Appendix J shows the number of incomplete interviews received by day on the 1991 FCRS. Although there is a spike in the histogram late in the survey period, the frequency scale is small, and in general the incomplete interviews seem normally spread throughout the data collection period. Not all survey incompletes are represented on this histogram, since coding of the interview Julian date was not required for incomplete questionnaires.

As the results from the six test states in the 1990 research served as an excellent predictor of the 1991 results, there does not appear to be enough yearly variation to justify transferring this research into an operational aspect of the survey. **I recommend that this research be repeated in three years.** In this way, each SSO can be updated on the causes of nonresponse likely to be encountered, and patterns of nonresponse can be compared. This will expand the information available to NASS and ERS for future decision making on combating nonresponse on the FCRS.

Survey statisticians may find it useful to have their interviewers continue to write the reason for a refusal or an inaccessible on the FCRS questionnaire, even though the information would not be summarized as part of the operational program.

Survey managers may want to consider whether the information gained on the number of partially completed reports not summarized for the survey justifies the creation of an additional, unique Completion Code for "incomplete" reports. Currently for NASS surveys, inaccessible and incomplete reports are coded together under the same Completion Code, so changing this coding on the FCRS may necessitate making this change for other surveys.

Finally, one concern that has been raised when discussing ways of increasing response rates on the FCRS, is the quality of data for respondents who complete the interview, but under duress. Through the processes of social exchange or reciprocity for an especially persuasive interviewer, or due to the receipt of pre-survey publicity materials, an incentive, or a promised farm analysis, a potential respondent may feel obligated to grant an interview. If

the respondent feels trapped into the interview, data quality on that interview may suffer or future cooperation on other surveys may be affected.

Respondents such as these could easily fall into one of the top five categories for refusing on later surveys, if they do not perceive a benefit to themselves from providing the information required for the FCRS. Cooperation from potential respondents may be more forthcoming if the direct benefits of cooperation (for example, the individualized farm financial analysis) and indirect benefits (from producer organizations use of the survey results) are clearly explained to the farmers by the data collectors and the data users.

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**APPENDIX A**

**Reasons Given By Respondents When Refusing To Participate  
on the 1991 Farm Costs and Returns Survey,  
All States and Versions Combined,  
Data in Frequency of Response Order.**

| <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>CODE</b> | <b>REASON</b>   |
|------------------|-------------|---|
| 1,395            | 04.         | Would not take the time / too busy.   |
| 739              | 03.         | Refused, but no reason given.   |
| 508              | 05.         | Information too personal / none of your business.   |
| 332              | 11.         | "I do not like surveys / I do not do surveys."  |
| 313              | 06.         | The respondent feels that surveys and reports hurt the farmer more than help.                   |
| 255              | 02.         | Contact attempted, but respondent refuses on all surveys, and refused on this one.              |
| 253              | 10.         | "I will have nothing to do with the Government."  |
| 195              | 34.         | Respondent will do other surveys, but not financial surveys.                                    |
| 135              | 20.         | Family illness / death.   |
| 134              | 12.         | Respondent only does compulsory surveys.  |
| 128              | 18.         | The respondent feels the operation's records are inadequate to complete the interview.          |
| 120              | 16.         | "My farm is too small to count / too small to be representative."                               |
| 120              | 17.         | "You contact me too often."   |
| 105              | 21.         | Operator would not keep appointments.   |
| 97               | 19.         | Farm records are at the tax advisors / lawyers.   |
| 95               | 07.         | "I did this survey before, but not again."  |
| 89               | 01.         | Known refusal, no contact attempted.  |
| 72               | 32.         | "This is not a farm."   |
| 64               | 24.         | Violent / threatening refusals.   |
| 58               | 52.         | Questionnaire was not sent to the field to avoid jeopardizing cooperation on other surveys.     |
| 56               | 27.         | Respondent is quitting farming.   |
| 48               | 28.         | Out of business now, will not answer for the previous year.                                     |
| 46               | 23.         | Wants to be paid for interview time and effort.   |
| 42               | 08.         | "I just did a different survey for your office."  |
| 40               | 22.         | Spouse / secretary / etc. will not let the enumerator see the operator.                         |
| 36               | 13.         | The respondent does not think the information is kept confidential.                             |
| 36               | 26.         | Respondent does not want to report due to legal / financial problems.                           |
| 30               | 25.         | Respondent does not want to talk about farming.   |
| 29               | 14.         | The respondent mentions a specific grievance with the SSO or NASS (other than confidentiality). |
| 22               | 29.         | Figures for the previous year were not typical.   |
| 18               | 09.         | "I just did a survey for someone else."   |
| 18               | 53.         | Would not answer the door even though they were home.   |

| FREQUENCY | CODE | REASON   |
|-----------|------|--|
| 5         | 365. | The operator called the office after receiving the pre-survey letter, and asked not to be contacted further. |
| 5         | 366. | The operator does not believe in statistics, so will not complete an interview.                              |
| 4         | 15.  | The respondent mentions a specific grievance with the state cooperator.                                      |
| 2         | 240. | Needed partner to provide some information; partner refused.   |
| 2         | 260. | Getting divorced, too upset to respond.  |
| 2         | 265. | Operator has a grievance with the IRS.   |
| 2         | 267. | Fed up.  |
| 1         | 215. | Water rights curtailed, will not cooperate.  |
| 1         | 250. | "The government is broke, how can we afford to send these people out?"                                       |
| 1         | 255. | NASS data is not accurate. Too political.  |
| 1         | 256. | Doing well financially -- does not want to respond.  |
| 1         | 257. | Operator has several operations and could not separate records for the sampled unit.                         |
| 1         | 258. | Upset with the government -- has to spend \$20,000 to dig up fuel tanks.                                     |
| 1         | 262. | Farmhouse and records lost in a fire, January, 1992.   |
| 1         | 269. | This survey is not needed.   |
| 1         | 270. | Responded previously on this survey, and asked to be excused this year.                                      |
| 1         | 335. | The respondent feels the operation is too complex for our survey.  |
| 1         | 340. | The respondent has a specific grievance with ASCS.   |
| 1         | 341. | The farm operation is in a blind trust for a national politician.  |
| 1         | 367. | His father would not do surveys, so neither will the son.  |

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5,663 Total Responses

\* Code numbers not listed were not used.

