



**National Agricultural Statistics Service**

*Agricultural Chemical Use Program and the  
2015 Produce Post-Harvest Microbial Food  
Safety Practices Survey*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## Key Topics

- NASS Overview
- Chemical Use History
- Chemical Use Data Users
- Chemical Use Partners
- Chemical Use Program

# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## NASS Overview

NASS is the data collection agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- Census of Agriculture
- Crop Production
- Livestock Inventory
- Economic Data Series
- Environmental Data Series



# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
**National Agricultural Statistics Service**



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## Agricultural Chemical Use Program

The NASS Agricultural Chemical Use Program is USDA's official source of statistics about on-farm chemical use and pest management practices. Since 1990, NASS has surveyed U.S. farmers to collect information on the chemical ingredients they apply to agricultural commodities through fertilizers and pesticides. On a rotating basis, the program currently includes fruits; vegetables; major field crops such as cotton, corn, potatoes, soybeans, and wheat; and nursery and floriculture crops. [Read more about the Agricultural Chemical Use Program](#)

### Access the Data — Quick Stats

View and download current and past Chemical Use data from the NASS [Quick Stats](#) database.

- Choose the detailed database ([Quick Stats 2.0](#)) or try the Beta version of a simpler tool ([Quick Stats Lite](#)).
- In Quick Stats 2.0, under Program, select "Survey."
- In both versions, under Sector, select "Environmental" and then make additional category choices.

[Quick Stats](#) provides complete results for all surveys conducted since 2009 and selected results for surveys conducted 1990 through 2008.

### Latest Releases

Since 2009, we release the results of chemical use surveys through [Quick Stats](#). In addition, we provide the following materials for each survey: a Highlights fact sheet, a Methodology paper, and a set of Data Tables featuring commonly requested information.

- 2014 Vegetables - released September 16, 2015:**  
[Data Tables](#)
- 2014 Corn & Potatoes- released May 14, 2015:**  
[Highlights \(Corn and Potatoes\)](#) | [Methodology](#) | [Data Tables](#)
- 2013 Peanuts & Rice - released May 14, 2014:**  
[Highlights \(Peanuts and Rice\)](#) | [Methodology](#) | [Data Tables](#)



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# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## History

- Chemical Usage Program began in 1990 with Water Quality & Food Safety Initiatives
- Initial funding supported basic chemical use data collection; new initiatives have led into pest management practices and food safety

# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## Data Users

- USDA – AMS NIFA, ERS, NRCS
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- State Government Agencies
- Chemical manufacturers
- Commodity groups
- Researchers
- American Phytopathological Society (APS)
- Others



# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## Program Information

Each chemical use survey focuses on the top-producing states that together account for the majority of U.S. acres of the surveyed crop. The data includes:

- percentage of planted acres treated with a given chemical
- amount of active ingredient applied per acre (application rate)
- number of applications
- total amount applied during a production year
- pest management practices utilized

# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## Program Information

The program also collects information on the pest management practices farmers implement to reduce their dependence on agricultural chemicals. Pest management practices fall into four categories:

- Prevention
- Avoidance
- Monitoring
- Suppression



# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## Program Information

- Upcoming Surveys

<b>Crop Year</b>	<b>Commodity</b>
2015	Cotton, fruits, oats, soybeans, wheat
2016	Corn, potatoes, vegetables
2017	Cotton, fruits, soybeans, wheat

# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## Fruit Chemical Use Survey

- Collects data related to fertilizers and pesticides applied to 23 fruit crops in 12 states
- Beginning this year, NASS began collecting data on food safety practices with respect to microbial contamination
  - level of food safety awareness
  - sanitation
  - packing practices



# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## Microbial Food Safety Practices

This year we are examining microbial food safety practices that growers may be using and characters of their operation.

- Microbial food safety includes bacteria, viruses, and parasites on produce that could cause human diseases.
- All produce includes fruit, berries, vegetables, herbs, tree nuts, dry beans, peas and lentils, peanuts, sprouts, and mushrooms, not just the target fruit as in the previous sections of the survey.

# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## Survey Results

- Since May 2010 Agricultural Chemical use data are published to the Quick Stats 2.0 database only.

