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ARMS III

**Agricultural Resource Management
Survey – Phase III**

Appendix

Updates from Previous Survey

<u>IM Location & Item Reference</u>	<u>Update from Previous Survey</u>
3.3 Questionnaire Versions	4 questionnaire versions for 2015.
5.2 Section A	Several items in Section A have been renumbered due to the addition of Items 7-7a. Other references have been updated accordingly.
5.2.3.1 Item 7-7a	Items 7-7a are research questions specific to 2015 data collection. Reference appendix for Section A.
5.2.3.2 Items 14-17 – Conservation Practices	Items 14-17 are research questions specific to 2015 data collection. Reference appendix for Section A.
5.3.2.2 Column 1 – Fruits, Nuts, and Berries	Statement added to include citrus.
5.4.2 Item 2g – Egg Layers and Pullets	Clarifies that pullets are to be included.
5.6.2 Item 2 Column 5 – Price per Unit	Rounding is now to the nearest cent.
5.6.3 Item 2 Column 5 – Fee per Unit	Rounding is now to the nearest cent
5.8.2 Item 2 – Federal, State, and Local Program Payments	The questions in this item have been reformatted and expanded. Additional questions have been added here. Reference appendix for Section H.
5.8.3 Item 3	This was Item 6 in 2014, references have been updated throughout the manual.
5.8.3 Items 3k i-iv – Recreation and Agritourism Activities	Items 3k i-iv are research questions specific to 2015 data collection. Reference appendix for Section H.
5.13.1 Item 1 – Ownership Interest by Relatives	This question was moved from Section M and reworded. The rest of Section L has been renumbered accordingly.

5.13.1	Items 11a-c (i) – Unpaid Hours	Items 11 a-c now ask unpaid hours in subquestion (i)
5.13.1	Items 12-13 – Number of Workers and Unpaid Labor	Items 12-13 are research questions specific to 2015 data collection. Reference appendix for Section L.
5.13.1.1	Item 16 – Value-Added Direct Sales	Item 16 is new to the CRR this year to maintain consistency with the Census of Agriculture.
5.14	Item 7-8 – Health Insurance	Items 7-8 are research questions specific to 2015 data collection. Reference appendix for Section M.

Section A – Land Rented From Others

Item 7 – Change in Cash Rent Paid

Check yes and continue to Item 7a if the operator's cash rent paid per acre on land rented from others in both 2014 and 2015 changed. Otherwise, check no and go to Item 8.

Item 7a – Amount of Change in Cash Rent Paid

Record the per acre change in cash rent paid by the operator on land rented from others. If there was a decrease, indicate with a negative sign.

Section A – Conservation Practices

Item 14a – Double Cropped

Of the cropland acres in Item 5, report the acres on which two or more crops were harvested in 2015.

Item 14b – Cover Crop

Of the cropland acres in Item 5, report the acres on which a cover crop was planted in 2015.

Item 14c – Use of No-Till Practices

Report the number of acres in Item 5 on which no-till practices were used. No-till is a conservation practice that grows crops from year to year without disturbing the soil through tillage.

Item 14d – Use Conservation Tillage

Report the number of acres in Item 5 on which conservation tillage practices were used. Conservation tillage is a method which aims to plow the soil in a manner which reduces erosion potential, conserves energy and improves organic matter. **Exclude** no-till practices.

Item 15 – Financial Assistance from EQIP or CSP

If the operation has ever received financial assistance from either EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) or CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program), mark yes. Otherwise, mark no.

Item 16 – Technical Assistance from NRCS

If the operation has ever received technical assistance from NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service), mark yes. Otherwise, mark no.

Item 17 – Environmental Regulations and Funding

For the 9 environmental areas listed below, mark the box for yes, no, or DK in each column.

Environmental areas:

- a) Water Quality, including fertilizer (excluding manure management)
- b) Manure management, application/storage
- c) Air quality
- d) Wildlife, including threatened or endangered species
- e) Water quantity
- f) Wetlands
- g) Soil, including erosion
- h) Land use restrictions
- i) Other

Column 2 – Local or State Regulations

Check yes if the environmental area was subject to local or state regulations in 2015. Check no if the environmental area was not subject to local or state regulations in 2015. If the operator is unsure, check DK.

Column 3 – Federal Regulations

Check yes if the environmental area was subject to federal regulations in 2015. Check no if the environmental area was not subject to federal regulations in 2015. If the operator is unsure, check DK.

Column 4 – EQIP or CSP Funding

Check yes if the operation received funding from EQIP or CSP for the environmental area in 2015. Check no if the operation did not receive funding from EQIP or CSP for the environmental area in 2015.

Section H – Other Farm-Related Income

Item 2 – Federal, State, or Local Farm Payments

If the respondent received any payments from Federal, State or Local Farm Programs (excluding CCC loan payments), then check “Yes”, and ask Item 2a. It is not imperative that the enumerator fully understand the nuances of all program payments since the respondent should know the source of any payments received. If he/she did not receive any of these payments, then check “No” and skip to Item 3.

Item 2a – Upland Cotton Transition Payments

The Cotton Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill). CTAP is a transition program between the previous Direct and Counter-cyclical Payments Program (DCP) and the new Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX).

For the 2014 and 2015 crop years, CTAP is based on a farm’s 2013 adjusted cotton base acres effective under the 2008 Farm Bill, as of September 30, 2013. For the 2015 crop year, it will be only offered to eligible producers in counties where the new Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) is unavailable. To be CTAP eligible, owners, operators, landlords, tenants, and sharecroppers must sign form CCC-957. Under CTAP, there is no requirement that producers plant cotton in order to be eligible for payment; however eligible producers must have adequate share in enough cropland acres to cover their claimed interest in cotton base acres on form CCC-957.

