

## ■ National Agricultural Statistics Services

An orderly production and marketing system depends on an accurate, up-to-the-minute accounting of the many factors that influence agriculture. The mission of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to serve the United States, its agriculture, and its rural communities by providing meaningful, timely, accurate, and objective statistical information and services.

NASS headquarters in Washington, DC, and State Statistical Offices (SSO's) cover 120 crops and 45 livestock items annually. Current and historical information is published in approximately 400 reports, which focus on:

- Crop acreage, yield, production, and grain stocks,
- Livestock, dairy, and poultry production and prospects,
- Chemical use in agriculture,
- Labor use and wage rates,
- Farms and land in farms, and
- Prices, costs, and returns.

The information is geared toward producers and can help them plan planting, feeding, breeding, and marketing programs. The data also are used by agricultural organizations, services, and businesses; trade groups; and financial institutions to determine demand for inputs, resources, transportation, and storage-related crop and livestock products. In addition, the data are used to make and carry out agricultural policy concerning farm program legislation, commodity programs, agricultural research, and rural development.

Most estimates are based on information gathered from producers, who are surveyed through personal or telephone interviews or through mailed questionnaires. In addition, for major crops—such as corn, wheat, soybeans, and cotton—in-the-field counts and measurements of plant development are made in the top producing States. Other estimates are based on surveys of grain elevators, hatcheries, and other agribusinesses, as well as on administrative data such as slaughter records.

Data collected from these varied sources are summarized by the NASS SSO serving that State and sent to the Agency's Agricultural Statistics Board in

Washington, DC, which determines and issues the official estimates for the State and the Nation.

#### How To Get More Information

All NASS reports are released at scheduled times, and the information is offered to the public in a variety of formats. Publications and a catalog of products can be ordered by calling 800/999-6779. Electronic sources for information include the Computerized Information Delivery Service (202/720-9045) and Internet (202/219-0012). For additional information about the Agency, its products, or its services, call the information hotline: 800/727-9540.

State Statistical offices often have some additional data breakouts not found in national publications. For information about a particular State, call the State Statistician at any of the following offices:

<b>ALABAMA</b> Montgomery (800)832-4181	<b>GEORGIA</b> Athens (800)253-4419	<b>LOUISIANA</b> Baton Rouge (800)256-4485	<b>NEVADA</b> Reno (702)784-5584
<b>ALASKA</b> Palmer (800)478-6079	<b>HAWAII</b> Honolulu (800)804-9514	<b>MARYLAND</b> Annapolis (410)841-5740	<b>NEW ENGLAND</b> Concord, NH (800)642-9571
<b>ARIZONA</b> Phoenix (800)645-7286	<b>IDAHO</b> Boise (800)691-9987	<b>MICHIGAN</b> Lansing (800)453-7501	<b>NEW JERSEY</b> Trenton (609)292-6385
<b>ARKANSAS</b> Little Rock (800)327-2970	<b>ILLINOIS</b> Springfield (800)622-9865	<b>MINNESOTA</b> St. Paul (800)453-7502	<b>NEW MEXICO</b> Las Cruces (800)530-8810
<b>CALIFORNIA</b> Sacramento (800)851-1127	<b>INDIANA</b> West Lafayette (800)473-2696	<b>MISSISSIPPI</b> Jackson (800)535-9609	<b>NEW YORK</b> Albany (800)821-1276
<b>COLORADO</b> Lakewood (800)392-3202	<b>IOWA</b> Des Moines (800)772-0825	<b>MISSOURI</b> Columbia (800)551-1014	<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b> Raleigh (800)437-8451
<b>DELAWARE</b> Dover 302)739-4811	<b>KANSAS</b> Topeka (800)258-4564	<b>MONTANA</b> Helena (800)835-2612	<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b> Fargo (800)626-3134
<b>FLORIDA</b> Orlando (800)344-6277	<b>KENTUCKY</b> Louisville (800)928-5277	<b>NEBRASKA</b> Lincoln (800)582-6443	<b>OHIO</b> Columbus (800)858-8144

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