

2009 Explanatory Notes
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Purpose Statement

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) was established by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1446, Supplement 1, of April 3, 1961, under Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 and other authorities. The mission of the agency is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

The statistical data provided by NASS are essential to the public and private sectors for making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions on a wide range of agricultural commodities. Every 5 years the Census of Agriculture provides comprehensive national, State, and county data as well as selected data for Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S., Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands. The USDA published its first crop report in 1863. In 1997, responsibility for conducting the Census of Agriculture was transferred from the Bureau of the Census to NASS. NASS' responsibilities are authorized under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627) and the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997, Public Law 105-113 (7 U.S.C. 2204g).

- **Agricultural Estimates Program** – NASS field offices regularly survey thousands of operators of farms, ranches, and agribusinesses who provide information on a confidential basis. These scientifically-designed surveys provide the basis for developing estimates of production, supply, price, and other aspects of the agricultural economy. Official USDA national, State, and county estimates and reports are issued relating to the number of farms and land in farms; acreage, types, and production of farm crops; number of livestock on farms and of livestock products; stocks of agricultural commodities; value and utilization of farm products; farm labor; prices received and paid by farmers; agricultural chemical use; and on other subjects as needed. The field offices forward the estimates to NASS headquarters where they are combined and released at scheduled times to the press and public through the Agricultural Statistics Board. Annually, NASS publishes approximately 500 national reports and thousands of additional state reports, covering more than 120 crops and 45 livestock items. These basic and unbiased data are necessary to maintain an orderly association between the consumption, supply, marketing, and input sectors of agriculture.
- **Census of Agriculture** – The Census of Agriculture is taken every 5 years and provides comprehensive data on the agricultural economy, including data on the number of farms, land use, production expenses, value of land and buildings, farm size and characteristics of farm operators, market value of agricultural production sold, acreage of major crops, inventory of livestock and poultry, and farm irrigation practices. Results of the 2002 Census of Agriculture provide national, State, and county level detailed data. Data for Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S., the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands are also available. Data collection and processing began for the 2007 Census of Agriculture on December 28, 2007, as nearly 3.1 million census packets were mailed to potential agricultural producers. For the first time, respondents have an Internet based reporting option.
- **Work Performed for Others** – NASS conducts surveys for and lends technical expertise to other Federal agencies, State governments, and private organizations on a reimbursable basis. NASS provides support and assistance with questionnaire and sample design, data collection and editing, analysis of survey results, and training. NASS also provides technical consultation, support, and assistance for international programs under participating agency service agreements.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service maintains a central office in Washington, D.C., and a network of 46 field offices, serving all 50 States and Puerto Rico, that operate through cooperative agreements with State Departments of Agriculture or universities. As of September 30, 2007, NASS had 1,104 permanent full-time employees, including 402 full-time employees in Washington, D.C., 699 in field offices, 3 in Puerto Rico, and an additional 17 other than permanent full-time employees throughout the U.S.

NASS did not have any Office of Inspector General or Government Accountability Office evaluation reports during the past year.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Available Funds and Staff Years
2007 Actual and Estimated 2008 and 2009