CTAP payments in each of the 2014 and 2015 program years are limited to \$40,000 per person or entity including amounts received directly and indirectly through entities. CTAP applications approved before Oct. 1, 2014 are subject to congressionally mandated automatic reduction of 7.2 percent for the 2014 crop year. Applications approved after October 1, 2014 will be reduced the required 7.3 percent for the 2015 crop year. Persons or legal entities whose 3-tax year average adjusted gross income exceeds \$900,000 are not eligible for CTAP payments.

CTAP payments for crop year 2014 will be issued to cotton producers satisfying all program and payment eligibility requirements on or after October 1, 2014. CTAP payments for crop year 2015 will be issued to eligible cotton producers on October 1, 2015.

Record the amount of whole dollars received during calendar year 2015 from the Cotton Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) in Item 2a. If eligible CTAP payments paid for 2015 have been delayed until 2016, this should be recorded under Accounts Receivable and Deferred Payments, Section G, Item 1b.

DCP, ACRE, LDP, and MLGs programs have ended. Any residual 2014 payments that are recorded should be small.

Item 2b – DCP & ACRE Payments

Record the total dollar amount of Direct Counter-cyclical Payments (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) payments received in 2015.

The Direct and Counter - cyclical Payment Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program provide payments to eligible producers who enroll. There are two types of DCP payments - direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are calculated using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. The optional ACRE Program is an alternative revenue-based safety net to the price-based safety net provided by counter-cyclical payments. The ACRE Program involves state and farm revenue changes from guarantee revenue levels that are based on national prices, state planted yields, and farm planted yields.

Item 2c – LDPs & MLGs

Record the total amount received from Loan Deficiency Payments and realized from Marketing Loan Gains.

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs)

Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) are payments made to producers who are eligible to obtain a marketing assistance loan on a loan commodity, but agree to forgo obtaining the loan for the commodity in return for Loan Deficiency Payments. Loan commodities include wheat, rice, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, soybeans, other oilseeds, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, graded wool, non-graded wool, mohair, and honey.

Non-graded wool in the form of unshorn pelts and hay and silage derived from a loan commodity are not eligible for marketing assistance loans. However, they may be eligible for loan deficiency payments.

Marketing Loan Gains (MLGs)

Commodity marketing assistance loans, with repayment provisions, are available for wheat, rice, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton soybeans, other oilseeds, small chickpeas, lentils, dry peas, wool, mohair and honey. Market loan repayment provisions are in effect when the alternative repayment rate, as determined by CCC, is less than the per-unit principal plus accrued interest, other charges, and in the case of upland cotton only, per-unit storage costs, for a given outstanding loan. Then, farmers are allowed to repay commodity loans at the repayment rate. Each day, other than weekends and holidays, CCC calculates and posts loan repayment rates, except for rice, upland cotton, other oilseeds, small chickpeas, lentils, dry peas, and peanuts, which are posted weekly. The portion of the principal, if any that is waived when a loan is repaid is referred to as a marketing loan gain for the producer.

Item 2d – Conservation Program Acres and Payments

Record the total number of acres the operation has enrolled in the following conservation programs. Record the total amount of payments received from participation in the following conservation programs. **Include** annual rental, stewardship, enhancement, cost share, and incentive payments.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):

The CRP is a long term (10-15 year) cropland retirement program that provides incentives and assistance to farmers and ranchers for establishing valuable conservation practices that have a beneficial impact on resources both on and off the farm. CRP is administered by NRCS. It encourages farmers to voluntarily plant permanent covers of grass and trees on land that is subject to erosion, where vegetation can improve water quality or provide food and habitat for wildlife. The CRP is the Federal government's single largest environmental improvement program. **Include** CREP acres and amounts (program defined below).

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP):

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. CREP is administered by NRCS and other cooperating agencies. The program is a partnership among producers; Tribal, State, and Federal governments and, in some cases, private groups.

CREP is an offshoot of the country's largest private-lands environmental improvement program - the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). See above for more detail on the Conservation Reserve Program.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP):

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP is administered by NRCS. EQIP contracts provide incentive payments and cost-shares to implement conservation practices. The minimum contract term ends one year after the implementation of the last scheduled practices and a maximum term of ten years. Payments may not be received in every year that a contract is in force.

Record the total acres that were subject to conservation treatments under current contracts funded through the EQIP.

Include:

- 1) Acreage of fields/tracts where practices are applied (such as reduced tillage, terraces, and grassed waterways). For example, if a 1 acre grassed waterway drains storm water from 10 adjacent acres, include 10 acres.

- 2) Acreage of fields/tracts that are adjacent to field edge practices (such as filter strips, riparian buffers, or fences). For example, if a 1 acre filter strip captures nutrient runoff from a 20 acre field, include 20 acres. In another example, if fencing is installed to restrict access to 15 acres of sensitive habitat, or to establish a grazing boundary around 15 acres, include 15 acres.

The number of acres reported here may exceed total acres reported in Section A, if conservation treatments involve land not operated by the producer.

Note: EQIP contracts do not always provide a payment in every year of current contracts.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):

CSP (or CStP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to (1) reward good stewardship of agricultural resources and the environment and (2) promote further improvement (enhancement) of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on working agricultural lands. Both programs are administered by NRCS. Contracts can be 5-10 years in length. The Conservation Stewardship Program replaced the Conservation Security Program in 2008.

Conservation Security Program (CSP):

CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to (1) reward good stewardship of agricultural resources and the environment and (2) promote further improvement (enhancement) of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on working agricultural lands. Both programs are administered by NRCS. Contracts can be 5-10 years in length.

