



## Pecan Training Materials

Below you will find links to a video, PowerPoint presentation, survey information sheet, and practice interviews for NASS's Pecan Inquiry. The practice interviews can be used to enter data in CATI or CAPI to get familiar with those data collection instruments.

<b>Links</b>	<b>Length (minutes/pages)</b>
<a href="#"><u>Pecan Inquiry Overview Video</u></a>	12
<a href="#"><u>Pecan Inquiry Overview Presentation</u></a>	15
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Strategic Planning and Business Services Division  
Strategic Planning Branch  
Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section

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## DCC Survey Training

# Pecan Inquiry – October and December (PECAN AP)



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



Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section



# Pecan Inquiry – Uses of the Data

- Helps producers develop marketing plans for their operations.
- Enables the industry to forecast transportation and storage requirements and evaluate export potential.
- Used by USDA agencies to determine disaster aid payments along with other program benefits.
- Used by grower organizations to help form policy positions.

# General Survey Information

- Questionnaires:
  - Mail mid-September and mid-November
  - Web reporting option available
- Release of data:
  - *Crop Production*
  - Typically, around October 10 -12 and December 8-10, 12.00 PM (Eastern)



NASS website: [www.nass.usda.gov/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/)



# Pecans



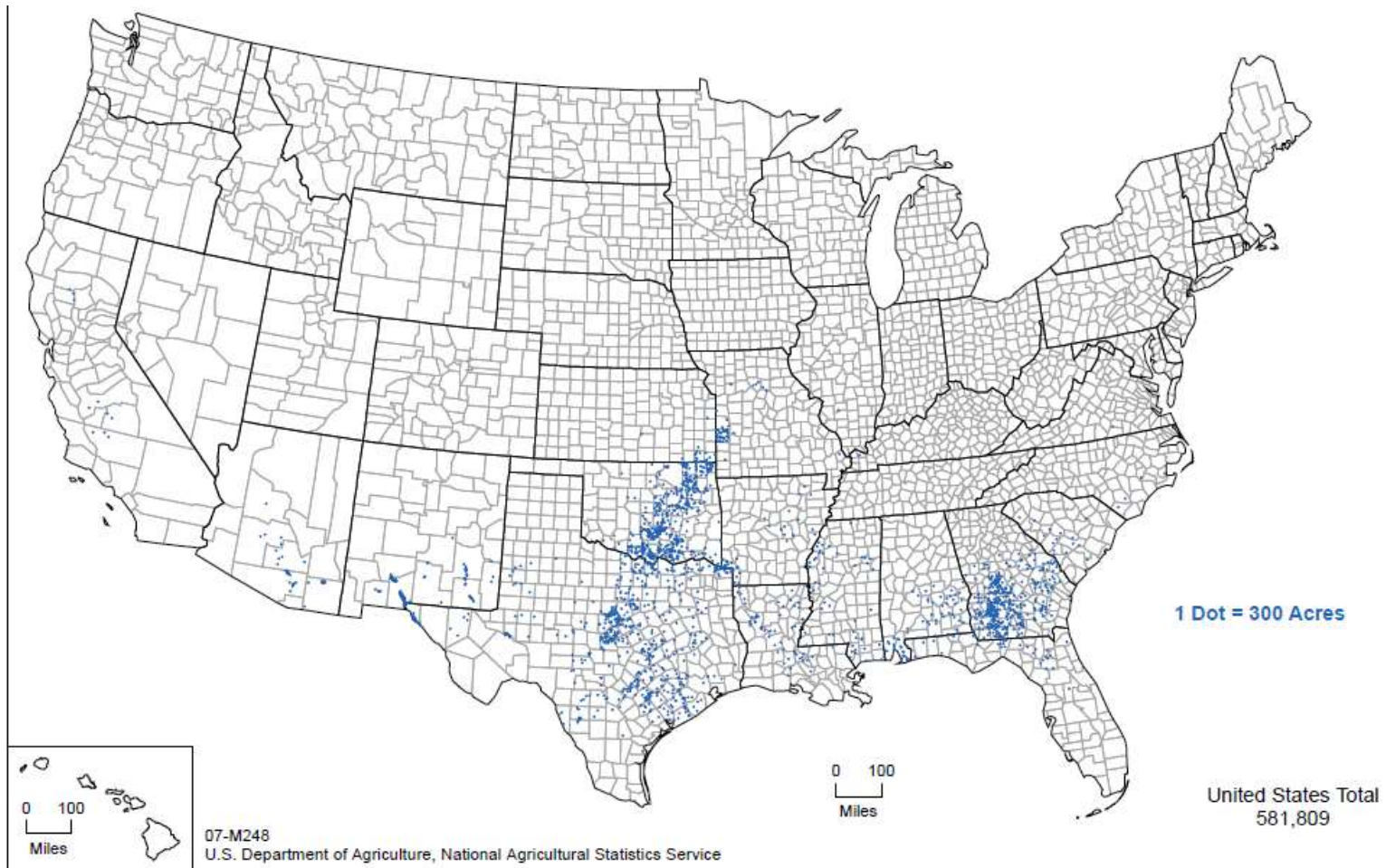
# Definitions

- **Improved Varieties:** These trees are the result of careful grafting and budding.
  - Usually planted in managed, cultivated groves.
  - Shell is much thinner than that of the seedling and consequently its meat yield is normally higher.
  - The appearance is nicer and larger, making it a favorite of home cooks and gourmet commercial users.
- **Native or Seedling:** Growing wild, usually unattended and not cultivated.
  - However, there are some large areas where they are well-managed and cultivated.
  - The nut is smaller than the improved type but its flavor and full firm meat make it especially adaptable for commercial uses.