Item	Actual 2007		Estimated 2008		Estimated 2009	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	\$143,647,866	1,010	\$163,355,000	1,010	\$153,475,000	1,001
Rescission.....	--	--	-1,143,000	--	--	--
Transfer to Office of Ethics.....	--	--	-75,000	--	--	--
Carryover.....	1,087,018	--	3,605,134	--	--	--
Total, Salaries and Expenses.....	144,734,884	1,010	165,742,134	1,010	153,475,000	1,001
<u>Obligations under other USDA appropriations:</u>						
Agricultural Marketing Service for pesticide work, and data on milk prices, export certification, and base month series.....	256,293	1	261,000	3	261,000	3
Agricultural Research Service for assistance on food consumption data, and Nutrient Data Laboratory.....	16,499	0	16,000	0	16,000	0
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for animal health monitoring system.....	683,474	5	683,000	6	683,000	8
Cooperative State Research Education, and Extension Service for data on small farms.....	20,030	--	20,000	--	20,000	--
Economic Research Service for an agricultural resource management and small farms data.....	6,799,282	36	5,270,000	33	5,270,000	31
Farm Service Agency for data on feed grain county estimates.....	2,658,546	24	2,659,000	23	2,659,000	23
Forest Service for data on grazing fees and a woodland owners survey.....	83,651	--	84,000	1	84,000	1
Natural Resources Conservation Service for NRI survey.....	2,000,000	0	--	0	0	0
Risk Management Agency for data on county estimates..	910,000	6	910,000	8	910,000	7
World Agricultural Outlook Board for printing and lock-up support and cotton objective yield.....	16,411	--	16,000	--	16,000	--
Other USDA	247,008	--	247,000	--	247,000	--
Total Appropriations.....	13,691,194	72	10,166,000	74	10,166,000	73
Total, USDA Appropriations.....	158,426,078	1,082	175,908,134	1,084	163,641,000	1,074
<u>Other Federal Funds:</u>						
Interior, Department of, for BLM grazing fees survey....	58,000	--	58,000	--	58,000	--
Foreign Agricultural Service (from AID) for training, technical assistance, equipment and personnel detail....	515,459	7	515,000	8	515,000	9
Ne Corn Development.....	113,000	--	113,000	--	113,000	--
NIOSH.....	650,000	--	650,000	--	650,000	--
National Science Foundation for data collection.....	70,000	--	70,000	--	70,000	--
Total, Other Federal Funds.....	1,406,459	7	1,406,000	8	1,406,000	9
<u>Non-Federal Funds:</u>						
State Agencies for survey work.....	3,366,372	24	2,833,000	21	2,833,000	21
Miscellaneous Contributed Funds for distribution of agricultural reports and diskettes and for data on almonds, aquaculture, cherries, grapes, hops, horses, malting barley, potatoes, pistachios, walnuts, and wheat and miscellaneous mailings.....	416,975	3	417,000	3	417,000	3
Total, Non-Federal Funds.....	3,783,347	27	3,250,000	24	3,250,000	24
Total, National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	163,615,884	1,116	180,564,134	1,116	168,297,000	1,107

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Year Summary
2007 Actual and Estimated 2008 and 2009

Grade	2007			2008			2009		
	Wash. DC	Field	Total	Wash. DC	Field	Total	Wash. DC	Field	Total
Senior Executive Service	10	--	10	10	--	10	10	--	10
SL	1	--	1	1	--	1	1	--	1
GS-15	22	17	39	22	16	38	22	16	38
GS-14	59	44	103	55	44	99	55	44	99
GS-13	148	64	212	150	64	214	148	64	212
GS-12	43	153	196	43	154	197	41	155	196
GS-11	32	93	125	30	91	121	30	90	120
GS-10	6	--	6	6	--	6	6	--	6
GS-9	14	80	94	14	80	94	14	75	89
GS-8	22	42	64	24	43	67	24	43	67
GS-7	14	147	161	13	152	165	13	152	165
GS-6	5	63	68	5	63	68	5	63	68
GS-5	1	30	31	3	28	31	3	28	31
GS-4	1	4	5	2	2	4	2	2	4
GS-3	--	1	1	--	1	1	--	1	1
Total Permanent Positions.....	378	738	1,116	378	738	1,116	374	733	1,107
Unfilled Positions end-of-year.....	-4	-8	-12	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total, Permanent Full Time Employment, end-of-year.....	374	730	1,104	378	738	1,116	374	733	1,107
Staff-Year Estimate.....	378	738	1,116	378	738	1,116	374	733	1,107

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

SIZE, COMPOSITION AND COST OF AGENCY MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET

The 2009 budget estimate proposes one replacement of the passenger motor vehicles for this year. The passenger motor vehicles of the National Agricultural Statistics Service are used for necessary field travel in carrying out the mission of the agency and ensuring accurate data are being reported and collected. All motor vehicles are located at various field offices. While all 46 NASS field offices require the use of motor vehicles, it is often cost-effective to acquire vehicles through existing cooperative agreements with the State Departments of Agriculture, through leases from State motor pools, or via rental agreements. Therefore, NASS only owns a fleet of 38 motor vehicles.