Note: The CSP stopped taking new contracts in 2008. Existing contracts are still in force and will be allowed to continue to maturity. Funding for the program is slowly ramping down. Because contracts can be for as long as 10 years, we will have some CSP payments well into this decade.

All other U.S. conservation programs:

Record the total number of acres the operation has enrolled in and the total amount of payments received from other U.S. conservation programs, including the following:

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP):

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. WRP is administered by NRCS. USDA provides technical and financial support to help landowners with wetland restoration efforts. USDA can purchase long-term or permanent easements that prohibit agricultural production or other non-wetland uses. About 90 percent of WRP acres are enrolled under 30 year or permanent easements. The program goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

Item 2e – Disaster and program payments

Agricultural Disaster Payments

Include the total amount of all market loss, disaster, or emergency assistance payments received from Federal programs. These programs include all Crop, Dairy, and Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs, the Crop Disaster Program, Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III (DDAP-III), Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), Emergency Conservation Program, Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP), Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), and Tree Assistance Program.

Exclude Federal crop insurance indemnity and other indemnity payments recorded later in Items 3e and 3f.

Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program:

Payments are issued when the effective price of a covered commodity is less than the respective reference price for that commodity. The payment is equal to 85 percent of the base acres of the covered commodity times the difference between the reference price and the effective price times the covered commodity's program payment yield.

County – Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC-CO) Program:

Payments are issued when the actual county crop revenue of a covered commodity is less than the ARC county guarantee for the covered commodity. Payments are based on county yields. The ARC county guarantee equals 86 percent of the previous five-year Olympic average national farm price (the ARC guarantee price) times the five-year Olympic average county yield (ARC county guarantee yield). Seventy percent of the county T-yield is substituted for any of the five years below it. Guarantee and actual revenue are computed using base acres. The payment is equal to 85 percent of the base acres of the covered commodity times the difference between the county guarantee and the actual county crop revenue for the covered commodity. Payments may not exceed 10 percent of the benchmark county revenue (the ARC guarantee price times the ARC-county guarantee yield).

Individual – Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC-IC) Program:

Payments are issued when the actual individual crop revenues, summed across all covered commodities on the farm, are less than the ARC individual guarantees summed across those covered commodities on the farm. The farm is the sum of the producer's interest in all individual ARC FSA farms in the state.

The farm's individual benchmark guarantee is the ARC guarantee price times the five-year Olympic average yield summed for all covered crops on the farm. Planted acreage is used. Actual revenue is computed similarly. The farm's ARC individual guarantee equals 86 percent of the farm's individual benchmark guarantee.

The individual ARC payment equals 65 percent of the sum of the base acres of all covered commodities on the farm, times the difference between the individual guarantee revenue and the actual individual crop revenue across all covered commodities planted on the farm. Payments may not exceed 10 percent of the individual benchmark revenue.

ARC-IC revenue loss payments are made when the current year revenue for all covered commodities planted on the farm falls below 86 percent of the farm benchmark revenue.

Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP – Dairy):

The Dairy Margin Protection Program replaces MILC. It will be effective not later than Sept. 1, 2014. The national dairy production margin is the difference between the all-milk price and average feed costs. MPP-Dairy offers protection to dairy producers when the national dairy production margin falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. Producers may purchase buy-up coverage that provides payments when margins are between \$4 and \$8 per cwt. Catastrophic coverage provides payments to participating producers when the national dairy production margin is less than \$4 per cwt. Adjusted gross income provisions do not apply to MPP-Dairy. To be eligible, dairy producers cannot be enrolled in the Risk Management Agency's Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy.

A participating dairy operation will receive a margin protection payment whenever the average actual dairy production margin for a consecutive two-month period is less than the coverage level threshold selected by the participating dairy operation. Payments may be reduced by a certain percentage due to the Sequester required by Congress.

Dairy Product Donation Program (DPDP):

DPDP does not make payments to producers. It purchases dairy products from processing plants and distributors.

All Other Federal, State, or Local Agricultural Program Payments

Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) Payments:

USDA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. MILC payments are made on a monthly basis when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per cwt as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. The MILC program was extended by the 2014 Farm Bill through Sept. 1, 2014, or until the new Margin Protection Program for dairy producers (MPP) is in place.

Record the total amount received by the dairy operation in calendar year 2015 from the MILC program.

Tobacco Buyout Payments Including Lump Sum Payments:

The Tobacco Transition Payment Program (also called the Tobacco Buyout Program) provides payments to tobacco quota holders and tobacco producers beginning in 2005 and ending in 2014. Payments for both quota holders and producers are recorded under this item.

Tobacco buyout programs exist in tobacco States where State Departments of Agriculture provide funds to producers to grow other agricultural commodities instead of tobacco. Record the total amount of payments received in 2015 from participation in the Tobacco Buyout Program.

Other Federal, State, & Local Programs:

Include Federal, State, and Local agricultural program payments not reported above, such as rental, cost share, and other incentive payments received. **Exclude** payments received from private, non-profit, or other non-governmental entities. **Exclude** payments received in 2015 from selling an easement. Generally, an easement permanently restricts use of the land (e.g., a grassland easement restricts cropping rights, and a farmland preservation easement restricts development), although some States specify a maximum easement term of about 30 years. **Exclude** CCC loan payments.

Item 3k – Income Received from Recreation and Agri-tourism Activities

Of the amount reported in Item 3j, report the portion that came from the activities listed below.

Item 3k (i) – Hunting and Fishing

Report the amount received from hunting and fishing, **including** access fees and guides.

Item 3k (ii) – Other Outdoor Recreation

Report the amount received from other outdoor recreation activities, such as horseback riding or birdwatching.

Item 3k (iii) – Hospitality Services, Overnight Guests, and Ranch Stays

Report the amount received from hospitality services, overnight guests, and ranch stays.

