



Compilation and Maintenance of the Master Frames used in the United States Agricultural Estimation Program and Census of Agriculture

Jeff Bailey* - Mark Apodaca
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington DC 20250, United States
Mark_Apodaca@nass.usda.gov -mail address

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), as the primary fact-collecting and reporting agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is responsible for the national program of timely, accurate, and useful statistics on agriculture. NASS conducts hundreds of surveys each year and the Census of Agriculture every five years, the results of which are published and used by producers, educators, researchers and government leaders. A broad representation of all components of the agricultural sector (small and large farms as well as agribusinesses, demographics and specialty farms) is essential in providing accurate statistics for acreage and production surveys, livestock inventory surveys, economic surveys and to support initiatives such as pesticide surveys for water quality and food safety programs. Coverage of both small and large farms is also needed to ensure reliable indications for county estimates, and to provide a foundation for the Census Mail List. The agency's sampling frames underpinning these surveys and censuses must be of the highest quality possible to ensure that the results reflect an accurate representation of the agricultural sector in the U.S. Extensive efforts are spent in the compilation and maintenance of these frames. The methods and procedures employed by NASS in developing and maintaining these frames will be outlined..

Keywords: Coverage, List Building