Replacement of passenger motor vehicles Replacement of one of the vehicles now in operation is proposed for 2009. These vehicles are located in the field locations and are necessary to meet the transportation requirements necessary to carrying out the agency's program. There have been no significant changes in the size or cost of the NASS vehicle fleet since the beginning of the current administration and there are no identified impediments to managing the motor vehicle fleet in the most cost-effective manner.

Size, composition and cost of motor vehicle fleet as of September 30, 2007, are as follows:

Size, Composition and Annual Cost (in thousands of dollars)										
Number of Vehicles by Type										
Fiscal Year	Sedans and Station Wagons	Light Trucks		Medium Trucks	Heavy Trucks	Ambulances	Buses	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs (\$ in thous)	
		4X2	4X4							
FY 2006	6	36	1	0	0	0	0	43	\$369	
Change	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	\$12	
FY 2007	6	35	1	0	0	0	0	42	\$381	
Change	-1	-3	0	0	0	0	0	-4	\$27	
FY 2008	5	32	1	0	0	0	0	38	\$408	
Change	0	-5	1	0	0	0	0	-4	\$32	
FY 2009	5	27	2	0	0	0	0	34	\$440	

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

The estimates include appropriation language for this item as follows:

Salaries and Expenses:

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service in conducting statistical reporting and service work, [\$163,355,000] \$153,475,000 of which up to [\$52,351,000] \$39,478,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations Act, 2008.....	\$163,355,000
Budget Estimate, 2009.....	<u>153,475,000</u>
Change in Appropriation.....	<u>-9,880,000</u>

Adjustments in 2008:

Appropriations Act, 2008.....	\$163,355,000	
Rescission under P.L. 110-161 a/.....	-1,143,000	
Activities transferred to Departmental Administration Office of Ethics b/.....	-75,000	
Adjusted base for 2008.....		162,137,000
Budget Estimate, Current Law, 2009.....		<u>153,475,000</u>
Change from adjusted 2008.....		<u>-8,662,000</u>

a/ The amount is rescinded pursuant to Division A, Title VII Section 752 of P.L. 110-161.

b/ Beginning with 2008, the Department will transfer and consolidate all Ethics activities under the Office of Ethics in Departmental Administration (DA). On a comparable basis the full annual cost of the activity is \$75,000 in 2009.

SUMMARY OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

(On basis of appropriation)

<u>Item of Change</u>	2008		Program <u>Changes</u>	2009 <u>Estimated</u>
	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Pay Costs</u>		
Agricultural Estimates.....	\$110,152,000 +	\$1,698,000 +	\$0	\$111,850,000
Improve Quality of Surveys.....	0 +	0 +	1,750,000	1,750,000
Offset to lower priority projects.....	0 +	0 -	1,403,000 -	1,403,000
Bio-Energy.....	0	0 +	1,800,000 +	1,800,000
Subtotal, Ag Estimates.....	<u>\$110,152,000 +</u>	<u>\$1,698,000 +</u>	<u>2,147,000</u>	<u>113,997,000</u>
Census of Agriculture.....	51,985,000 +	540,000 -	\$15,260,000	37,265,000
Flat-line Census.....			+ 1,213,000 +	1,213,000
Bio-energy.....			+ 1,000,000 +	1,000,000
Subtotal, Census of Agriculture.....	<u>51,985,000 +</u>	<u>540,000 -</u>	<u>\$13,047,000</u>	<u>39,478,000</u>
Total Available.....	<u>162,137,000 +</u>	<u>2,238,000 -</u>	<u>10,900,000</u>	<u>153,475,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENT
(On basis of appropriation)