**APPENDIX B**

**Reasons Given By Respondents When Refusing To Participate  
on the 1991 Farm Costs and Returns Survey,  
All States and Versions Combined,  
Data in Code Order.**

| <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>CODE</b> | <b>REASON</b>   |
|------------------|-------------|---|
| 89               | 01.         | Known refusal, no contact attempted.  |
| 255              | 02.         | Contact attempted, but respondent refuses on all surveys, and refused on this one.              |
| 739              | 03.         | Refused, but no reason given.   |
| 1,395            | 04.         | Would not take the time / too busy.   |
| 508              | 05.         | Information too personal / none of your business.   |
| 313              | 06.         | The respondent feels that surveys and reports hurt the farmer more than help.                   |
| 95               | 07.         | "I did this survey before, but not again."  |
| 42               | 08.         | "I just did a different survey for your office."  |
| 18               | 09.         | "I just did a survey for someone else."   |
| 253              | 10.         | "I will have nothing to do with the Government."  |
| 332              | 11.         | "I do not like surveys / I do not do surveys."  |
| 134              | 12.         | Respondent only does compulsory surveys.  |
| 36               | 13.         | The respondent does not think the information is kept confidential.                             |
| 29               | 14.         | The respondent mentions a specific grievance with the SSO or NASS (other than confidentiality). |
| 4                | 15.         | The respondent mentions a specific grievance with the state cooperator.                         |
| 120              | 16.         | "My farm is too small to count / too small to be representative."                               |
| 120              | 17.         | "You contact me too often."   |
| 128              | 18.         | The respondent feels the operation's records are inadequate to complete the interview.          |
| 97               | 19.         | Farm records are at the tax advisors / lawyers.   |
| 135              | 20.         | Family illness / death.   |
| 105              | 21.         | Operator would not keep appointments.   |
| 40               | 22.         | Spouse / secretary / etc. will not let the enumerator see the operator.                         |
| 46               | 23.         | Wants to be paid for interview time and effort.   |
| 64               | 24.         | Violent / threatening refusals.   |
| 30               | 25.         | Respondent does not want to talk about farming.   |
| 36               | 26.         | Respondent does not want to report due to legal / financial problems.                           |
| 56               | 27.         | Respondent is quitting farming.   |
| 48               | 28.         | Out of business now, will not answer for the previous year.                                     |
| 22               | 29.         | Figures for the previous year were not typical.   |
| 72               | 32.         | "This is not a farm."   |
| 195              | 34.         | Respondent will do other surveys, but not financial surveys.                                    |
| 58               | 52.         | Questionnaire was not sent to the field to avoid jeopardizing cooperation on other surveys.     |
| 18               | 53.         | Would not answer the door even though they were home.   |

| FREQUENCY | CODE | REASON   |
|-----------|------|--|
| 1         | 215. | Water rights curtailed, will not cooperate.  |
| 2         | 240. | Needed partner to provide some information; partner refused.   |
| 1         | 250. | "The government is broke, how can we afford to send these people out?"                                       |
| 1         | 255. | NASS data is not accurate. Too political.  |
| 1         | 256. | Doing well financially -- does not want to respond.  |
| 1         | 257. | Operator has several operations and could not separate records for the sampled unit.                         |
| 1         | 258. | Upset with the government -- has to spend \$20,000 to dig up fuel tanks.                                     |
| 2         | 260. | Getting divorced, too upset to respond.  |
| 1         | 262. | Farmhouse and records lost in a fire, January, 1992.   |
| 2         | 265. | Operator has a grievance with the IRS.   |
| 2         | 267. | Fed up.  |
| 1         | 269. | This survey is not needed.   |
| 1         | 270. | Responded previously on this survey, and asked to be excused this year.                                      |
| 1         | 335. | The respondent feels the operation is too complex for our survey.  |
| 1         | 340. | The respondent has a specific grievance with ASCS.   |
| 1         | 341. | The farm operation is in a blind trust for a national politician.  |
| 5         | 365. | The operator called the office after receiving the pre-survey letter, and asked not to be contacted further. |
| 5         | 366. | The operator does not believe in statistics, so will not complete an interview.                              |
| 1         | 367. | His father would not do surveys, so neither will the son.  |

-----  
5,663 Total Responses

\* Code numbers not listed were not used.

APPENDIX C

**Reasons Given By Enumerators When Coding a Sample Unit as  
Inaccessible/Incomplete on the 1991 Farm Costs and Returns Survey,  
All States and All Versions Combined,  
Data in Frequency of Response Order.**

| FREQUENCY | CODE | REASON   |
|-----------|------|--|
| 455       | 116. | Tried several times; could not reach anyone for an appointment. Just an extremely busy person.   |
| 263       | 150. | INCOMPLETE -- Respondent provided partial information, but would not or could not provide enough information to make the questionnaire complete. |
| 182       | 84.  | Illness / death in the family prevents the operator from responding.   |
| 172       | 85.  | Farm records are not available until after the survey period closes.   |
| 169       | 86.  | Respondent postponed the interview beyond the end of the survey period.  |
| 142       | 79.  | The operator is away on an extended vacation.  |
| 80        | 81.  | The operator is away on business.  |
| 67        | 80.  | The operator is away on a brief vacation.  |
| 27        | 76.  | No respondent, as listed on the label, could be found.   |
| 26        | 94.  | Inaccessible, but no reason given.   |
| 18        | 82.  | The address on the label is summer-seasonal housing.   |
| 12        | 75.  | No operation, as listed on the label, could be found.  |
| 9         | 83.  | Access to the address on the label was denied by a gate / guard / etc.   |
| 7         | 78.  | The address on the label is vacant / burned out / no structure exists.   |
| 7         | 87.  | Enumerator workload prevented this operation from being contacted during the survey period.  |
| 5         | 591. | The operator moved away during 1991.   |
| 3         | 667. | The questionnaire was returned too late to be included in the summary.   |
| 2         | 92.  | Non-English speaking respondent; interpreter not available.  |
| 2         | 119. | Enumerator mistake; caught it too late to complete an interview within the survey period.  |
| 1         | 120. | Operator has several operations and could not separate records for the sampled unit.   |
| 1         | 540. | Questionnaire from the enumerator lost in the mail.  |
| 1         | 561. | Operator had just gotten out of jail and would not talk with anyone from the government.   |
| 1         | 565. | Enumerator did not contact sufficiently; gave up too soon.   |
| 1         | 580. | Enumerator error, should not have collected the data.  |

-----

1,653 Total Responses

\* Code numbers not listed were not used.