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**Quick Stats** Home

Navigation History: Program->Sector->Group->Commodity->Category->Data Item->Domain

**Select Commodity** (one or more) 

Keyword Search [Hints](#)

<b>Program:</b> CENSUS SURVEY	<b>Sector:</b> ANIMALS & PRODUCTS CROPS ECONOMICS ENVIRONMENTAL	<b>Group:</b> FIELD CROPS FRUIT & TREE NUTS HORTICULTURE LIVESTOCK VEGETABLES	<b>Commodity:</b> BARLEY CORN COTTON GRAIN OATS PEANUTS RICE SORGHUM SOYBEANS	<b>Category:</b> APPLICATIONS PEST MGMT TREATED	<b>Data Item:</b> CORN - APPLICATIONS, MEASURED IN LB CORN - APPLICATIONS, MEASURED IN LB / ACRE / APPLICATION, 10TH PERCENTILE CORN - APPLICATIONS, MEASURED IN LB / ACRE / APPLICATION, 90TH PERCENTILE CORN - APPLICATIONS, MEASURED IN LB / ACRE / APPLICATION, AVG CORN - APPLICATIONS, MEASURED IN LB / ACRE / APPLICATION, CV PCT CORN - APPLICATIONS, MEASURED IN LB / ACRE / APPLICATION, MEDIAN CORN - APPLICATIONS, MEASURED IN LB / ACRE / YEAR, 10TH PERCENTILE CORN - APPLICATIONS, MEASURED IN LB / ACRE / YEAR, 90TH PERCENTILE CORN - APPLICATIONS, MEASURED IN LB / ACRE / YEAR, AVG
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**Domain:**  
CHEMICAL, FUNGICIDE  
CHEMICAL, HERBICIDE  
CHEMICAL, INSECTICIDE  
CHEMICAL, OTHER  
FERTILIZER  
RESTRICTED USE CHEMICAL, HERBICIDE  
RESTRICTED USE CHEMICAL, INSECTICIDE  
RESTRICTED USE CHEMICAL, OTHER

# CHEMICAL USE PROGRAM

## Program Enhancements

- Online Contributions
  - <http://www.nass.usda.gov/chemusesurvey/>
- NASDA Partners
- Annual Data Users Meeting



## PRODUCE POST-HARVEST MICROBIAL FOOD SAFETY PRACTICES SURVEY REVIEW

## Survey Overview

To provide unbiased, up-to-date data on levels of Food safety awareness, sanitation and post-harvest practices that are being preformed by Produce growers and various post-harvest operations before regulations are imposed.

## NASS and ERS Partnership

### **NASS will conduct two Food Safety Surveys**

- Grower Survey (8 pages of Food Safety questions added to the 2015 and 2016 Fruit and Vegetable Chemical Usage Survey).
- Produce Post-Harvest Microbial Food Safety Practices Survey (Packer Survey).

## The Packer Survey

- List building
- The questionnaire
- Sample size of 2200
- Data Collection dates (October 1, 2015 – January 8, 2016)
- Mix of enumeration types

## Marketing

- News Release
- TV Interview with USDA TV
- Food Safety News – [www.foodsafetynews.com](http://www.foodsafetynews.com)
- Featured Article in The Packer -  
<http://www.thepacker.com/news/new-surveys-measure-food-safety-practices>
- USDA radio
- Pre Survey Postcard
- Trade Shows

# Produce Post-Harvest Microbial Food Safety Practices Survey

## Marketing – Postcard

Produce Post-Harvest Microbial  
Food Safety Practices Survey  
2015

**Coming Soon...**

**Your Produce Post-Harvest  
Microbial Food Safety  
Practices Survey**

*The Produce Post-Harvest Microbial  
Food Safety Practices Survey seeks to  
assess the levels of food safety practices  
used by post-harvest operations prior to  
the implementation of the  
Food Safety Modernization Act.*



**USDA**  

The National Agricultural Statistics Service is committed to confidentiality and security. As required by Federal law, survey and census responses are completely confidential. We safeguard the privacy of all respondents, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. Your responses cannot be used for the purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation. Federal law also provides that copies retained of your files are immune from legal process.\*

## Confidentiality

- All the information that NASS collects about individual farming operations is confidential by law.
- Data analyzed by a sponsoring organization have had all personal identifiers, such as name, address, telephone number, etc., removed.

## Questions



# Produce Post-Harvest Microbial Food Safety Practices Survey

## Contact Information

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