Project	2007 Actual		2008 Estimated		Increase or Decrease	2009 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff- Years	Amount	Staff- Years		Amount	Staff- Years
1. Agricultural Estimates	\$111,004,222	848	\$110,152,000	848	+	\$3,845,000	\$113,997,000 : 843
2. Census of Agriculture..	32,643,644	268	51,985,000	268	-	12,507,000	39,478,000 : 264
Unobligated balance.....	3,605,134	--	0	--	--	--	-- : --
Total, Available	147,253,000	1,116	162,137,000	1,116	-	8,662,000	153,475,000 : 1,107
Rescission.....	0	--	1,143,000 a/	--			
Transfer to Office of Ethics	0	--	75,000 b/	--			
Total, Appropriation.....	147,253,000	1,116	163,355,000	1,116			

a/ The amount rescinded pursuant to Division A, Title VII Section 752 of P.L. 110-161.

b/ Beginning with 2008, the Department will transfer and consolidate all Ethics activities under the Office of Ethics in Departmental Administration (DA). On a comparable basis the full annual cost of the activity is \$75,000 in 2009.

PROJECT STATEMENT
(On basis of availability)

Project	2007 Actual		2008 Estimated		Increase or Decrease	2009 Estimated	
	Amount	Staff- Years	Amount	Staff- Years		Amount	Staff- Years
1. Agricultural Estimates	\$110,974,068	848	\$110,152,000	848	+	\$3,845,000	\$113,997,000 : 843
2. Census of Agriculture..	33,730,662	268	55,590,000	268	-	16,112,000	39,478,000 : 264
Unobligated balance lapsing.....	30,154	--	--	--	--	--	-- : --
Unobligated balance forward to next year....	3,605,134	--	--	--	--	--	-- : --
Total available or estimate.....	148,340,018	1,116	165,742,000	1,116	-	12,267,000	153,475,000 : 1,107
Unobligated balance forward from prior yr..	-1,087,018	--	-3,605,000	--	--	--	-
Rescission.....	0	--	1,143,000	--	--	--	0
Transfer to Office of Ethics.....	0	--	75,000	--	--	--	0
Total, appropriation.....	147,253,000	1,116	163,355,000	1,116	-	-8,662,000	153,475,000 : 1,107

Justification of Increases and Decreases

- (1) An increase of \$3,845,000 for agricultural estimates (\$110,152,000 available in 2008) consisting of:

- (a) An increase of \$1,750,000 to ensure the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) continues to provide State, regional, and national level estimates of sufficient precision, quality, and detail to meet the needs of a broad customer base.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in the marketplace and in government payments are impacted by NASS statistics. This request provides incremental funding for a continuing initiative to modernize the NASS estimation program to ensure data quality. NASS is requesting \$1.75 million in FY 2009. Funds will be used to enhance data quality for price data for dairy products and for crop price data important to program payments. Funding will also allow new work to ensure quality estimates supporting safety net programs for producers.

As a primary Federal statistical agency, NASS is held to high expectations regarding quality by data users. Increased operating costs resulted in the degradation of the quality of NASS statistics. Fiscal years 2004 through 2006 included incremental funding to restore and modernize NASS statistical processes and quality improvements resulted. However, no funds for the initiative were included in the FY 2007 or FY 2008 budgets. Both of these years included substantial increases in cyclical Census of Agriculture funding and difficult decisions were necessary to hold the annual NASS budget increases to a reasonable level. FY 2009 is a down year for the Census of Agriculture and allows the opportunity for NASS to continue restoration and modernization efforts on the annual program without increasing the total discretionary spending appropriated to the Agency. The absence of this funding for three straight years will reverse recent successes in improving the quality of many data series.

NASS' number one budget priority for its core statistics program during the past 6 years has been the restoration of quality and modernization of the basic USDA agricultural estimates program that supports the U.S. agricultural market system. This initiative rebuilds a program eroded due to unfunded pay costs and increased operating costs. In the absence of the requested \$1.75 million, redirection of existing funding will be necessary to assure quality data are produced for all estimates.

- (b) A decrease of \$1,403,000 to reduce lower priority projects.

