

# 2024 ARMS III Workshop



Federal law prohibits tampering with, disabling, or destroying a lavatory smoke detector.



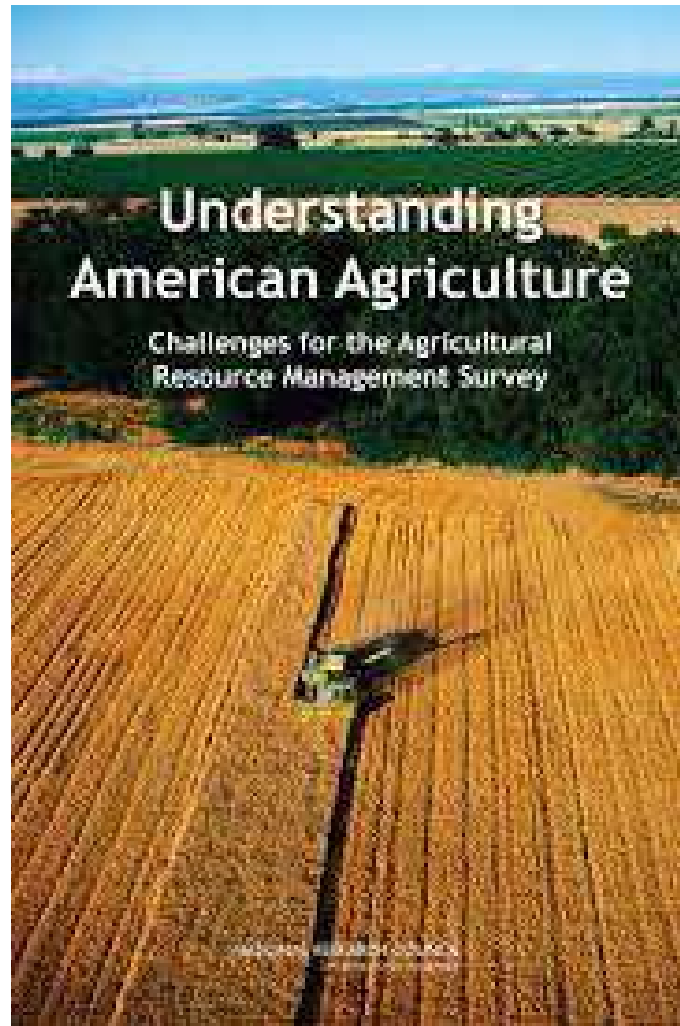






# Data Drives the Conversation & Decision Making





## Chapter 2

### PRIORITY USES OF ARMS DATA

The ARMS program represents a significant investment of time, talent, respondent burden, and resources. To justify this investment, the survey must be responsive to a set of core requirements that address legislative, programmatic, and analytical needs. These core requirements build on those of the predecessor surveys, which conveyed into ARMS when it was established in 1996, and have been supplemented by more contemporary and changing requirements.<sup>1</sup>

The task of meeting these core requirements translates into a series of priorities for the ARMS program. The data items needed to meet the core requirements have largely been maintained and protected by making sure these items are included before any other items are added. For the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Economic Research Service (ERS), these priorities affect the content of the questionnaires, which in turn are instrumental to the survey's ability to meet the core requirements.

### Mandated Uses

USDA is required by Congress, through both authorizing and appropriation legislation, to produce a sizeable portion of the data items that are included in ARMS. Cost-of-production data are required by several pieces of legislation, and one piece of legislation is very specific. The U.S. Code states that the "Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the land grant colleges, commodity organizations, general farm organizations, and individual farmers, shall conduct a cost of production study of the wheat, feed grain, cotton, and dairy commodities under the various production practices and establish a current national weighted average cost of production. This study shall be updated annually and shall include all typical variable costs, including interest costs, a return on fixed costs, and a return for management" (U.S. Code, Title 7).

Environmental and food safety legislation call for data on chemical use on field crops. The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 require NASS to collect data on field crop chemical use and publish those data annually (in the Agricul-



- **Staff analysis:** ARMS data are used to respond to informational requests from non-profit groups and government stakeholders such as other USDA agencies, Congress, and the White House.

#### Topic Area Highlights and Economic Implications

The core research and data program of the Economic Research Service covers the breadth of USDA programs touched by farm legislation: farming, nutrition, conservation, rural development, research, and energy. These webpages provide highlights and summaries of important new programs and provisions, as well as some economic implications of the new farm legislation based on ERS expertise, in the following policy areas.