APPENDIX D

Reasons Given By Enumerators When Coding a Sample Unit as Inaccessible/Incomplete on the 1991 Farm Costs and Returns Survey. All States and Versions Combined, Data in Code Order.

| FREQUENCY | CODE | REASON   |
|-----------|------|--|
| 12        | 75.  | No operation, as listed on the label, could be found.  |
| 27        | 76.  | No respondent, as listed on the label, could be found.   |
| 7         | 78.  | The address on the label is vacant / burned out / no structure exists.   |
| 142       | 79.  | The operator is away on an extended vacation.  |
| 67        | 80.  | The operator is away on a brief vacation.  |
| 80        | 81.  | The operator is away on business.  |
| 18        | 82.  | The address on the label is summer-seasonal housing.   |
| 9         | 83.  | Access to the address on the label was denied by a gate / guard / etc.   |
| 182       | 84.  | Illness / death in the family prevents the operator from responding.   |
| 172       | 85.  | Farm records are not available until after the survey period closes.   |
| 169       | 86.  | Respondent postponed the interview beyond the end of the survey period.  |
| 7         | 87.  | Enumerator workload prevented this operation from being contacted during the survey period.  |
| 2         | 92.  | Non-English speaking respondent; interpreter not available.  |
| 26        | 94.  | Inaccessible, but no reason given.   |
| 455       | 116. | Tried several times; could not reach anyone for an appointment. Just an extremely busy person.   |
| 2         | 119. | Enumerator mistake; caught it too late to complete an interview within the survey period.  |
| 1         | 120. | Operator has several operations and could not separate records for the sampled unit.   |
| 263       | 150. | INCOMPLETE -- Respondent provided partial information, but would not or could not provide enough information to make the questionnaire complete. |
| 1         | 540. | Questionnaire from the enumerator lost in the mail.  |
| 1         | 561. | Operator had just gotten out of jail and would not talk with anyone from the government.   |
| 1         | 565. | Enumerator did not contact sufficiently; gave up too soon.   |
| 1         | 580. | Enumerator error, should not have collected the data.  |
| 5         | 591. | The operator moved away during 1991.   |
| 3         | 667. | The questionnaire was returned too late to be included in the summary.   |

-----

1,653 Total Responses

\* Code numbers not listed were not used.

**APPENDIX E**

**Number of 1991 Contacts; Percentage of Refusals and Inaccessibles/  
Incompletes on the 1990 and 1991 Farm Costs and Returns Surveys.**

| <b>STATE</b>  | <b>NUMBER<br/>OF<br/>CONTACTS<br/>1991</b> | <b>PERCENT<br/>OF<br/>REFUSALS<br/>1990</b> | <b>PERCENT<br/>OF<br/>REFUSALS<br/>1991</b> | <b>PERCENT<br/>OF<br/>INACC/INC<br/>1990</b> | <b>PERCENT<br/>OF<br/>INACC/INC<br/>1991</b> |
|---------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| ALABAMA       | 561  | 9   | 17  | 5  | 4  |
| ARIZONA       | 429  | 23  | 28  | 18   | 15   |
| ARKANSAS      | 484  | 20  | 22  | 9  | 5  |
| CALIFORNIA    | 1,082                                      | 21  | 25  | 10   | 8  |
| COLORADO      | 463  | 27  | 35  | 10   | 3  |
| CONNECTICUT   | 87   | 10  | 10  | 8  | 10   |
| DELAWARE      | 88   | 35  | 51  | 18   | 16   |
| FLORIDA       | 626  | 20  | 31  | 5  | 8  |
| GEORGIA       | 822  | 13  | 21  | 10   | 9  |
| IDAHO         | 334  | 23  | 23  | 8  | 5  |
| ILLINOIS      | 767  | 24  | 30  | 8  | 4  |
| INDIANA       | 603  | 30  | 32  | 4  | 2  |
| IOWA          | 1,026                                      | 32  | 36  | 7  | 5  |
| KANSAS        | 721  | 29  | 41  | 10   | 9  |
| KENTUCKY      | 557  | 18  | 18  | 7  | 7  |
| LOUISIANA     | 503  | 15  | 22  | 5  | 6  |
| MAINE         | 103  | 18  | 26  | 6  | 6  |
| MARYLAND      | 221  | 29  | 33  | 12   | 5  |
| MASSACHUSETTS | 114  | 9   | 18  | 13   | 13   |
| MICHIGAN      | 632  | 20  | 28  | 9  | 12   |
| MINNESOTA     | 1,032                                      | 28  | 30  | 5  | 7  |
| MISSISSIPPI   | 581  | 11  | 11  | 3  | 3  |
| MISSOURI      | 632  | 21  | 32  | 8  | 6  |
| MONTANA       | 175  | 14  | 15  | 7  | 6  |
| NEBRASKA      | 794  | 51  | 51  | 6  | 4  |
| NEVADA        | 84   | 8   | 21  | 23   | 11   |
| N. HAMPSHIRE  | 79   | 11  | 10  | 4  | 5  |
| NEW JERSEY    | 249  | 8   | 11  | 12   | 10   |
| NEW MEXICO    | 221  | 18  | 21  | 14   | 11   |
| NEW YORK      | 346  | 19  | 17  | 11   | 12   |
| N. CAROLINA   | 1,024                                      | 8   | 17  | 9  | 13   |
| N. DAKOTA     | 263  | 34  | 27  | 4  | 8  |
| OHIO          | 586  | 25  | 30  | 7  | 6  |
| OKLAHOMA      | 534  | 22  | 24  | 10   | 7  |
| OREGON        | 450  | 10  | 16  | 2  | 4  |
| PENNSYLVANIA  | 602  | 12  | 15  | 7  | 10   |
| RHODE ISLAND  | 76   | 19  | 34  | 13   | 16   |
| S. CAROLINA   | 532  | 8   | 10  | 8  | 5  |
| S. DAKOTA     | 437  | 36  | 36  | 8  | 10   |
| TENNESSEE     | 555  | 7   | 19  | 2  | 3  |
| TEXAS         | 1,441                                      | 15  | 19  | 10   | 10   |
| UTAH          | 169  | 6   | 8   | 4  | 4  |
| VERMONT       | 98   | 13  | 14  | 4  | 4  |
| VIRGINIA      | 470  | 12  | 20  | 7  | 3  |
| WASHINGTON    | 366  | 13  | 25  | 10   | 16   |
| W. VIRGINIA   | 287  | 6   | 8   | 2  | 7  |
| WISCONSIN     | 550  | 25  | 24  | 5  | 5  |
| WYOMING       | 182  | 23  | 24  | 9  | 3  |
| <b>U.S.</b>   | <b>22,782</b>                              | <b>22</b>                                   | <b>25</b>                                   | <b>8</b>                                     | <b>7</b>                                     |