In order to achieve the NASS mission of being responsive to emerging data needs under competing budget priorities, a decrease of \$1,403,000 is requested to fund higher priority items. The entire NASS program will be reviewed to identify the appropriate cuts and efficiencies necessary to achieve these savings.

- (c) An increase of \$1,800,000 and 11 staff years to provide a data series on bio-energy production and utilization.

The emphases on renewable energy will likely lead America's farmers to an increased focus on production of energy crops. The lack of data in this area for agriculture has created a lot of uncertainty. Based on meetings with industry and Department stakeholders, NASS has identified key areas of interest where data collection could benefit and provide information for program development and future research to energy. These areas are:

- Monthly or quarterly data on stocks and prices of distillers' grain;
- Annual maps of county-level crop production with overlaps of major roadways, rail lines and ethanol plants (current and proposed);
- Expansion of questions related to off- and on-farm storage facilities to ascertain impact of bio-energy needs;
- Production and utilization of biomass materials (switch grass, cornstalks, etc.) to promote celluloses ethanol production; and
- Collection of distillers' grain stocks and prices will occur through collaboration with the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA) and the Census Bureau on their current data collection efforts at ethanol plants.

(d) An increase of \$1,698,000 for pay costs.

Approximately 70 percent of NASS' budget supports personnel compensation. This increase is critically important to NASS to enable the agency to perform its mission and meet the growing need for agricultural statistics. It will also ensure adequate coverage for the current statistical program and maintain most statistical program components.

(2) A net decrease of \$12,507,000 for the Census of Agriculture (\$51,985,000 available in 2008) consisting of:

(a) A decrease of \$15,260,000 (\$51,985,000 available in 2008) for the Census of Agriculture.

This decrease is due to the cyclical nature of the census preparations. FY 2008 was the peak year for census funding due to the data collection and analysis for the 2007 Census of Agriculture. FY 2009 is the fifth year of the 2007 Census of Agriculture cycle, with data summarization, publication, and follow-on surveys being the largest cost features. Included in the budget request is funding for Census of Agriculture activities in American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands. Additional funds are required to prepare for long standing follow-on surveys. These include preparations for the Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey (FRIS), Aquaculture, Horticulture, Fruit, and Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey. The feasibility of updating the FRIS to evaluate current access to reuse water, quantities of water used, and cost associated with various water delivery systems is being explored.

(b) An increase of \$1,213,000 to flatten the Census of Agriculture budget during preparation years.

The Census of Agriculture budget has historically been cyclical for each of the 5 years of the census cycle. These cyclical increases create challenges during difficult Federal budgeting. The increase of \$1.2 million will provide the appropriate base coming off the 2007 Census of Agriculture data collection activities to maintain a flat budget during FY 2009 through FY 2012. The only increases to the Census of Agriculture during the 4 year period will be for pay costs and new initiatives proposed during the cycle. FY 2013 is the data collection year for the 2012 Census of Agriculture and will include an increase for data collection and processing activities. A new base will be established for FY 2014 through FY 2017 off of the FY 2013 peak year funding.

- (c) An increase of \$1,000,000 and 6 staff years (\$0 available in FY 2008) to conduct a census follow-on survey to measure energy production and use on farms.

The Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics has strongly emphasized the need for a follow-on survey to the Census of Agriculture that would answer numerous questions regarding the production and use of home grown energy on the nation's farms. This census budget initiative for \$1.0 million in FY 2009 provides a one point in time energy production measure. Farms producing energy will be identified for the first time in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. This permits a unique opportunity to follow up with a survey to provide answers to many economic and policy questions regarding "farming" energy. Sampling for this census follow-on will occur based on a positive response to the Census Practice question, "at any time during 2007, did this operation generate energy or electricity on the farm using wind or solar technology, methane digester, et cetera?"

- (d) An increase of \$540,000 for pay costs.

