

# USDA To Measure The Economic State Of U.S. Agriculture

**NASHVILLE, TENN.**

**F**armers will soon have the opportunity to set the record straight about the issues that affect them – and to help ensure that policies and programs are based on accurate, real-world data. This is the goal of the annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

ARMS is USDA's primary source of information on production practices, resource use and the economic well-being of America's farm operations and farm households.

"Just about every federal policy and program that affects U.S. farmers and farm families is based on information from ARMS," said Debra Kenerson, Director of the NASS Tennessee Field Office. "This information is used not just by USDA and Congress, but also by agribusinesses and others who make the decisions that shape the future of Tennessee agriculture."

During the months of January through March, NASS field offices will contact 37,000 farmers nationwide by mail, phone or in person to complete the survey. Producers will be asked to provide data on their operating expenditures, production costs and household characteristics.

"All farm operators rely on quality information and sound government policies in order to run a successful business. That's why participation in ARMS is so important," Kenerson explained. "Producer participation in ARMS ensures that decisions affecting farmers, their families, their businesses and their communities are based on the facts, straight from the source."

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified. All NASS reports are available online at: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information on ARMS or other NASS surveys, call the Tennessee Field Office at 800-626-0987. Δ



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