Item 3k (iv) – All Other Agri-Tourism

Report the amount received from all other agri-tourism activities, such as guided tours of the farm, ranch, or winery, entertainment services such as harvest festivals, on-farm rodeos, and petting zoos.

Section L – Farm Labor and Management

Item 1 – Ownership Interest by Blood, Marriage, or Adoptive Relatives

Report whether the operator and persons related to the operator by blood, marriage or adoption own more than 50 percent of the assets of this farm or ranch operation. Consider only farm or ranch assets owned – not rented or leased – by this operation, and exclude the assets held by non-family landlords and contractors.

Check ‘Yes’ for Item 1 if this is the case. Check “No” if this is not the case.

Persons related to the operator by blood, marriage, or adoption may live outside the operator’s household.

DO NOT include non-family landlords, contractors, or lenders as those with ownership interest. The purpose of this question is to accurately classify farm operations as family farms, because sometimes family members who share the ownership of the farm do not all live in the same household.

Item 11a (i) – Operator’s Unpaid Hours

Of the hours in Item 11a, report the number that were unpaid.

Item 11b (i) – Spouse’s Unpaid Hours

Of the hours in Item 11b, report the number that were unpaid.

Item 11c (i) – Other Operators and Household Members’ Unpaid Hours

Of the hours in Item 11c, report the number that were unpaid.

Item 12a – Average Number of Unpaid Workers

For each three-month period, report the average number of unpaid workers on the operation. **Exclude** operators, custom hire, and contract labor. This number correlates with the number of hours reported in Item 11d.

Item 12b – Average Number of Paid Workers

For each three-month period, report the average number of paid workers on the operation. **Exclude** operators, custom hire, and contract labor. This number correlates with the number of hours reported in Item 11e.

Item 13a – Operator Off-Farm Work Hours Per Week

For each three-month period, report the average number of hours per week the operator spent working off the farm. **Include** time spent working for a wage or salary, or for a non-farm business. **Exclude** time spent working at another farm/ranch and time spent commuting.

Item 13b – Spouse Off-Farm Work Hours Per Week

For each three-month period, report the average number of hours per week the operator's spouse spent working off the farm. **Include** time spent working for a wage or salary, or for a non-farm business. **Exclude** time spent working at another farm/ranch and time spent commuting.

Item 13c – Other Household Members Off-Farm Work Hours Per Week

For each three-month period, report the average number of hours per week other household members spent working off the farm. **Include** time spent working for a wage or salary, or for a non-farm business. **Exclude** time spent working at another farm/ranch and time spent commuting.

Item 16 – Sales of Value-Added Crops, Livestock, or Products

Record the gross value of sales of value added crops, livestock, or products produced and sold by the operation. Examples are beef jerky, fruit jams, preserves, floral arrangements, cider, wine, etc. Note that this is a subset of Item 3j in Section H.

Section M – Health Insurance

Item 7 – Age Distribution and Health Insurance Coverage in Operator's Household

Of the number of people in the principal operator's household reported for in Item 6, record the number for each age group in column 1. Include the operator and spouse. Keep in mind that the number of persons listed should equal the total number of people in the household reported in Item 6. For each age group, a farm household can have different insurance coverage.

Record the number of household members that were covered by health insurance at any time during 2015 in column 2. This number should not be greater than the number of household members reported by each age category.

Item 8a-e – Sources of Health Insurance

Record the number of household members in each age group (under 65 and 65 and over) whose health insurance was provided from the listed sources in Item 8 respectively. Individuals under the age of 26 are eligible for coverage under their parents' policies, if they are not eligible for coverage through their own employer's policies. Health insurance provided by this operation (item 8c) means that the premium expense was paid by the farm business and should be reported in Section F, Item 26.

Direct purchase private policy insurance means that the household, or someone in the household (and not the farm business), was responsible for the full premium. If the respondent

paid a partial premium and the rest was paid by an employer that should have been included in 8a, 8b, or 8c. If an individual outside of the household other than an employer, such as another family member not living in the operator's household, paid the full premium, record the coverage as a direct purchase private policy. If another source of health insurance was reported, write a note what that source is.

Any single individual could have coverage from more than one type of insurance source. For example, a person age 65 or older may have Medicare and a private plan. Since all persons 65 years and older are eligible for Medicare (as well as some others under 65) it is unusual to not have persons in that age group be enrolled in Medicare.

Item 8e (i) – Health Insurance Marketplace

If the operator purchased a health insurance policy from a health insurance marketplace from either a state health exchange or from the Federal government (e.g. Healthcare.gov), mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Section N.

Item 8e (ii) – Tax Credit

If the operator received a tax credit to help pay for the insurance premium, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Section N.

Item 8e (iii) – Tax Credit Amount

Report the amount of the tax credit received for the entire year.

Section O – Cotton Ginning (Version 2 Only)

Item 1 – Cotton Harvested

If the operation harvested any cotton in 2015, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Section P.

Item 2 – Cotton Ginned

If the operation ginned any cotton in 2015, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Section P.

Item 3 – Module Building or Hauling

If the gin charged the operation for any module building or hauling of the 2015 cotton crop, mark yes. Otherwise, mark no.

Items 4-8 – Cost of Cotton Ginning

The cost of ginning is usually paid by giving the cottonseed to the gin. Often neither the ginning expense nor the cottonseed income appear on the farmer's books. This information should appear on the operation's statement from the ginning company. You will have to probe for this information.

Occasionally, the cost of ginning is more than the value of the seed produced by the cotton. The operation then has out-of-pocket cash expenses for ginning.