Approximately 70 percent of NASS' budget supports personnel compensation. This increase is critically important to NASS to enable the agency to perform its mission and meet the growing need for agricultural statistics. It will also ensure adequate coverage for the current statistical program and maintain most statistical program components.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years
2007 and Estimated 2008 and 2009

	2007		2008		2009	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
Alabama.....	\$1,386,324	14	\$1,594,000	14	\$1,520,000	14
Alaska.....	188,118	2	213,000	2	195,000	2
Arizona.....	871,672	10	902,000	11	941,000	11
Arkansas.....	1,265,394	18	1,777,000	17	1,709,000	17
California.....	3,250,294	33	3,678,000	31	3,655,000	31
Colorado.....	1,787,515	17	1,902,000	17	1,881,000	17
Delaware.....	123,911	1	196,000	1	192,000	1
District of Columbia.....	76,968,356	436	83,871,000	420	78,917,000	406
Florida.....	1,772,071	16	1,964,000	17	1,846,000	17
Georgia.....	1,670,935	16	1,933,000	17	1,809,000	18
Hawaii.....	884,227	8	916,000	10	891,000	11
Idaho.....	1,561,374	15	1,608,000	16	1,571,000	17
Illinois.....	1,749,669	19	2,451,000	20	2,265,000	21
Indiana.....	1,692,555	17	1,987,000	18	1,915,000	18
Iowa.....	1,739,798	20	2,037,000	21	1,952,000	21
Kansas.....	1,491,211	18	1,707,000	19	1,676,000	19
Kentucky.....	1,474,778	16	1,664,000	17	1,631,000	17
Louisiana.....	1,293,760	13	1,534,000	14	1,482,000	14
Maryland.....	918,308	12	985,000	11	815,000	11
Michigan.....	1,782,894	19	1,914,000	20	1,841,000	20
Minnesota.....	1,776,812	19	2,575,000	19	2,045,000	19
Mississippi.....	1,772,780	16	1,998,000	18	1,830,000	18
Missouri.....	2,169,615	17	2,928,000	17	2,264,000	17
Montana.....	1,682,026	15	1,749,000	15	1,700,000	15
Nebraska.....	1,783,854	18	2,677,000	18	1,956,000	18
Nevada.....	489,196	3	504,000	3	491,000	3
New Hampshire.....	1,300,388	15	1,526,000	16	1,450,000	16
New Jersey.....	1,176,000	11	1,520,000	11	1,416,000	11
New Mexico.....	851,874	9	878,000	10	855,000	10
New York.....	1,372,537	19	1,571,000	19	1,458,000	19
North Carolina.....	2,191,943	18	2,951,000	19	2,303,000	19
North Dakota.....	1,184,490	14	1,633,000	14	1,543,000	14
Ohio.....	1,864,555	17	2,502,000	17	1,978,000	17
Oklahoma.....	1,883,621	16	2,762,000	15	2,140,000	15
Oregon.....	1,773,653	15	2,502,000	15	1,922,000	15
Pennsylvania.....	1,457,443	17	1,759,000	18	1,697,000	18
South Carolina.....	1,136,118	12	1,352,000	12	1,191,000	12
South Dakota.....	1,876,704	17	2,131,000	18	2,067,000	18
Tennessee.....	1,542,049	16	1,922,000	16	1,710,000	16
Texas.....	2,965,702	27	3,881,000	28	3,575,000	28
Utah.....	874,851	10	974,000	10	879,000	10
Virginia.....	1,390,192	14	1,533,000	15	1,496,000	16
Washington.....	2,261,433	20	2,342,000	18	2,297,000	19
West Virginia.....	713,363	8	984,000	8	880,000	8
Wisconsin.....	1,959,539	18	2,249,000	19	2,177,000	19
Wyoming.....	1,183,393	12	1,305,000	12	1,251,000	11
U.S. Territories.....	197,435	3	201,000	3	200,000	3
Subtotal, Available or Estimate.....	144,704,730	1,116	165,742,000	1,116	153,475,000	1,107
Unobligated balance lapsing	30,154					
Unobligated balance.....	3,605,134	---	---	---	---	---
Total, Available or Estimate.....	148,340,018	1,116	165,742,000	1,116	153,475,000	1,107

