

In this issue:

- A NASS Application in the works to meet the GPEA deadline

“EDR”- NASS’ Response to GPEA

This issue of the eAuthentication update focuses on an application that will help the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) meet the requirements of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA). This new application addresses Electronic Data Reporting (EDR) for NASS surveys. EDR helps workflow processing and provides customers with electronic alternatives for conducting their business with NASS.

Each year, NASS conducts hundreds of surveys and prepares reports covering virtually every facet of U.S. Agriculture – production and supplies of food and fiber, prices paid and received by farmers, farm labor and wages.

In the past, surveys were conducted through the mail, on the telephone, or by actually visiting farmers and agribusinesses. With EDR, NASS plans to add to their list of services by allowing respondents to complete and submit surveys online.

How Customers Access EDR

To access EDR, a survey respondent must log in with his/her eAuthentication User ID and Password (customers who have not registered with eAuthentication are directed to the eAuthentication registration page). In EDR, NASS tracks which surveys each user is eligible to complete by using a unique agency identifier.



The first time a user logs into EDR, NASS conducts a one-time mapping process that matches its unique identifier to the USDA Unique ID. This allows EDR to understand which user is accessing the system and to direct that customer to the appropriate survey(s). On subsequent visits, a user can access EDR with full functionality using just his/her eAuthentication User ID and Password.

EDR’s Advanced Functionality

EDR is more than just a simple collection of online surveys; it offers the following advantages:

- EDR uses a new application called the Question Repository System (QRS) that allows NASS to more efficiently create both paper and online questionnaires. The QRS enforces standardization of questionnaires between the two modes as well as across the questionnaire versions used from state to state.
- The majority of NASS survey data is currently collected over the telephone or by actually visiting respondents. With EDR, respondents face a less burdensome survey/data collection process since they can respond at their convenience.
- NASS benefits from data collected via EDR in two ways:
 1. EDR survey data is cheaper to obtain since no interviewer is needed.
 2. EDR collected data is already in electronic form, which eliminates the expense of NASS staff keying data from paper questionnaires.

NASS is one of several agencies using the eAuthentication service to support electronic access for customers. In addition, NASS has moved beyond simply posting its forms and surveys online. NASS is undertaking a business process redesign effort that captures the true spirit of GPEA and eGovernment.

In the Next Issue

- All about Identity Management- questions answered and facts delivered

For more information or questions, contact the eGovernment – eAuthentication Team at:

- Phone: (202) 720-6144
- eMail: egov@usda.gov
- Web: www.egov.usda.gov