



NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Delta Regional Office (serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi)
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USDA's Cost of Pollination Inquiry Mails to Mississippi Crop Producers This Fall

Jackson, Mississippi – During the last week of October, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail the November *Cost of Pollination Inquiry* to nearly 16,000 crop producers nationwide, including 138 Mississippi crop producers. The survey results will help producers and beekeepers monitor and react to changes in production costs. Pollination expenditures are a necessary part of agriculture and are directly tied to the health of the honey bee industry.

"Honey bees are important pollinators of multiple crops ranging from flowers to nuts to vegetables," said NASS State Statistician Esmerelda Dickson. "To help accurately depict the health of the pollination industry in the United States, NASS will ask crop producers about their use of honey bees, the fees they paid for honey bee pollination, and any other expenses related to pollinating their crops."

Mississippi producers are asked to respond securely online at agcounts.usda.gov, by mail, or by fax. Those who do not respond by November 6, 2023, may be contacted by a National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) representative to arrange an interview to complete the survey.

All information reported by producers will be used for statistical purposes only and kept confidential, as required by federal law. NASS will publish the survey data on December 15, 2023, in the *Cost of Pollination* report at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/> and in the Quick Stats searchable database at <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>.

For more information about the *Cost of Pollination Inquiry* and the NASS bee and honey program, visit nass.usda.gov/go/bees/. Other NASS honey bee reports include the *Honey* report published every March and the *Honey Bee Colonies* report published every August. For assistance with the survey, producers are encouraged to call the NASS Delta Regional Field Office at (800) 327-2970.

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NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

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