In Item 4, indicate whether the cost of ginning the 2015 cotton crop was paid by cash (code 1), cottonseed (code 2), or both cash and cottonseed (code 3). If a cash payment was made for ginning the cotton (code 1 or 3), enter the total cost paid for ginning the 2015 cotton crop in Item 5. Include any costs for module building and hauling that were provided by the gin. If all or a portion of the cottonseed was exchanged for ginning (code 2 or 3), enter the total credit received for the cottonseed exchanged for ginning the cotton crop in Item 6. Include any credit for module building and hauling that were provided by the gin.

This will be the total value of the cottonseed if the cottonseed value was less than the ginning costs. In this case, we would expect to see a cash payment for the difference in Item 5. If the total value of the cottonseed exceeded the ginning cost, Item 6 would be the total value of only the portion of the cottonseed that was exchanged. If this is the case, the farm would likely receive a rebate in Item 7a for the value of the remaining cottonseed.

If the value of the operation's 2015 cottonseed crop exceeded the cost of ginning, including module building and hauling, mark yes for Item 7 and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Item 8. Report the total rebate the operation received from the gin in Item 7a.

If not already reported above, enter the total amount paid in dollars for compress, bag, and tie charges for the 2015 cotton crop. This information should appear on the operation's statement from the ginning company. You will have to probe for this information.

Item 9 – Average Weight of Cotton Bales

Report the average weight in pounds of cotton bales from the 2007 crop that were sold and/or are in storage.

Section O – Oats Drying (Version 3 Only)

Item 1 – Oats for Grain Harvested

If the operation harvested any oats for grain in 2015, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Section P.

Item 2 – Month Harvested

Report the month, numbered 01 (January) through 12 (December) in which the majority of the 2015 oats crop was harvested.

Item 3 – Crop Drying

Crop drying can be a considerable part of the operating and ownership costs of commodity production on some farms. Various fuels are used as a heat source to dry grain and electricity is used to power fans that force air through the grain or seed.

Record how much of the 2015 crop harvested was dried by each method. Custom drying may also be called commercial drying. If drying facilities on another operation were used to dry the crop, record this as custom drying. The category “dried other than custom dried” includes on-farm drying. Count the crop as dried only if fuel and/or electricity was used to remove moisture from the crop. Include the amount of crop that was left to dry completely in the field as not dried (item 3c).

Item 4 – Cost of Custom Drying

If any of the 2015 crop was custom dried, record the cost of custom drying the crop in either cents per bushel or total dollars for the entire crop. If total dollars are reported, be sure to include the landlord’s share.

Items 5-8 – Crop Drying By Operation

This question includes 3 parts that collect information about any crop drying that was done other than custom drying (item 3b).

In Item 5 record the main fuel type used to dry the 2015 crop. If more than one fuel type was used to dry the crop, enter the code for the fuel used to dry the largest portion of the crop.

In Item 6 record an estimate of the average percentage points of moisture removed by drying the 2015 crop. For example, if the oats were harvested at 14.5 percent average moisture and then dried to 13.0 percent moisture, enter 1.5 ($14.5-13.0=1.5$). Record the percent to the nearest tenth.

In item 7 record an estimate of the hours of each type of labor that were used to dry the 2015 crop. Include the time spent unloading and loading the crop, overseeing the drying, and hauling the dried crop to market. Exclude custom drying labor and contract labor.

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Record the primary type of facility used to dry the 2015 oats crop in item 8. Record how many of those (Item 8) facilities were used to dry the 2015 corn crop in Item 8a. Sum the total capacity of all the facilities, in bushels, and record that sum in Item 8b.

Section O – Hog Screening and Inventory (Version 4 Only)

Cost of production surveys are conducted for selected commodities on a rotating basis (every 4-8 years) to obtain data on production practices and the amount and costs of inputs used. These data are used as the basis for cost of production estimates until a new survey is conducted.

The last Hog Cost of Production survey was conducted for 2009. Since then there has not only been changes in the technologies and economic conditions that affect hog production, but also changes in legislation that affect farmers' decisions with regard to how they allocate resources both within the farm unit and among farm and other competing interests. Thus, new data are needed to provide for a greater understanding of hog production. Data collected on the 2015 ARMS will be used to describe important financial, structural, and environmental aspects of hog production. In addition, the data will provide the basis for hog cost of production for 2015 and over the next several years.

General Information

Report information for the hog operation only. The hog operation includes all hogs on the operation up until they are sold or otherwise moved for finishing or slaughter. Exclude the costs and input use for all hogs being raised by another operation unless the questionnaire specifically asks about them.

Include all hogs (located on the total acres operated by this operation) that were on this operation either owned or under contract. If this operation is a contractor or has hogs placed on other operations under contract, exclude the hogs placed on other operations.

Exclude information about costs, machinery and all other inputs used to produce feed for the hog operation. This includes, but is not limited to, information about harvested forage production and feed grain production. To avoid double-counting the costs, it is important that feed production practices and costs are excluded.

Item 1 – 25+ Hogs on Operation

If 25 or more hogs were located on the operation at any point in 2015, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Section W.

Item 2 – Peak 2015 Hog and Pig Inventory

Record the largest number of hogs and pigs located on this operation, regardless of ownership, at any time in 2015. If this operation is a contractor, exclude hogs and pigs that are located on the contractees' operations.

Item 3 – Production Arrangement

Enter the code that describes the operation's type of hog production arrangement. There are four choices: production contract, independent, cooperative, or more than one type.

Production contract arrangements are those where the operator is a contractee and a contractor owns the hogs and typically supplies some production inputs. Under independent production

arrangements the operator owns the hogs and supplies all production inputs. Independent producers may sell hogs on the open market or under a marketing contract. Cooperative production arrangements involve a group of producers who form a network or alliance to produce or market hogs.

