

Non-substantive Change Request

0535-0254 – Current Agricultural Industrial Reports (CAIR) Surveys – Dec. 2015

In 2014 when NASS took over eight of the forty-seven Current Industrial Reports (CIR) (OMB # 0607-0476) from the Census Bureau, NASS was unable to obtain the lists of businesses which the Census Bureau used to conduct the CIRs. Subsequently, NASS undertook a list building effort, which involved communicating with various industry leaders in order to obtain names, internet searches for businesses of possible interest, and obtaining names from trade magazines and various literature.

NASS then conducted a “screening” survey from the names obtained from these various sources for the purpose of:

1. Determine if the businesses were still operating.
2. Determine if the businesses produced the items of interest.
3. Introduce these businesses to NASS, and let them know that we were now conducting these surveys.

As a result of the screening phase NASS was able to determine a population of operations which qualified for the Current Agricultural Industrial Report (CAIR) surveys. Operations that did not qualify or no longer qualified for these surveys were removed from the population. NASS also made contact with the corporate level of many of these operations that had multiple locations and were able to work out an arrangement where we collect total data from one centralized location rather than from each individual location.

After the initial rounds of data collection, we found it necessary to make several non-substantive changes to the questionnaires to make it easier for the respondents to reply. These changes included:

- Adding improved instructions and include/exclude statements to make it easier for the respondents to reply,
- NASS combined the four oil and fat surveys the Census Bureau conducted previously into one survey utilizing one questionnaire which included all the items of interest.
- Changing the *Flour Milling Products* from a monthly survey to a quarterly survey.

As a result of our efforts, NASS will be able to reduce the future screening from 15,000 per year down to 700 per year. The combining of the four oil and fat surveys into one questionnaire and collecting the data from a centralized location will reduce the number of mailed questionnaires from 1,450 to 175. The screening phase and the centralization of reporting units reduced the number of contacts and total burden.

The following table shows the reductions in burden and number of respondents as a result of these non-substantive changes.

Adjusted Annual Burden for Current Agricultural Industrial Reports 2014 - 2016 (Nov 2015)							
Survey	Census Bureau Sample Sizes	Original NASS Sample Sizes 2014	Adjusted NASS Sample Sizes Nov 2015	Original NASS Burden Hours	Adjusted Total Burden Hours	Original Waves of Data Collection	Adjusted Waves of Data Collection
Questionnaires							
M311C (Wet Mill Producers of Alcohol)	153	200	20	368	37	12	12
M311C (Dry Mill Producers of Alcohol)	n/a	200	150	368	276	12	12
M311H Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils Stocks	63	125	175	1,243	1,113	12	12
M311J - Oilseeds, Beans and Nuts (Primary Processors)	109	200		728		12	
M311L Fats and Oils - Renderers	230	375		4,065		12	
M311N Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils (Production, Consumption and Stocks)	436	750		4,755		12	
M313N Cotton in Public Storage - Unchange	385	600	600	2,184	2184	12	12
M313P Cotton and Manmade Fibre Staple (Consumption and Stocks, and Spindle Activity)	131	250	75	910	275	12	12
MQ311A Flour Milling Products (Production, Stocks and Capacity)	180	300	200	2,172	483	12	4
Screening and List Building (2015 & 2016)	0	15,000	1,220	1,851	108	1	1
Publicity Materials	0	3,000	1,220	1,360	279	1	1
Quality Control	0	300	120	24	9	1	1
Totals	1,687	15,000	1,220	20,028	4,764		