All About NASS
Providing useful agricultural data to help data users work smarter.

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Administrator
National Agricultural Statistics Service
As the official statistical agency of the USDA, the National Agricultural Statistics Service provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.
Who is NASS?

- Survey Statisticians
- Mathematical Statisticians
- Survey Methodologists
- Commodity Analysts
- IT Professionals
- Public Affairs Specialists
- Geographers
- Statistical Researchers

800+ staff across the country
3,000 Part-time NASDA enumerators collecting data
Our History

First Agricultural Statistician
- George Washington (August 1791)
- 8 survey questions to 5 states
- Focused on land values, prices, yields

The Birth of USDA
- Established by Lincoln (1862)
- Intended for information gathering
- First crop report: July 1863
Our History

Introduction of NASS
- Established in 1863
- Named the “Division of Statistics”
- First report on crop conditions

NASS Today
- More than 850 personnel
- Serving all 50 states and Puerto Rico
- Centralized data collection and processing
- 3,000 enumerators
NASS is one of four science and research agencies in the Research Education and Economics Mission Area (REE)
Our Core Values

- Policy relevance
- Objectivity
- Credibility
- Trust
- Commitment
What We Do

- Collect, assemble, process, and disseminate U.S. agricultural data.
- Conduct hundreds of annual surveys.
- Publish over 450 statistical reports annually.
- Conduct the detailed Census of Agriculture every 5 years.
- Partner with state ag departments, trade associations, universities, and others.
- Conduct research to advance statistical science.
What We Do

• Set policy.
• Regulate activities.
• Permit influence.
• Disclose the identity of respondents.
• Favor any group above others.

What We Do Not Do
What is “Lockup”?
Agricultural Statistics
Board Process
Why is a Board Process Used?

- To avoid errors
- To ensure consistent review
- To evaluate National indications
- To ensure highest security
Preparing Statistics

• Estimates based on data:
  • Producers
  • Agri-businesses
  • Administrative data
  • Objective measurements
  • Satellite Data
Survey and Estimation Process

**Headquarters**
- Specify Content
- Survey Design
- Sampling
- Training
- Systems Support

**Field Offices**
- Maintain Farm Lists
- Hire/Train Enumerators
- Collect Data
- Data Analysis
- Preliminary Estimates

**Headquarters**
- National Review
  - Survey
  - State Estimates
  - Administrative
  - Final State Estimates
  - Prepare Final Estimates & Publish

**Field Offices**
- State
  - Local Estimates

**Headquarters**
- Federal
  - State Estimates

Statistics Prepared Under “Lock-up” Conditions

- Corn Yield Forecasts
- Soybean Yield Forecasts
- Cotton Yield Forecasts
- Wheat Yield Forecasts
- Citrus Production
- Grain Stocks
- Acreage
- Cattle
- Hogs and Pigs
Major Academic Disciplines

- Agricultural Economics & Agricultural Business
- Agricultural Marketing
- Animal Science
- (or other agriculture related disciplines)
- Business & Economics
- Mathematics
- Statistics
- Environmental Science
- Computer Science
- Data Science
We are committed to providing useful agricultural data to help data users work smarter.

Our Commitment

For more information, visit www.nass.usda.gov

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