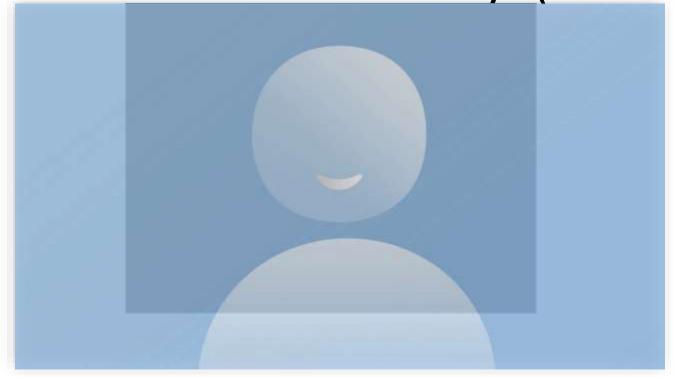# Introduction to the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey (VCUS)

Videos

- Introduction & Purpose
- Face Page & Screening
- Section A: Land Operated
- Section B: Vegetable Acres
- Section D: Pesticide Applications

- Section E: Pest Management
- Conclusion
- AZ/CA Survey Differences

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Background

- NASS began collecting agricultural pesticide and fertilizer use data in 1990 in response to the Water Quality Initiative passed by Congress.

- Along with NASS, several other USDA agencies collect and analyze agricultural chemical use and residue data.
  - The aggregation of these data form the basis of the USDA Pesticide Data Program (PDP)

- The Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) which was implemented in 1996 and requires the EPA to conduct a review of tolerance levels for re-registration of pesticide products also relies on the USDA PDP.

Purpose

- To collect fertilizer usage, pesticide usage, and pest management practices from producers of targeted crops.

    - Evaluate water quality

    - Assess food safety

    - Study potential human exposure to pesticide residues

    - Review tolerance levels for re-registration of pesticide products

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Why do we need the data?

- Growers can show how they manage chemical applications responsibly.

- To establish facts about chemical use and lessen concern relating to marketing and exports.

- Actual usage data used in the decision-making process for product registration, re-registration, and product alternatives.

- Answer questions about food supply & safety and water quality.

Data Users

- Growers

- News media

- Processors

- Foreign buyers

- Food and Drug Administration

- Agricultural Marketing Service

- Economic Research Service

- Environmental Protection Agency

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Changes from 2022

- Section C: Fertilizer Applications removed
- Conclusion
  - Dropped item code
    - 1095 (To have a brief summary emailed to you, please enter your email address)
  - Added the following:
    - Item code 9929 (Operator Email)
    - Item code 9918 (Operator Phone)
    - Item codes 9917 and 9920 (Check to receive the results by email)

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AGRICULTURE COUNTS

Changes from 2022

- **Target commodities changed for some states**

- New Jersey
  - \+ Asparagus
- Texas
  - \- Pumpkins
- Washington
  - \- Asparagus
  - \- Carrots

- California
  - \- Asparagus
- Arizona
  - \- Cantaloupes
- Wisconsin
  - \- Carrots

Thank you!