# Definitions

- **Total Acres:** Net acres in commercial orchards or groves. Includes bearing and non-bearing acreage.
- **Bearing Acres:** Fruit or nut trees of sufficient age to produce a marketable crop.
- **Alternate Bearing:** Resulting from carbohydrate build-up, this phenomenon produces normal to above normal yields one year, followed by smaller yields the next year.

# Additional Information





# Harvesting Pecans



# Questionnaire Versions

- Version 1: Arizona, Georgia, New Mexico
  - Only asking for ‘pecans’
- Version 2: Oklahoma and Texas
  - Asks both ‘Improved’ and ‘Wild Native’



# Survey Questions Vers. 1 (AZ, GA, NM)

- Any pecan acreage this year?
- Total acres of pecan trees maintained?
- How many bearing age acres this year?
- Total pounds harvested/to be harvested this year
- Note:
  - Acres are collected to nearest tenth.
  - Production in total pounds. Leave a note if yield/acre is given or if a different unit is used.
    - In shell weight

# Survey Questions Vers. 2 (OK, TX)

- Improved Varieties and Wild Native/Seedling Varieties asked separately.
  - Questions are the same as Version 1 for each variety.
- For Wild Native variety, operator may report number of trees instead of number of acres.



# Things to Watch Out For

- Large acreage
- Large changes in acreage
- Low bearing to total acres
- High/low yield
- Improved + Native variety amounts don't match up with total acres or pounds





# Things to Be Aware Of

- Some farmers may say it's too soon to know production. Ask for best estimate
- Asking for current year crop
  - Harvest begins in the fall for some and extends into the next year
- We want them to only include the current crop year harvest information

# Things to Be Aware Of

- If the respondent doesn't know which variety he or she has, record the acreage, and leave a comment!
- If the respondent gives a name for the tree, for example Pawnee or Kiowa, it's likely an improved variety. Leave a comment!
- If trees are scattered in a pasture, get the best estimate of tree acres and not pasture acres.

# Conclusion

- Notes are your friend:
  - When in doubt, comment it out
  - Extra information is especially important for specialty crops
- Questions?? Concerns!!
- Practice before contacting producers!



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## Pecan AP Survey Information

**General:** The report forms asks for improved variety pecan data. Some farmers don't understand the terminology NASS uses, namely improved, seedling and native varieties. If a farmer says they don't know what their variety is, or they insist they don't grow improved varieties, ask for their bearing acres and production anyway and key it anyway or put it in a note. Specify in comments that the farmer said variety was not improved.

Watch for number of trees reported instead of acres. Bearing acres should be equal to or less than total acres. When asking bearing acres, make sure to ask for all bearing acres. Not just the acres they harvested from.

The improved varieties are planted in New Mexico and other parts of the southwest, native and seedling varieties are not grown in New Mexico. New Mexico has been getting a lot of rain which should be good for the crop. Acres are on the rise in New Mexico.

Federal marketing order: The marketing order requires the farmer pay a few cents per pound sold so that money can be used for the benefit of the pecan industry. The marketing order was designed to gather credible data on inventories, imports, supply & demand. Some think this will merely drive prices higher. As a side note, the pecan industry is the driving force behind the order, not the USDA. The USDA is administering it at the request of the industry.



## Pecan Marketing Order:

For more marketing order

info: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/13/2021-00328/pecan-promotion-research-and-information-order#:~:text=The%20pecan%20marketing%20order%20authorizes,grown%20in%20the%20production%20area.>

The Federal Marketing Order for Pecans has been specifically tailored to the Pecan industry's challenges and is used to:

- Market and promote Pecans to increase demand and prices
- Gather and publish accurate industry data
- Coordinate and invest in Pecan research, including product development
- Establish grade, quality and size standards
- Establish packaging and container standards

Neither the USDA nor the Federal Government charges the Pecan industry or its participants to assist the Pecan industry in the creation and management of the Federal Marketing Order for Pecans – it is Pecan money utilized solely for the benefit of Pecans.





# Pecan Inquiry Practice Interviews

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**Both practice interviews below have data for improved and wild native pecans. If the record you are practicing in does not ask for the varieties to be broken out, just input the data for the improved varieties.**

## **Practice Interview 1:**

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone numbers that I have for this operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**

Did this operation have any pecan acreage in 20XX? **Yes**

How many total acres of pecan trees were maintained in 20XX? **15**

How many bearing age acres of pecan trees were maintained in 20XX? **14.8**

Of these 14.8 bearing age acres, how many acres were Improved Varieties? **14.8**

Of these 14.8 bearing age acres, how many acres were wild native varieties? **0**

How many total pounds of the 20XX pecan crop were or will be harvested? **10,500**

Of these 10,500 total pounds, how many pounds were or will be Improved Varieties? **10,500**

Of these 10,500 total pounds, how many pounds were or will be wild native varieties? **0**

Comments about the 20XX pecan crop in your locality. **No**

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another farm or ranch? **No**

Would you rather have a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**



## Practice Interview 2:

Who is responding? **Spouse, Suzie Farmer**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone number that I have for this operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**

Did this operation have any pecan acreage in 20XX? **Yes**

How many total acres of pecan trees were maintained in 20XX? **5**

How many bearing age acres of pecan trees were maintained in 20XX? **5**

Of these 5 bearing age acres, how many acres were Improved Varieties? **0**

Of these 5 bearing age acres, how many acres were wild native varieties? **5**

How many total pounds of the 20XX pecan crop were or will be harvested? **1,750**

Of these 1,750 total pounds, how many pounds were or will be Improved Varieties? **0**

Of these 1,750 total pounds, how many pounds were or will be wild native varieties?  
**1,750**

Comments about the 20XX pecan crop in your locality. **“Had some trees lost due to high winds, which caused a decrease in overall production.”**

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another farm or ranch? **No**

Would you rather have a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**