Item 4 – Hog Inventory

In this table we get a description of the hog operation as it existed at the beginning and end of 2015. This lets us see if the operation was expanding or reducing its size, and also give some idea of the culling and marketing patterns the operation followed.

Item 4a – Sows, Gilts, and Young Gilts for Breeding

Include all sows, gilts, and young gilts bred or to be bred that are part of the operation's breeding stock. Include sows and gilts that were later sold for breeding stock if they were on hand on the reference date.

Item 4b – Boars and Young Males for Breeding

Include all boars and young males kept for breeding. Include those used for breeding to sows and gilts located off the operation. Include those that were later sold for breeding stock if they were on hand on the reference date.

Item 4c – Cull Breeding Stock

Include all sows, boars, and gilts culled from the breeding stock but on hand on the reference date. Include gilts that were originally intended to be part of the breeding stock but which were later culled.

Item 4d-g – Market Hogs

Include all hogs and pigs for market or home use in each of the weight categories. Include all weaned and unweaned pigs on hand that were not intended for breeding. Exclude breeding stock and cull breeding stock.

Column 2 – Beginning of Year Inventory

For each category listed in column 1, enter the number of head on hand on January 1, 2015. Include hogs and pigs that the selected operation was raising for another operation. If this operation is a contractor, exclude hogs and pigs being raised for the operation on the contractee's operation.

Column 3 – End of Year Inventory

For each category listed in column 1, enter the number of head on hand on December 31, 2015. Include hogs and pigs that the selected operation was raising for another operation. If this operation is a contractor, exclude hogs and pigs being raised for the operation on the contractee's operation.

Section P – Hog and Pig Purchases, Contract Placements, and Farrowings (Version 4 Only)

General Information

The purpose of this section is to collect information on:

- Purchases
- Contract Placements
- Farrowings
- Death Loss

Item 1 – Purchases and Contract Placements

The table in this item collects information separately for purchases by the operation and placements on the operation by contractors. Enter information about hogs purchased in columns 2, 3, and 5. Enter information about hogs placed on the operation under a production contract in columns 4 and 5. This will allow for analysis of contract versus non-contract operations. If you are interviewing a contractor, exclude data on hogs placed on a contractee's operation.

Item 1a – Bred and Open Gilts for Breeding

Include all gilts purchased or placed on the operation in 2015, whether already bred or to be bred, that were to be used for breeding.

Item 1b – Sows for Breeding

Include sows purchased or placed on the operation in 2015. In the rare situation where an operation buys cull sows to fatten for the slaughter market, they should be included here.

Item 1c – Boars for Breeding

Include all boars and young males for breeding purchased or placed on the operation in 2015. In the rare situation where an operation buys cull boars to fatten for the slaughter market, they should be included here.

Item 1d – Nursery Pigs

Include all pigs, regardless of age or weight, that were purchased or placed on this operation in 2015 and put in a nursery facility.

Item 1e – Feeder Pigs

Include all pigs, regardless of age or weight, that were purchased or placed on this operation in 2015 and put in a growing/finishing facility to be fattened for the slaughter market.

Column 2 - Purchases

For each of the four categories of hogs and pigs listed in column 1, record the total number purchased by the operation during 2015. Exclude those placed on the operation by contractors – those are recorded in column 4.

Column 3 – Amount Spent for Purchases

Record the total dollar amount paid by the operation to purchase the hogs and pigs recorded in column 2. Include commissions, and other such charges paid as part of the purchases. Do not include transportation costs.

Column 4 – Contract Placements

For each category of hogs and pigs in column 1, record the total number placed on the operation by all contractors during 2015.

Column 5 – Average Weight

For each category listed in column 1, record the average weight (in pounds per head) of all the hogs purchased or placed on the operation during 2015.

Item 2 – Gilts Kept for Breeding

If the operation kept any gilts for breeding in 2015, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Item 3.

Item 2a – Number of Gilts Kept for Breeding

Enter the number of gilts farrowed on this operation in 2015 which were kept for breeding. Include those which have been sold or culled but were originally intended to be used for breeding.

Item 3 – Litters Farrowed

If any litters were farrowed on this operation in 2015, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Item 4.

Item 3a – Number of Litters Farrowed

Record the number of litters farrowed on this operation in 2015. If the respondent cannot give the number of litters farrowed, it can be calculated by multiplying the number of sows farrowed times the average litters per sow during 2015.

The gestation period for hogs is 3 months, 3 weeks, and 3 days. Sows “normally” farrow twice per year with a maximum of three litters every 365 days.

Item 3b – Number of Pigs Born

Record the total number of pigs born (excluding stillborns and mummies) on the operation in 2015. Stillborn pigs are those that were fully developed but were born dead. Mummies are pig fetuses that died during gestation.

If the respondent cannot give the total number of pigs born, it can be calculated by multiplying the total number of litters farrowed (item 3a) times the average number of pigs born per litter. The average litter size is between 6-10 pigs with a normal range between 3 and 15. Average litter sizes of less than 3 or more than 10 pigs per litter should be explained in notes.

Item 3c – Number of Pigs Weaned

Record the total number of pigs born (Item 3b above) that were weaned in Item 3c.

Item 4 – Death Loss of Weaned Pigs

This question is asked of all operations, whether they farrowed litters or not, and includes all weaned pigs that died which were purchased, placed under contract, or born on this operation. This means that if the farmer purchased weaned pigs or they were placed on the operation under contract, report the number of these pigs that died before reaching market weight, as well as the number of weaned pigs born on this operation that died before reaching market weight.

