



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE STATISTICS DIVISION

WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S CHANGED, & WHAT'S COMING?

NASS Mission Statement: To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. Agriculture.

2002 Census of Agriculture

The 2002 Census of Agriculture questionnaires will be mailed in December 2002. The Census of Agriculture is done once every 5 years, in years ending in two and seven. This census will provide information at the county, State, and National levels, showing in detail how farmers and ranchers stand today compared to 5 years ago. New information from the 2002 Census of Agriculture will include data on production contracts, acres treated with manure, computer and Internet access, sales of organically produced commodities, and demographics on up to three operators per farm. Release of the 2002 Census of Agriculture data will be on February 3, 2004.

General

In February 2002, NASS published the *Guide to the Sample Surveys and Census Programs of NASS*. This publication contains a series of information sheets describing the major NASS programs. These sheets are designed to provide a concise description of the purpose, coverage, content, methods, products, and uses of data for each program.

Crops

NASS published a new table in the November 2001 *Crop Production* report showing the frequency distribution of corn plant populations. The distribution was shown for the 2001 year and four previous years for comparison. The data were compiled from the Corn Objective Yield survey conducted in seven States.

A new table included in the August *Crop Production* report was for winter wheat head counts. The wheat head counts table detailed survey results by State from the August Winter Wheat Objective Yield survey. Also included in the table were final counts from previous years and previously reported July survey results.

The September and October *Crop Production* reports include additional Objective Yield survey data which supplements the data that have been published in the past. The survey data tables for corn, cotton, and soybeans continue to be published in September and include historical data for each month the survey is conducted as well as final average corn plant and ear counts. Objective yield average fruit count tables will be published each month during the forecast season with

October cotton boll counts and soybean pod counts published for the first time. Corn plant and ear count averages were also published for irrigated and non irrigated fields in the Objective Yield survey for Nebraska.

NASS discontinued the small grain acreage, yield, and production forecasts in the September *Crop Production* report because the only new information is on yields and any new acreage data are not available until the final report. This has been confusing to data users to publish a production forecast in the September *Crop Production* report and 2 to 3 weeks later, publish a new production number in the *Small Grains* report. The *Small Grains* report containing the annual acreage, yield, and production estimates is published the last working day of September.

Starting in 2002, Missouri was added to the rice progress and condition tables in the weekly *Crop Progress* report. Information on NASS survey and estimating procedures used to prepare this report was also added.

Beginning in 2002, NASS reduced the number of vegetable crops estimated in the five *Vegetables* reports, *Annual Vegetables Summary*, and *Agricultural Chemical Use-Vegetable Summary*. Detailed information on the 2002 vegetable statistics program and changes from 2001 are available at www.usda.gov/nass/events/programchg/vegprogchngs.htm.

NASS has expanded the satellite image crop maps that are available on CD-ROM. Satellite image crop maps are available for Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, and portions of Missouri and Nebraska. These images, referred to as the cropland data layer, can be used in geographic information systems (GIS) applications. CD-ROM(s) can be ordered through the NASS Web site at www.nass.usda.gov/research/Cropland/SARS1a.htm

Environmental, Economics, and Demographics

NASS Agricultural Chemical Usage statistics dating back to 1990 are now available in a query friendly database created through cooperation with and supported by North Carolina State University's Center for Integrated Pest Management. Data users can search for chemical usage data based on crop, year, region, or active ingredient; extract various usage statistics from previously published data; and create U.S. maps or other descriptive charts based on these data. These data can be accessed at www.usda.gov/nass/, by clicking on the Ag Chem Database icon.

Agricultural Chemical Usage - 2000 Nursery and Floriculture Summary was released April 2002 based on a survey in six selected States (CA, FL, MI, OR, PA, TX). This new report provides data on application rates and total amounts applied in 18 production categories for 307 chemical active ingredients. In addition, data were published on pest management practices.

Agricultural Chemical Usage - 2001 Field Crops Summary was released May 2002; *2001 Fruit Summary* was released August 2002. Both reports featured, for the first time, pest management data collected from the same respondents sampled for chemical use statistics. Previously, pest management data were collected as a "stand-alone" survey. This change will allow researchers to study the use of specific practices and the affect on or changes in chemical use as a result of these pest management strategies.

Agricultural Chemical Usage - 2001 Dairy Cattle and Dairy Facilities Summary was released May 2002. This report was the second in a series on chemical usage for dairy cattle and facilities. This is the first time data were published at the State level for 21 selected States. Data published includes rate of application and total amount applied by active ingredient plus pest management practices used by dairy operators.

Farms and Land in Farms, released February 2002, included expanded economic sales classes. Data on the percent of farms and land in farms are now available for farms with value of sales of \$1,000,000 or more.

Livestock

The January *Cattle* report included a new table showing a 3-State total for the number of cattle and calves grazing on small grain pasture. The 3-State total for Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, was requested by the cattle industry.

Poultry Slaughter - Annual Summary was released for the first time in April 2002 which includes revisions for the previous calendar year. Beginning in March, *Poultry Slaughter* monthly releases were reformatted and now include percent changes from the previous year and previous month for all U.S. data.

Monthly *Cold Storage* releases include new data series for turkey toms and turkey hens. It also includes new data series for Individually Quick Frozen (IQF) and Poly, Pails and Tubs, Barrels and Drums, and Juice Stock for strawberries. All the new data series are available only for the U.S.

NASS released the *U.S. Wildlife Damage* report in May 2002. This report showed the total crop and livestock losses incurred by agricultural producers in 2001 from wildlife damage. Economic losses were divided into three categories: field crops; livestock and poultry; and vegetables, fruits, and nuts. The report also showed how much damage was caused by different wildlife species.

A special report, *U.S. Dairy Herd Structure*, was issued September 2002. This report contains a summary of the changes in the structure of the U.S. dairy herd by size of operation and geographic location. This report is available only on the NASS Website or directly from [//usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/pct-bb](http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/pct-bb).

A special report, *U.S. Hog Breeding Herd Structure*, was issued September 2002. This report contains a summary of the changes in the structure of the U.S. hog breeding herd by size of operation and trends in its breeding herd efficiency. This report is available only on the NASS Website or directly from [//usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/php-bb/2002](http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/php-bb/2002).

The *Catfish and Trout* release was split into two publications. This allowed *Catfish* to be released in early February, while *Trout* was released in late February.

Weekly *Broiler Hatchery* expanded publication from a 15-State total to a 19-State total. Both totals were published for a period of 1 year to allow data users to shift to the new 19-State total. Broiler-type eggs set and chicks placed coverage increased to over 95 percent of U.S. total.

State level monthly turkey price estimates were discontinued in January 2002. U.S. turkey prices will continue to be published monthly in *Agricultural Prices*.

In the monthly *Dairy Products* reports, State level estimates of lactose and whey protein concentrate for human consumption, were discontinued in February of 2002. Monthly U.S. level estimates continue to be published.

January 1 sheep inventory and wool production data are now available on the NASS website dating back to 1867.