

PDP Funding Secure for FY2009 – Confusion in Recent News Reports

Recent news publications appear to have confused and improperly combined two different U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs: the NASS Agricultural Chemical Usage Program which is administered by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Pesticide Data Program (PDP) which is administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The NASS program, a survey of farming practices that collects and publishes chemical usage data for crops grown in the U.S., has been proposed for elimination in fiscal year 2009. The AMS PDP, a program that chemically tests agricultural commodities and publishes data on pesticide residues in foods, is not proposed for elimination. PDP was initiated in 1991 to collect data on pesticide residues in food, and now has an important role in the implementation of the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). This law directs the Secretary of Agriculture to collect pesticide residue data on commodities most frequently consumed by infants and children. PDP data are used primarily by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess dietary exposure for evaluation of pesticide risks.