Record the total number of weaned pigs that died on this operation in 2015 before they reached market weight. If the respondent cannot answer this question directly, it can be calculated by multiplying the number of weaned pigs purchased, placed, or born on the operation times the average death loss rate for pigs after they were weaned but before they reached market weight.

The normal death rate for weaned pigs is between 1 and 3 percent of the total. Unusually low or high death losses should be explained in notes. Exclude the unweaned pigs that died before they were weaned.

Section Q – Hog Sales and Contract Removals (Version 4 Only)

General Information

The purpose of this section is to collect information on the marketing and income patterns of the hog operation. Included are both sales and contract removals.

Item 1 – Sales and Contract Removals

The data in this table provides information on the operation's marketing patterns of breeding stock, cull stock, nursery pigs, feeder pigs and market hogs. Enter information about hogs sold on the open market or under a marketing contract in columns 2, 3, and 5. Enter information about hogs removed from the operation under a production contract in columns 4 and 5. This will allow for analysis of contract versus non-contract operations. If you are interviewing a contractor, exclude data on hogs removed from a contractee's operation.

Column 1 – Type of Hogs and Pigs

Most of the categories in this column have been described previously. Market hogs (1i) are hogs sold directly for slaughter. Exclude cull breeding stock from the market hogs category.

Column 2 – Number Sold

For each category listed in column 1, enter the total number sold from this operation in 2015. Exclude hogs and pigs removed from the operation under production contract arrangements. If the operation is a contractee only, skip to column 4.

Column 3 – Amount Received for Sales

Enter the total amount received (net of marketing charges) for sales of each category of hog and pig sales reported. Include sales on the open market or under a marketing contract. Exclude fees received for hogs and pigs removed under production contracts.

Column 4 – Contract Removals

For each category in column 1, record the total number removed under production contract arrangements during 2015.

Column 5 – Average Weight

For each category, enter the average weight of the hogs and pigs sold and/or removed under production contracts during 2015.

Section R – Land Use for Hog Production (Version 4 Only)

Item 1 – Total Acres Used for Hogs

Record the total acres that were used on this operation in 2015 for hog production. Include pastures, hog lots, building sites, manure storage facilities, etc. used to raise hogs.

Exclude acres used to produce crops to feed to hogs and acres to which hog manure was applied.

Item 2 – Acres That Were Pasture

In Item 2, record the number of acres used for hog production that was pasture that provided a source of feed for hogs.

Section S – Hog Housing (Version 4 Only)

Housing on many hog operations is a major capital expenditure. Information about the housing facilities will be used to estimate the capital usage and costs on hog operations and to provide insight into the efficiency of various types of operations.

The table in this section will only be blank in the extremely rare situation in which all hogs and pigs remained outside for 24 hours a day without shelter. Report all structures used to house hogs and pigs regardless of their age and condition.

Item 1 – Hog Housing Facilities

Information will be collected on facilities used for gestating gilts and sows, for farrowing, for nursery pigs, and for growing and finishing hogs (column 1).

If hogs or pigs are kept in pastures or dirt lots, record any structures in the lots used for hog shelters.

Column 2 – Types of Facilities/Buildings

Refer to the Hog Facility/Building Type Codes at the top of the page.

Enter the code for each type of facility used by the operation for each of the categories listed in column 1. Up to three types of facilities can be recorded for each category listed in column 1. More than one facility of the same type can be included on a single line if it has the same frame type, floor type, and manure handling system (columns 5, 6, and 7 are the same).

If the operation keeps weaned pigs in farrowing crates or pens, or if the weaned pigs were moved directly from farrowing facilities into growing/finishing facilities, do not duplicate these facilities by recording them as nursery facilities. For nursery facilities, we are interested only in separate facilities (although they can be in the same building) not used for these other purposes.

If the operation has separate breeding facilities, record these under gestating facilities (1a).

Column 3 – Number of Facilities

Record the number of facilities of this type on this operation. This column allows for more than one type of the same facility to be recorded on one line.

Column 4 – Frame Type

Refer to the Frame Type Codes at the top of the page. Enter the code which represents the type of frame of the facility listed in column 2. Be sure to record the type of frame, and not the type of siding. The frame type refers to what the building's exterior load bearing walls are constructed of.

Column 5 – Floor Type

Refer to the Floor Type Codes at the top of the page. Enter the code which represents the type of floor of the facility indicated in column 2.

Column 6 – Manure Handling Method

Refer to the Manure Handling Codes at the top of the page.

Enter the code which represents the type of manure handling method that was used in this facility. If the facility did not have a method for handling manure, use code “36 - none”.

Column 7 - Capacity

For each of the facilities listed in column 2, enter the total number of head of each category listed in column 1, that these facilities can house at a single point in time. If the operation has more than one facility of the same type (column 3 is greater than 1), enter the combined capacity of the total number of facilities on the line.

For farrowing facilities, report the total capacity as the number of sows only, not the number of sows and pigs.

Column 8 – Manure Storage Facility

Refer to the Manure Storage Codes at the top of the page.

Enter the code that represents the primary manure storage facility that was used with the facilities/buildings in Column 2.

Section T – Hog Feed (Version 4 Only)

Item 1 – Homegrown Feed

If the operator grew any of the feed fed to hogs and pigs on this operation during 2015, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Section U.

Column 1 – Type of Feed Grown On Farm

Refer to the list of Purchased Feed Type Codes below Item 2.

Record the name and code for each type of feed or feed supplement the operation grew on farm and fed to its hogs in 2015.

Column 2 – Total Amount Fed

For each type of feed or feed supplement listed in column 1, record the total quantity fed to hogs on the operation in 2015. Include homegrown feed only.

Column 3 – Unit Code

Enter the code for the unit in which the quantity in column 2 was reported.

