

2023 Agricultural Production Survey Content: Submission Form

Stats NZ and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) are now seeking submissions for the 2023 Agriculture Production Survey (APS). If you have a suggestion relating to a change in the current questionnaire or for a new question, please complete and return this form.

The strategy for the 2023 APS is for minimal changes to the survey content. Under this strategy, Stats NZ and MPI can consider limited changes to existing topics to improve the survey's relevance and data quality. New topics can be raised for consideration, where the APS is the appropriate vehicle for collection.

In the current programme, information about horticultural production is not collected every year. Horticulture questions will not be included in the 30 June 2023 survey. Submissions related to horticulture are welcome and will be considered. However, any accepted changes will not be made until the next survey year that includes horticulture.

To view the publicly available outputs from the APS, please refer to the [Stats NZ website](#).

To make a submission, please complete the submissions form below and email it as an attachment to jovanna.leonardo@stats.govt.nz.

Submissions must reach Stats NZ by 5pm on Friday 15th July 2022.

Included with this form for your use and reference:

1. 2022 Agricultural Production Census (APC) - this year's census (held every 5 years). The census includes all available questions, including horticulture questions that will not be included in the 2023 APS.
2. 2021 Agricultural Production Survey (APS) - the last survey completed. This survey did not include horticulture questions.

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Suggested changes for the 2023 Agricultural Production Survey

1. What changes / additions would you like made to the 2023 APS questionnaire?

Please clearly describe suggestions relating either to a change in existing questions or relating to new questions. (Please expand the box below as necessary)

Question 93, on page 26.

During the year ended 30 June 2022, what area of the farm was **actually irrigated** using each of the following systems?

We strongly recommend separating out one of the options – ‘all other outdoor travelling and sprayline systems not otherwise covered

• eg guns, fixed and rotary booms, pods, long laterals, K-line, side roll, hand shift pipe, solid set - fixed grid’

This is because it is inappropriate to group technologies like side rolls and hand shift pipes with solid set systems. This question is including much more efficient and newer technologies with outdated systems and therefore does not reflect the farming industry’s adoption of new irrigation innovations. Side rolls and hand shift pipes are

much older machinery that has been around since at least the 1950s. Solid set is a modern advance that has the potential to revolutionise the efficiency of water application on farms. This question, therefore, results in a data point that is not useful. It is now as viable an option as pivots, and this is counted as a separate data point, as solid set should also be.

There is also a significant difference in how these systems affect farm production. Solid-set systems change the amount of labour needed, making it almost entirely automated. They are also much more water-efficient and are part of the movement towards precision agriculture. This means that less water is extracted from environmental sources, and water is retained much better in the root zone. This is because solid-set is a closer match to soil types and water holding capacity. Therefore, you see better productivity of land that is irrigated with solid-set technology. Pivot irrigators are looked at separately as they are more efficient than older technologies, therefore applying the same logic, so should solid-set irrigators.

2. Why are these changes/additions needed and who will benefit from them?
(Please expand the box below as necessary)

Understanding the number of farmers and growers that are using solid set irrigators is key to understanding what rate they are using newer, more innovative and more water-efficient irrigating technologies.

3. If a suggested change represents an additional topic, what are the current sources of this information? (Please expand the box below as necessary)

We do not consider this suggestion an additional topic, just an amendment to the current question to make it more reflective of the reality of the technology. Farmers and growers will have this information available to them on their farm management plans and their irrigation scheduling plans. Some useful resources to look at as evidence of the need for this amendment are:

- <https://www.rxp.co.nz/irrigation/g-set/>
- <https://www.waterforce.co.nz/fixed-solid-set-sprinklers-new>

Also, Irrigation New Zealand is available and eager to engage further on these issues and share our expertise, should Stats NZ be interested. Please feel free to contact Stephen McNally, our Principal Technical Advisor - smcnally@irrigationnz.co.nz.

