



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
SOUTHERN FIELD OFFICE

355 East Hancock Avenue Suite 100, Athens, GA 30601



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 12, 2024

Contact: Anthony Prillaman  
(800) 253-4419

## USDA to measure financial well-being of farmers and ranchers

**ATHENS, GA** – Beginning in late December 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) began gathering information about farm economics and production practices from farmers and ranchers, as the agency conducts the third and final phase of the 2023 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

“ARMS is the only survey that measures the current financial well-being of producers and their households as a whole,” said Anthony Prillaman, Director of the NASS Southern Regional Field Office. “The data will help inform decisions on local and federal policies and programs that affect farms and farm families.”

In an effort to obtain the most accurate data, NASS will reach out to more than 40,000 producers nationwide, including 4,700 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina between January and April. The survey asks producers to provide in-depth information about their operating revenues, production costs, and household characteristics. The 2023 survey includes versions focused on oat and peanut sector costs and returns.

“In February, our interviewers will begin reaching out to those farmers who have not yet responded,” said Prillaman. “We appreciate their time and are here to help them with the questionnaire so that their information will continue supporting sound agricultural decision-making.”

Information provided to NASS is kept confidential, as required by federal law. The agency only publishes data in aggregate form, ensuring that no individual respondent or operation can be identified.

The expense data gathered in ARMS will be published in the annual *Farm Production Expenditures* report on July 26, 2024. That report and others are available at [nass.usda.gov/Publications](https://nass.usda.gov/Publications). More reports based on ARMS data and more information about ARMS are available at [ers.usda.gov/arms](https://ers.usda.gov/arms).

###

*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.*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*