**APPENDIX F**

**A Print of Refusal Reasons By Version, For The 1991 Farm Costs and Returns Survey; Data In Frequency of Response Order.**

-----EXPENDITURE VERSION-----

| <b>REASON FOR REFUSING</b>    | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>CUMULATIVE FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENT</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 04. Would not take time       | 712              | 712                         | 24             |
| 03. Refusal, no reason.       | 408              | 1120                        | 13             |
| 05. Too personal.             | 282              | 1402                        | 9              |
| 11. Dislike surveys.          | 177              | 1579                        | 6              |
| 06. Surveys hurt farmer       | 162              | 1741                        | 5              |
| 02. Contacted, refuses.       | 133              | 1874                        | 4              |
| 10. Anti-Govt bias.           | 126              | 2000                        | 4              |
| 34. No financial survey       | 114              | 2114                        | 4              |
| 12. Compulsory only.          | 78               | 2192                        | 3              |
| 20. Illness / death.          | 71               | 2263                        | 2              |
| 18. Records inadequate.       | 69               | 2332                        | 2              |
| 16. Farm too small.           | 64               | 2396                        | 2              |
| 17. Contact too often.        | 59               | 2455                        | 2              |
| 19. Records unavailable       | 53               | 2508                        | 2              |
| 21. Broke appointments.       | 51               | 2559                        | 2              |
| 07. Not again.                | 48               | 2607                        | 2              |
| 01. Known refusal.            | 42               | 2649                        | 1              |
| 52. Avoid jeopardizing.       | 40               | 2689                        | 1              |
| 32. Not a farm.               | 39               | 2728                        | 1              |
| 23. Wants to be paid.         | 32               | 2760                        | 1              |
| 24. Violent / threatening.    | 32               | 2792                        | 1              |
| 27. Quitting farming.         | 31               | 2823                        | 1              |
| 28. Out of business.          | 27               | 2850                        | 1              |
| 22. Gatekeeper.               | 26               | 2876                        | 1              |
| 13. Not confidential.         | 25               | 2901                        | 1              |
| 08. Did different survey.     | 22               | 2923                        | 1              |
| 25. No farm talk.             | 19               | 2942                        | 1              |
| 14. NASS grievance.           | 17               | 2959                        | 1              |
| 29. Year not typical.         | 15               | 2974                        | *              |
| 26. Legal problems.           | 14               | 2988                        | *              |
| 09. Did others survey.        | 10               | 2998                        | *              |
| 53. Ignored doorbell.         | 8                | 3006                        | *              |
| 365. Pre-survey letter.       | 4                | 3010                        | *              |
| 366. Disbelieves statistics.  | 4                | 3014                        | *              |
| 15. Cooperator grievance.     | 2                | 3016                        | *              |
| 260. Getting divorced, upset. | 2                | 3018                        | *              |
| 265. IRS grievance.           | 2                | 3020                        | *              |
| 250. Governments broke?       | 1                | 3021                        | *              |
| 255. Data political.          | 1                | 3022                        | *              |
| 256. Doing well.              | 1                | 3023                        | *              |
| 257. Cannot separate records. | 1                | 3024                        | *              |
| 258. Upset with regulations.  | 1                | 3025                        | *              |
| 270. Excuse this year.        | 1                | 3026                        | *              |
| 335. Complex operation.       | 1                | 3027                        | *              |

\* Less than one percent.

**VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 11,925;      VERSION REFUSAL RATE: 25.4 Percent.**



**A Print of Refusal Reasons By Version, For The 1991 Farm Costs  
and Returns Survey; Data In Frequency of Response Order.**

----- FARM OPERATOR RESOURCES VERSION -----

| REASON FOR REFUSING        | FREQUENCY | CUMULATIVE<br>FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|
| 04. Would not take time.   | 285       | 285                     | 23      |
| 03. Refusal, no reason.    | 167       | 452                     | 14      |
| 05. Too personal.          | 105       | 557                     | 9       |
| 11. Dislike surveys.       | 71        | 628                     | 6       |
| 02. Contacted, refuses.    | 66        | 694                     | 5       |
| 06. Surveys hurt farmers.  | 62        | 756                     | 5       |
| 10. Anti-Govt bias.        | 62        | 818                     | 5       |
| 17. Contact too often.     | 36        | 854                     | 3       |
| 34. No financial surveys.  | 34        | 888                     | 3       |
| 16. Farm too small.        | 30        | 918                     | 2       |
| 01. Known refusal.         | 29        | 947                     | 2       |
| 18. Records inadequate.    | 28        | 975                     | 2       |
| 07. Not again.             | 26        | 1001                    | 2       |
| 32. Not a farm.            | 26        | 1027                    | 2       |
| 19. Records unavailable.   | 24        | 1051                    | 2       |
| 20. Illness / death.       | 24        | 1075                    | 2       |
| 12. Compulsory only.       | 20        | 1095                    | 2       |
| 21. Broke appointments.    | 15        | 1110                    | 1       |
| 52. Avoid jeopardizing.    | 14        | 1124                    | 1       |
| 24. Violent / threatening. | 13        | 1137                    | 1       |
| 27. Quitting farming.      | 11        | 1148                    | 1       |
| 28. Out of business.       | 10        | 1158                    | 1       |
| 08. Did different survey.  | 7         | 1165                    | 1       |
| 23. Wants to be paid.      | 7         | 1172                    | 1       |
| 26. Legal problems.        | 7         | 1179                    | 1       |
| 14. NASS grievance.        | 6         | 1185                    | *       |
| 22. Gatekeeper.            | 6         | 1191                    | *       |
| 09. Did others survey.     | 5         | 1196                    | *       |
| 13. Not confidential.      | 5         | 1201                    | *       |
| 25. No farm talk.          | 5         | 1206                    | *       |
| 29. Year not typical.      | 5         | 1211                    | *       |
| 53. Ignored doorbell.      | 4         | 1215                    | *       |
| 267. Fed up.               | 2         | 1217                    | *       |
| 15. Cooperator grievance.  | 1         | 1218                    | *       |
| 262. Farmhouse fire.       | 1         | 1219                    | *       |
| 340. ASCS grievance.       | 1         | 1220                    | *       |
| 365. Pre-survey letter.    | 1         | 1221                    | *       |
| 367. Father/son.           | 1         | 1222                    | *       |

\* Less than one percent.

VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 5,672;

VERSION REFUSAL RATE: 21.5 Percent.

**A Print of Refusal Reasons By Version, For The 1991 Farm Costs  
and Returns Survey; Data In Frequency of Response Order.**

----- CORN VERSION -----

| REASON FOR REFUSING          | FREQUENCY | CUMULATIVE<br>FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|
| 04. Would not take time.     | 160       | 160                     | 24      |
| 03. Refusal, no reason.      | 89        | 249                     | 13      |
| 05. Too personal.            | 67        | 316                     | 10      |
| 06. Surveys hurt farmers.    | 48        | 364                     | 7       |
| 11. Dislike surveys.         | 46        | 410                     | 6       |
| 02. Contacted, refuses.      | 35        | 445                     | 5       |
| 10. Anti-Govt bias.          | 34        | 479                     | 5       |
| 20. Illness / death.         | 20        | 499                     | 3       |
| 21. Broke appointments.      | 19        | 518                     | 3       |
| 12. Compulsory only.         | 17        | 535                     | 2       |
| 18. Records inadequate.      | 16        | 551                     | 2       |
| 16. Farm too small.          | 11        | 562                     | 2       |
| 17. Contact too often.       | 11        | 573                     | 2       |
| 19. Records unavailable.     | 11        | 584                     | 2       |
| 34. No financial surveys.    | 11        | 595                     | 2       |
| 08. Did different survey.    | 9         | 604                     | 1       |
| 07. Not again.               | 7         | 611                     | 1       |
| 26. Legal problems.          | 7         | 618                     | 1       |
| 27. Quitting farming.        | 7         | 625                     | 1       |
| 24. Violent / threatening.   | 6         | 631                     | 1       |
| 22. Gatekeeper.              | 5         | 636                     | 1       |
| 53. Ignored doorbell.        | 5         | 641                     | 1       |
| 13. Not confidential.        | 4         | 645                     | 1       |
| 14. NASS grievance.          | 4         | 649                     | 1       |
| 23. Wants to be paid.        | 4         | 653                     | 1       |
| 28. Out of business.         | 4         | 657                     | 1       |
| 01. Known refusal.           | 3         | 660                     | *       |
| 25. No farm talk.            | 2         | 662                     | *       |
| 240. Partner refused.        | 2         | 664                     | *       |
| 15. Cooperator grievance.    | 1         | 665                     | *       |
| 29. Year not typical.        | 1         | 666                     | *       |
| 32. Not a farm.              | 1         | 667                     | *       |
| 52. Avoid jeopardizing.      | 1         | 668                     | *       |
| 341. Blind trust.            | 1         | 669                     | *       |
| 366. Disbelieves statistics. | 1         | 670                     | *       |

\* Less than one percent.

VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 2,037;

VERSION REFUSAL RATE: 32.9 Percent.

**A Print of Refusal Reasons By Version, For The 1991 Farm Costs  
and Returns Survey; Data In Frequency of Response Order.**

----- COTTON VERSION -----

| <b>REASON FOR REFUSING</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>CUMULATIVE<br/>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENT</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 04. Would not take time.   | 118              | 118                             | 28             |
| 03. Refusal, no reason.    | 46               | 164                             | 11             |
| 05. Too personal.          | 30               | 194                             | 7              |
| 11. Dislike surveys.       | 25               | 219                             | 6              |
| 06. Surveys hurt farmers.  | 21               | 240                             | 5              |
| 34. No financial surveys.  | 17               | 257                             | 4              |
| 10. Anti-Govt bias.        | 15               | 272                             | 4              |
| 20. Illness / death.       | 14               | 286                             | 3              |
| 21. Broke appointments.    | 14               | 300                             | 3              |
| 02. Contacted, refuses.    | 13               | 313                             | 3              |
| 12. Compulsory only.       | 13               | 326                             | 3              |
| 17. Contact too often.     | 11               | 337                             | 3              |
| 07. Not again.             | 9                | 346                             | 2              |
| 18. Records inadequate.    | 9                | 355                             | 2              |
| 01. Known refusal.         | 8                | 363                             | 2              |
| 26. Legal problems.        | 6                | 369                             | 1              |
| 32. Not a farm.            | 6                | 375                             | 1              |
| 16. Farm too small.        | 5                | 380                             | 1              |
| 24. Violent / threatening. | 5                | 385                             | 1              |
| 19. Records unavailable.   | 4                | 389                             | 1              |
| 28. Out of business.       | 4                | 393                             | 1              |
| 08. Did different survey.  | 3                | 396                             | 1              |
| 22. Gatekeeper.            | 3                | 399                             | 1              |
| 27. Quitting farming.      | 3                | 402                             | 1              |
| 09. Did others survey.     | 2                | 404                             | *              |
| 14. NASS grievance.        | 2                | 406                             | *              |
| 25. No farm talk.          | 2                | 408                             | *              |
| 52. Avoid jeopardizing.    | 2                | 410                             | *              |
| 23. Wants to be paid.      | 1                | 411                             | *              |
| 29. Year not typical.      | 1                | 412                             | *              |
| 53. Ignored doorbell.      | 1                | 413                             | *              |
| 215. Water rights.         | 1                | 414                             | *              |
| 269. Survey not needed.    | 1                | 415                             | *              |

\* Less than one percent.

**VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 1,609;**

**VERSION REFUSAL RATE: 25.8 Percent.**

**A Print of Refusal Reasons By Version, For The 1991 Farm Costs  
and Returns Survey; Data In Frequency of Response Order.**

----- PEANUTS VERSION -----

| <b>REASON FOR REFUSING</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>CUMULATIVE<br/>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENT</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 04. Would not take time.   | 86               | 86                              | 36             |
| 03. Refusal, no reason.    | 22               | 108                             | 9              |
| 05. Too personal.          | 16               | 124                             | 7              |
| 06. Surveys hurt farmers.  | 15               | 139                             | 6              |
| 10. Anti-Govt bias.        | 14               | 153                             | 6              |
| 11. Dislike surveys.       | 11               | 164                             | 5              |
| 34. No financial surveys.  | 11               | 175                             | 5              |
| 02. Contacted, refuses.    | 7                | 182                             | 3              |
| 21. Broke appointments.    | 6                | 188                             | 3              |
| 24. Violent / threatening. | 6                | 194                             | 3              |
| 01. Known refusal.         | 5                | 199                             | 2              |
| 12. Compulsory only.       | 5                | 204                             | 2              |
| 16. Farm too small.        | 5                | 209                             | 2              |
| 20. Illness / death.       | 5                | 214                             | 2              |
| 07. Not again.             | 4                | 218                             | 2              |
| 18. Records inadequate.    | 3                | 221                             | 1              |
| 13. Not confidential.      | 2                | 223                             | 1              |
| 19. Records unavailable.   | 2                | 225                             | 1              |
| 25. No farm talk.          | 2                | 227                             | 1              |
| 27. Quitting farming.      | 2                | 229                             | 1              |
| 28. Out of business.       | 2                | 231                             | 1              |
| 08. Did different survey.  | 1                | 232                             | *              |
| 09. Did others survey.     | 1                | 233                             | *              |
| 17. Contact too often.     | 1                | 234                             | *              |
| 23. Wants to be paid.      | 1                | 235                             | *              |
| 26. Legal problems.        | 1                | 236                             | *              |
| 52. Avoid jeopardizing.    | 1                | 237                             | *              |

\* Less than one percent.

**VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 928;      VERSION REFUSAL RATE: 25.5 Percent.**

**A Print of Refusal Reasons By Version, For The 1991 Farm Costs  
and Returns Survey; Data In Frequency of Response Order.**

----- **FLUE-CURED TOBACCO VERSION** -----

| <b>REASON FOR REFUSING</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>CUMULATIVE<br/>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENT</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 04. Would not take time.   | 34               | 34                              | 37             |
| 05. Too personal.          | 8                | 42                              | 9              |
| 34. No financial surveys.  | 8                | 50                              | 9              |
| 03. Refusal, no reason.    | 7                | 57                              | 8              |
| 06. Surveys hurt farmers.  | 5                | 62                              | 6              |
| 16. Farm too small.        | 5                | 67                              | 6              |
| 18. Records inadequate.    | 3                | 70                              | 3              |
| 19. Records unavailable.   | 3                | 73                              | 3              |
| 01. Known refusal.         | 2                | 75                              | 2              |
| 10. Anti-Govt bias.        | 2                | 77                              | 2              |
| 11. Dislike surveys.       | 2                | 79                              | 2              |
| 17. Contact too often.     | 2                | 81                              | 2              |
| 24. Violent / threatening. | 2                | 83                              | 2              |
| 27. Quitting farming.      | 2                | 85                              | 2              |
| 02. Contacted, refuses.    | 1                | 86                              | 1              |
| 07. Not again.             | 1                | 87                              | 1              |
| 12. Compulsory only.       | 1                | 88                              | 1              |
| 20. Illness / death.       | 1                | 89                              | 1              |
| 23. Wants to be paid.      | 1                | 90                              | 1              |
| 26. Legal problems.        | 1                | 91                              | 1              |
| 28. Out of business.       | 1                | 92                              | 1              |

**VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 611;**

**VERSION REFUSAL RATE: 15.1 Percent.**

**APPENDIX G**

**A Print of Inaccessible and Incomplete Reasons By Version, For The  
1991 Farm Costs and Returns Survey; Data In Frequency of Response Order.**

----- **EXPENDITURE VERSION** -----

| <b>REASONS, INACCESSIBLE/INCOMPLETE</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>CUMULATIVE<br/>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENT</b> |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 116. Could not reach.                   | 213              | 213                             | 25             |
| 150. INCOMPLETE.                        | 140              | 353                             | 17             |
| 86. Postponed interview.                | 93               | 446                             | 11             |
| 84. Illness / death.                    | 88               | 534                             | 10             |
| 85. Records unavailable.                | 84               | 618                             | 10             |
| 79. Operator long vacation.             | 75               | 693                             | 9              |
| 81. Operator business trip.             | 47               | 740                             | 5              |
| 80. Operator brief vacation.            | 35               | 775                             | 4              |
| 94. Inaccessible, no reason.            | 15               | 790                             | 2              |
| 76. No respondent found.                | 14               | 804                             | 2              |
| 82. Summer-seasonal housing.            | 12               | 816                             | 1              |
| 83. Access denied.                      | 8                | 824                             | 1              |
| 75. No operation found.                 | 5                | 829                             | 1              |
| 87. Enumerator workload.                | 5                | 834                             | 1              |
| 78. Address vacant.                     | 3                | 837                             | *              |
| 92. Non-English speaking.               | 2                | 839                             | *              |
| 667. Questionnaire late.                | 2                | 841                             | *              |
| 540. Questionnaire lost.                | 1                | 842                             | *              |
| 561. Operator jailed.                   | 1                | 843                             | *              |
| 565. Enumerator gave up.                | 1                | 844                             | *              |

\* Less than one percent.

**VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 11,925; VERSION INACCESS/INC RATE: 7.1 Percent.**

**A Print of Inaccessible and Incomplete Reasons By Version, For The  
1991 Farm Costs and Returns Survey; Data In Frequency of Response Order.**

----- **FARM OPERATOR RESOURCES VERSION** -----

| <b>REASONS, INACCESSIBLE/INCOMPLETE</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>CUMULATIVE<br/>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENT</b> |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 116. Could not reach.                   | 121              | 121                             | 29             |
| 150. INCOMPLETE.                        | 63               | 184                             | 15             |
| 84. Illness / death.                    | 46               | 230                             | 11             |
| 79. Operator long vacation.             | 44               | 274                             | 10             |
| 85. Records unavailable.                | 42               | 316                             | 10             |
| 86. Postponed interview.                | 33               | 349                             | 8              |
| 80. Operator brief vacation.            | 19               | 368                             | 4              |
| 81. Operator business trip.             | 19               | 387                             | 4              |
| 75. No operation found.                 | 7                | 394                             | 2              |
| 76. No respondent found.                | 7                | 401                             | 2              |
| 82. Summer-seasonal housing.            | 6                | 407                             | 1              |
| 591. Moved away.                        | 5                | 412                             | 1              |
| 94. Inaccessible, no reason.            | 4                | 416                             | 1              |
| 78. Address vacant.                     | 2                | 418                             | *              |
| 83. Access denied.                      | 1                | 419                             | *              |
| 87. Enumerator workload.                | 1                | 420                             | *              |
| 120. Combined operations.               | 1                | 421                             | *              |
| 580. Enumerator error.                  | 1                | 422                             | *              |
| 667. Questionnaire late.                | 1                | 423                             | *              |

\* Less than one percent.

**VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 5,672; VERSION INACCESS/INC RATE: 7.5 Percent.**

----- **CORN VERSION** -----

| <b>REASONS, INACCESSIBLE/INCOMPLETE</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>CUMULATIVE<br/>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENT</b> |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 116. Could not reach.                   | 33               | 33                              | 24             |
| 85. Records unavailable.                | 24               | 57                              | 18             |
| 79. Operator long vacation.             | 19               | 76                              | 14             |
| 150. INCOMPLETE.                        | 18               | 94                              | 13             |
| 84. Illness / death.                    | 13               | 107                             | 10             |
| 86. Postponed interview.                | 12               | 119                             | 9              |
| 80. Operator brief vacation.            | 6                | 125                             | 4              |
| 81. Operator business trip.             | 6                | 131                             | 4              |
| 76. No respondent found.                | 2                | 133                             | 2              |
| 87. Enumerator workload.                | 1                | 134                             | 1              |
| 119. Enumerator mistake.                | 1                | 135                             | 1              |

**VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 2,037; VERSION INACCESS/INC RATE: 6.6 Percent.**

**A Print of Inaccessible and Incomplete Reasons By Version, For The 1991 Farm Costs and Returns Survey; Data In Frequency of Response Order.**

----- COTTON VERSION -----

| REASONS, INACCESSIBLE/INCOMPLETE | FREQUENCY | CUMULATIVE FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------|
| 116. Could not reach.            | 38        | 38                   | 28      |
| 86. Postponed interview.         | 23        | 61                   | 17      |
| 150. INCOMPLETE.                 | 23        | 84                   | 17      |
| 84. Illness / death.             | 21        | 105                  | 15      |
| 85. Records unavailable.         | 13        | 118                  | 10      |
| 80. Operator brief vacation.     | 4         | 122                  | 3       |
| 81. Operator business trip.      | 4         | 126                  | 3       |
| 76. No respondent found.         | 3         | 129                  | 2       |
| 79. Operator long vacation.      | 3         | 132                  | 2       |
| 94. Inaccessible, no reason.     | 2         | 134                  | 1       |
| 78. Address vacant.              | 1         | 135                  | 1       |
| 119. Enumerator mistake.         | 1         | 136                  | 1       |

**VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 1,609; VERSION INACCESS/INC RATE: 8.5 Percent.**

----- PEANUTS VERSION -----

| REASONS, INACCESSIBLE/INCOMPLETE | FREQUENCY | CUMULATIVE FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------|
| 116. Could not reach.            | 29        | 29                   | 40      |
| 150. INCOMPLETE.                 | 15        | 44                   | 21      |
| 84. Illness / death.             | 8         | 52                   | 11      |
| 85. Records unavailable.         | 6         | 58                   | 9       |
| 86. Postponed interview.         | 5         | 63                   | 7       |
| 80. Operator brief vacation.     | 3         | 66                   | 4       |
| 81. Operator business trip.      | 2         | 68                   | 3       |
| 94. Inaccessible, no reason.     | 2         | 70                   | 3       |
| 78. Address vacant.              | 1         | 71                   | 1       |
| 79. Operator long vacation.      | 1         | 72                   | 1       |

**VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 928; VERSION INACCESS/INC RATE: 7.8 Percent.**



A Print of Inaccessible and Incomplete Reasons By Version, For The  
 1991 Farm Costs and Returns Survey; Data In Frequency of Response Order.

----- FLUE-CURED TOBACCO VERSION -----

| REASONS, INACCESSIBLE/INCOMPLETE | FREQUENCY | CUMULATIVE<br>FREQUENCY | PERCENT |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|
| 116. Could not reach.            | 21        | 21                      | 49      |
| 84. Illness / death.             | 6         | 27                      | 14      |
| 150. INCOMPLETE.                 | 4         | 31                      | 9       |
| 85. Records unavailable.         | 3         | 34                      | 7       |
| 86. Postponed interview.         | 3         | 37                      | 7       |
| 94. Inaccessible, no reason.     | 3         | 40                      | 7       |
| 81. Operator business trip.      | 2         | 42                      | 5       |
| 76. No respondent found.         | 1         | 43                      | 2       |

