



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Mission Area
 Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)

STATISTICAL DATA, ANALYSIS & RESEARCH RFI - KEY FINDINGS

Building a modern, trusted, and accessible statistical system to inform today's decisions and tomorrow's solutions.



OVERVIEW

The USDA's Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Mission Area and the Office of the Chief Economist gathered public input on opportunities, challenges, and emerging needs in statistical data, analysis, and research across ERS, NASS, and OCE/WAOB.



Industry, Academia, Nonprofits, Government Agencies, Producers, and Private Companies



248
 Total Responses
 (237 applicable)



102
 Organizations Represented



27
 States Represented

FOCUS AREA: NASS

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Comments indicated deep reliance on NASS data but also mounting concerns about revisions, response rates, and survey quality.

HIGH VALUE PLACED ON NASS DATA

Especially geospatial products.

CONCERNS ABOUT REVISIONS AND TRUST

Frustration over revisions and perceived declines in accuracy.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA INTEGRATION

Calls for greater incorporation of administrative data (FSA, RMA) and better explanation of current use.

RESPONSE RATES & WORKLOAD CHALLENGES

Challenges with response rates, production weighted estimates, and workload constraints.

ACCESSIBILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Consistent requests for better accessibility, transparency, and plain language communication.

NEXT STEPS ACROSS USDA

USDA will review public comments, identify key themes, and create an action plan outlining resources, timelines, and effort levels needed to address them.

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Stakeholders expressed strong support for USDA's statistical system while emphasizing three major themes:



Data modernization – improved accessibility, usability, formats, and machine readable datasets.



Greater coordination among ERS, NASS, and OCE, particularly for acreage, yield, and production data.



More documentation, clearer methodologies, and improved communication about forecasting and revision processes.

FUTURE FOCUS



Modernizing initiatives, outreach, and education.



Improving response efforts, data integration, and workforce development.