[Crop Commodity Programs](#) (includes provisions from Titles I and XI)

[Dairy & Livestock](#) (includes provisions from Titles I and XII)

[Conservation](#) (includes provisions from Titles II and XI)

[Nutrition](#) (Title IV only)

[Rural Development](#) (Title VI only)

[Research, Extension, and Related Matters](#) (Title VII only)

[Energy](#) (Title IX only)

[Crop Insurance](#) (includes provisions from Titles XI and XII)

[Specialty Crops](#) (includes provisions from Titles III, IV, VII, and X)

[Organic Agriculture](#) (includes provisions from Titles II, VII, X, and XI)

[Local and Regional Foods](#) (includes provisions from Titles IV, V, VI, and X)

[Beginning Farmers and Ranchers](#) (includes provisions from Titles II, V, VI, VII, XI)

[Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers](#) (includes provisions from Titles II, V, VI, VII, and XII)



SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2023

# USDA Forecasts Sharpest Decline in U.S. Farm Income in History

## Key Takeaways

- *Highlighting the volatility inherent in farming and farm income, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) most recent farm income forecast projects U.S. net farm income, a broad measure of farm profitability to plummet by \$42 billion in 2023 to \$141 billion, resulting in a 23% income drop compared to the year prior. If realized, the \$42B decline in U.S. net farm income will be the largest on record in nominal terms and the third largest of all time when adjusted for inflation.*
- *Given expectations for elevated production expenses alongside weakening crop and livestock prices, farm incomes are likely to be pressured even lower in 2024. **The opportunity for Congress to invest in a meaningful and enhanced farm safety net and suite of risk management tools while reauthorizing the farm bill should be a top priority given the headwinds facing the farm economy.***





# High expenses bite farmers as prices weaken heading into farm bill

02/08/23 6:40 AM By Philip Brasher

KEYWORDS [CORN](#) [COTTON](#) [DAIRY](#) [ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE](#) [FARM BILL](#) [FARM INCOME FORECAST](#) [SOYBEANS](#) [USDA](#)  
[WHEAT](#)

USDA's latest farm income forecast could provide some ammunition to farm groups and their allies in Congress who argue that soaring production costs are eating into farm earnings while producers have little chance of seeing payments from commodity programs.



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

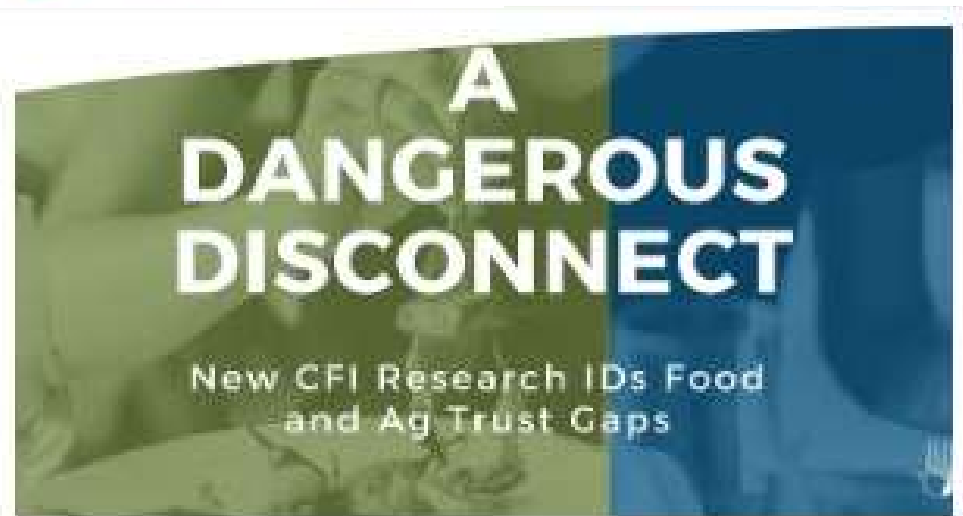


U.S. | THE NUMBERS

# Falling Survey-Response Rates Undermine Economic Data

The declines skew government measures of inflation and the job market

In recent months, markets have been laser-focused on every scrap of economic data for evidence on [whether inflation is coming down](#) or [a recession is approaching](#). Unfortunately, that data suffers from a growing problem: reduced responses from the people whose activity it seeks to measure.



In most consumers' eyes, transparency is no longer optional. In fact, **if consumers do not deem an organization to be transparent, they believe the organization does not have a good story to tell or that they must be hiding something.**

# After years of resisting, Netflix releases viewing statistics for nearly all titles

PUBLISHED TUE, DEC 12 2023 2:54 PM EST | UPDATED TUE, DEC 12 2023 4:17 PM EST



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## KEY POINTS

- Netflix is increasing transparency for almost all the movies and shows on its service.
- Netflix will release “What We Watched” reports every six months.
- Co-CEO Ted Sarandos said Netflix’s protectiveness of its data has led to distrust in the creative community.





## Lost Connections

Bridging the Gap Between Consumers and Food Producers

1/17/2020 | 5:58 AM CST



By Victoria G. Myers, Progressive Farmer Senior Editor

- Roxi Beck, who grew up on her family's dairy farm in Minnesota and today works with The Center for Food Integrity (CFI), a not-for-profit group whose mission is to help today's food system earn consumer trust said **where farmers and ranchers fear there is too much danger in being transparent, that space will be filled with other voices happy to tell their version of ag's story. "They will tell your story in a way that you are not going to be pleased with," she added.**



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