Column 4 – Feed Storage Facility

Refer to the list of Hog Feed Facility Type Codes below Item 2.

For each type of feed reported, record the code which represents the type of storage facility that was most often used.

Section U – Hog Manure (Version 4 Only)

Item 1 – Type of Manure Handling System

Enter the code that best describes the type of manure handling system that was used to handle the majority of the hog manure on this operation in 2015. The following is information about these systems:

Dry System

Although use of open lots for swine production still occurs, this method of confinement generally is limited to small operations. Swine manure produced in open lots is handled as a solid in similar fashion as in beef cattle feedlots and dairy cattle drylots. In enclosed confinement facilities, swine manure is handled as either as a slurry or a liquid.

House Flush System

Flush systems utilize either fresh water or, more commonly, supernatant from an anaerobic lagoon to transport accumulated wastes to an anaerobic lagoon. Flush frequency can be daily or as frequently as every two hours. Frequency depends on flushed channel length and slope and volume of water used per flush. Because pigs will defecate as far away as possible from their feeding and resting areas, facilities with solid floors usually will have a flush channel formed in that area. With slatted floors, there usually are a series of parallel flush channels formed in the shallow pit under the slats.

Pit Recharge System

Pit recharge systems utilize relatively shallow pits that are drained periodically by gravity to an anaerobic lagoon. The frequency of draining varies but between four and seven days is standard. Pit recharge systems generally use 16 to 18 inch deep pits located under slatted floors. Previously, 24-inch deep pits were preferred, but now shallower pits are used. Following draining, the empty pit is partially refilled with water, typically with supernatant from the anaerobic lagoon. Generally, about six to eight inches of water is added.

Pull-Plug Pit System

Pull-plug pits are similar to pit recharge in that pit contents are drained by gravity to a storage or stabilization system. Pits are drained about every one to two weeks. However, water is not added back into the pit. The system relies on the natural moisture in the manure. Manure drained from pull-plug pits may be discharged to a manure storage tank or earthen storage pond or an anaerobic lagoon for stabilization and storage.

Deep-Pit System

Deep pits normally are sized to collect and store six months of waste in a pit located directly under a slatted flooring system. Accumulated manure is emptied by pumping. The accumulated manure may be directly applied to land or transferred either to storage tanks or

earthen storage ponds for land application later. Due to the relatively high total solids (dry matter) concentration in swine manure collected and stored in deep pits, irrigation is not an option for disposal.

Item 2 – Frequency of Manure Removal

Use the code that best represents the frequency that manure was removed from the hog housing and holding facilities in 2015.

Item 3 – System to Collect and Use Methane from Storage Facilities

If a system was used to collect and use the methane from the manure storage facilities, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Item 4. For Item 3a, mark yes if the collected methane was used for electricity generation. Otherwise, mark no. For Item 3b, mark yes if the collected methane was flared for disposal. Otherwise, mark no.

Item 4 – Manure Applied to Fields

If hog manure was applied to fields on this operation in 2015, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Section V. For Item 4a, record the number of acres, on this operation, that hog manure was applied to during 2015. If manure was applied to the same acres more than once during the year, count these acres only once. For Item 4b, if any commercial fertilizer was applied to the same (Item 4a) acres, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Section V. For Item 4c, if the commercial fertilizer application rates were adjusted to compensate for the nutrients provided by the hog manure applied on this operation, mark yes. Otherwise, mark no.

Section V – Hog Production Feeding and Biosecurity (Version 4 Only)

Item 1 – Nursery Pigs

If there were any nursery pigs on the operation in 2015, regardless of ownership, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Item 2. For Item 1a, mark yes if the nursery pigs were given (in feed or water) antibiotics for growth promotion.

Item 2 – Finishing Pigs

If there were any finishing pigs on the operation in 2015, regardless of ownership, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Item 2. For Item 2a, mark yes and go to Item 3 if the finishing pigs were given (in feed or water) antibiotics for growth promotion. Otherwise, mark no and continue. For Item 2b, use the appropriate code to denote the reason for not feeding antibiotics to finishing hogs.

Item 3 – Phase Feeding

If phase feeding of finishing hogs was practiced on the operation in 2015, mark yes and continue. Otherwise, mark no and go to Item 4. For Item 3a, record the number of different rations finishing hogs were fed on this operation in 2015.

Item 4a-c – All-In/All-Out (AIAO) Housing Systems

Most swine facilities have been operated on a continuous basis; that is, they always contain pigs of different ages and weights. Because pigs are always present, it is impossible to thoroughly clean, disinfect, or fumigate the environment. In all-in/all-out (AIAO) systems, pigs are commingled only with pigs of similar age and weight, and are kept together as they move through each production phase. AIAO can be done by room, by building, or by site. Marketing is done a room at a time, and rooms are washed and disinfected between groups of pigs in order to help decrease the spread of infectious diseases.

Ask if AIAO was used in the farrowing, nursery, and growing/finishing facilities on the operation in 2015. If the operator does not know, write “DK” next to the item code.

Items 5-11 – Other Biosecurity Practices

Indicate if the other management practices listed were applicable to the operation. If the operator does not know, write “DK” next to the item code.

Since its introduction in 1989, Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) has become the pork industry’s flagship educational program. The PQA Plus program provides producers with information about on-farm Good Production Practices (GPPs) for the promotion of pork safety and pig well-being. Development of the PQA Plus program, which began in 2006, added animal well-being

and site assessment components (portions of which were formerly known as SWAP) to the PQA program.

The PQA Plus program is comprised of two main elements—food safety and animal well-being. Food safety refers to the practices that minimize physical, chemical, or biological hazards that might be injurious to consumers. Animal well-being encompasses producer responsibilities for all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and when necessary, humane and timely euthanasia.