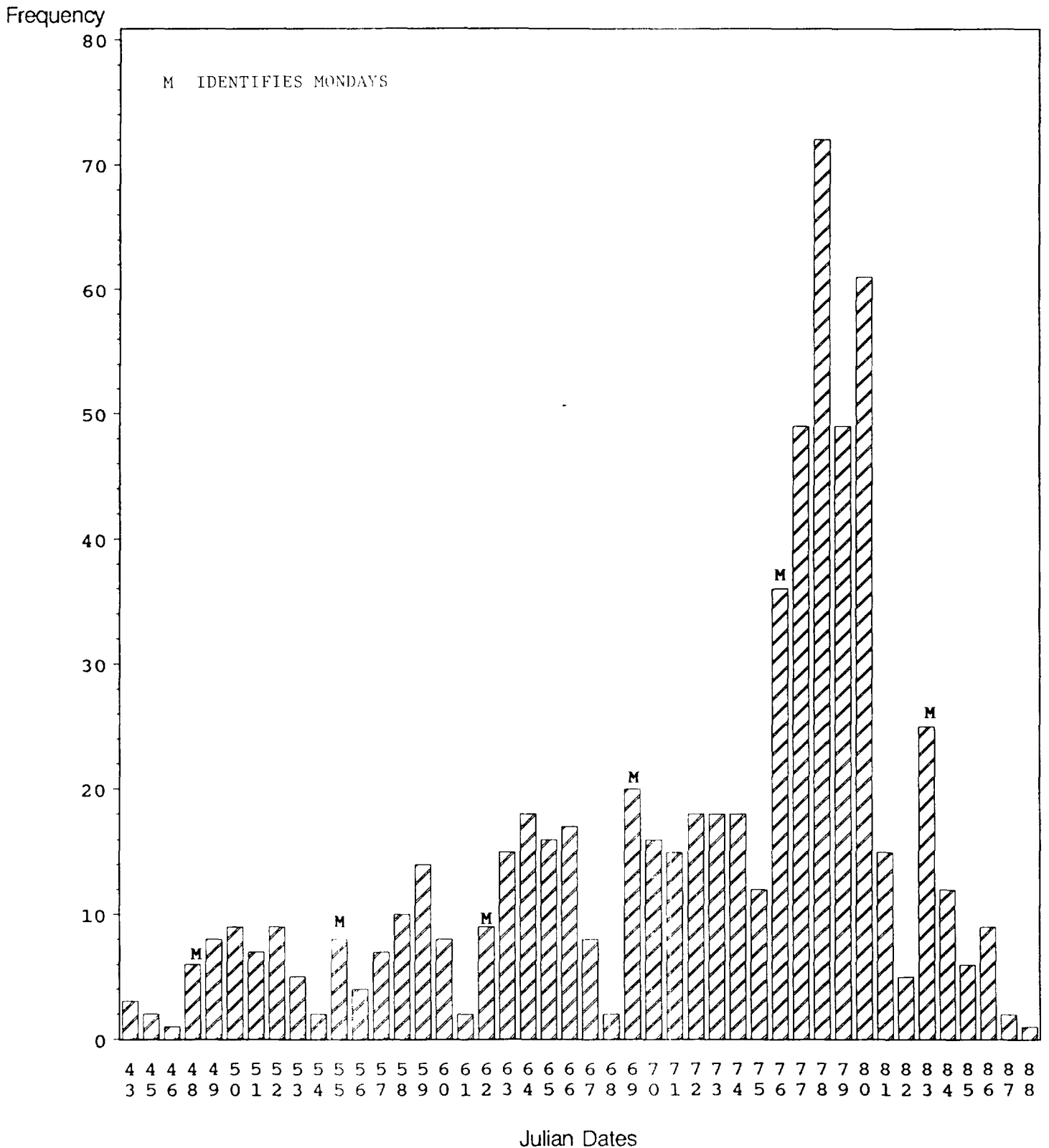
VERSION TOTAL CONTACTS: 611; VERSION INACCESS/INC RATE: 7.0 Percent.



APPENDIX I

# The Number of Inaccessibles By Date

Depicts The Data Available For 42 States  
On The 1991 FCRS

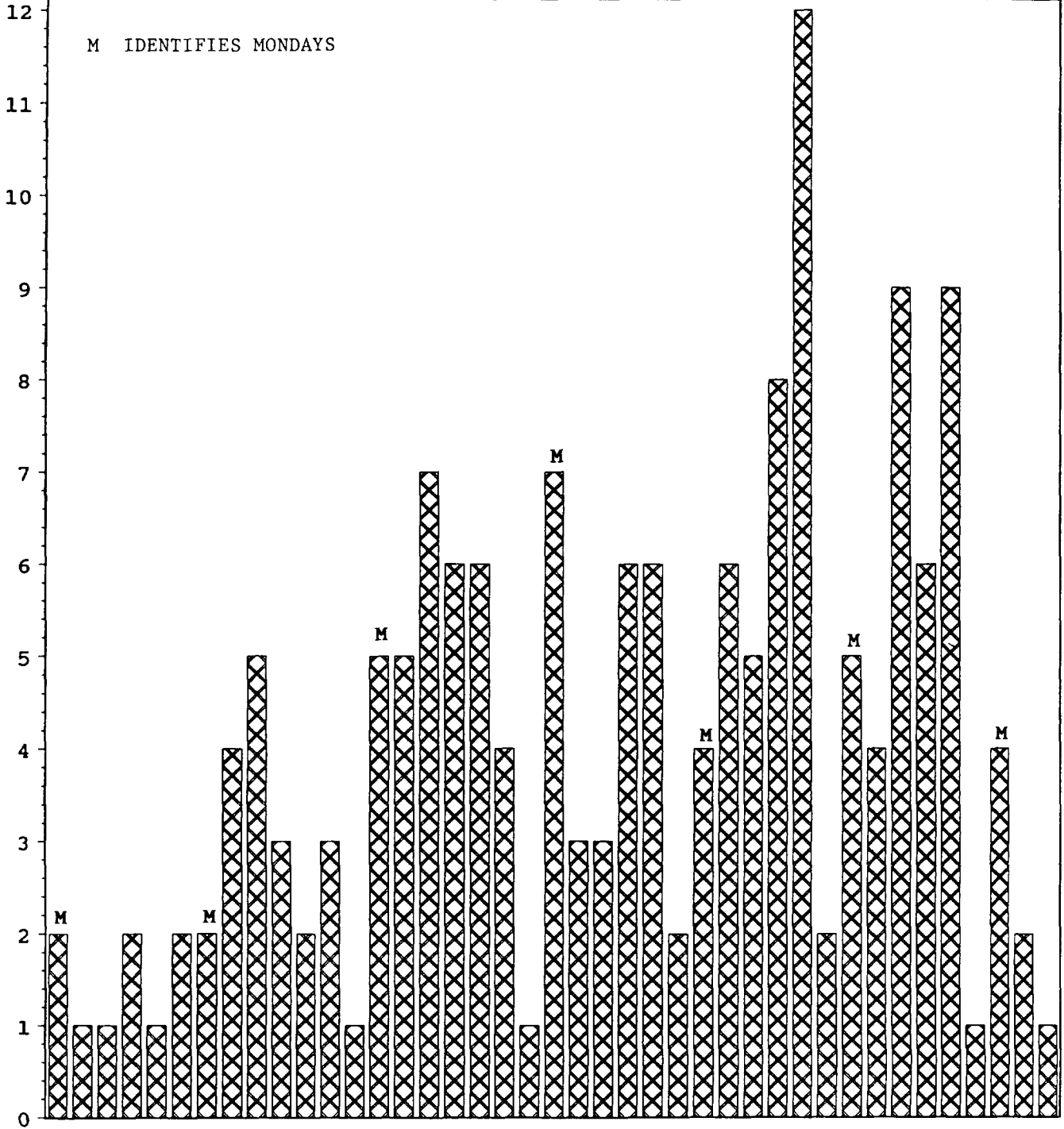


APPENDIX J

# The Number of Incompletes By Date

Depicts The Data Available For 42 States  
On The 1991 FCRS

Frequency



Julian Dates