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS
2007 Actual and Estimated 2008 and 2009

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Personnel Compensation:			
Washington, D. C.....	\$34,154,857	\$35,355,000	\$36,238,000
Field.....	45,847,685	47,752,000	48,637,000
11 Total personnel compensation.....	80,002,542	83,107,000	84,875,000
12 Personnel Benefits.....	22,084,764	22,858,000	23,430,000
13 Benefits for former personnel.....	32,070	56,000	59,000
Total pers. comp. & benefits.....	102,119,376	106,021,000	108,364,000
Other Objects:			
21 Travel and transportation of persons...	2,499,019	2,571,000	2,567,000
22 Transportation of things.....	1,254,630	918,000	549,000
23.2 Rental payments of others.....	58,172	58,000	68,000
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	4,448,821	5,119,000	5,194,000
24 Printing and reproduction.....	220,695	452,000	581,000
25.1 Contractual Services by Fed Agencies	6,516,032	7,484,000	7,782,000
25.2 Related Expenditures	590,017	1,490,000	1,015,000
25.3 Repair, Alteration or Maint of Equip	2,535,016	1,435,000	932,000
25.4 Contractual Services - Other	16,622,092	30,435,000	17,792,000
25.5 Research & Development Contracts	435,216	435,000	499,000
25.7 Miscellaneous Services	2,439,784	2,410,000	2,500,000
26 Supplies and materials.....	1,494,760	2,418,000	1,509,000
31 Equipment.....	3,457,003	4,490,000	4,121,000
42 Insurance claims and indemnities.....	9,522	5,000	1,000
43 Interest and dividends.....	4,575	1,000	1,000
Total other objects.....	42,585,354	59,721,000	45,111,000
Total direct obligations.....	144,704,730	165,742,000	153,475,000
Position Data:			
Average Salary, ES positions.....	\$162,029	\$162,029	\$162,029
Average Salary, GS positions.....	\$71,349	\$73,846	\$75,692
Average Grade, GS positions.....	11.9	11.9	11.9

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

STATUS OF PROGRAM

The National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) mission is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. To achieve this, NASS administers USDA's program of collecting and publishing current national, State, and county agricultural statistics. The Census of Agriculture, conducted every 5 years, provides comprehensive, local level data about agricultural communities across America. The statistical data provided by NASS are essential to both the public and private sectors for making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions on a wide range of agricultural commodities.

NASS programs are organized into the following three major areas: (1) agricultural estimates, (2) Census of Agriculture, and (3) work performed for others.

AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES

Current Activities:

The NASS agricultural statistics program is conducted through 45 field offices serving all 50 States, and a Puerto Rico field office. Scientifically designed surveys of farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, and others provide the basis for developing estimates of production, supply, price, and many other aspects of the agricultural economy. These surveys are supplemented by field observations, objective yield counts and measurements, and other data to provide reliable information. Administrative data available from other USDA agencies and State Departments of Agriculture are also used to produce statistical reports, including monthly livestock and poultry slaughter, egg production, and dairy products reports.

Official USDA national and State reports are issued relating to the number of farms and land in farms; acreage, yield, production, and stocks of grains; production of hay, oilseeds, cotton, potatoes, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, floriculture, nursery, and selected specialty crops; inventories and production of hogs, cattle, sheep and wool, goats and mohair, mink, catfish, trout, poultry, eggs, and dairy products; prices received by farmers for products, prices paid for commodities and services, and related indexes; cold storage inventories; agricultural chemical use; and other related items that affect the agricultural economy. The NASS field offices forward the estimates to the Headquarters office in Washington, D.C., where they are combined, analyzed, and released at scheduled times to the media and public through free published reports on the NASS Web site, <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>. Annually, NASS publishes more than 500 national reports, covering over 120 crop and 45 livestock items, complemented by more than 8,000 additional State reports. These basic and unbiased data are critical to maintain an orderly association between the consumption, supply, marketing, and input sectors of agriculture.

NASS provides timely and accurate agricultural statistics that are used throughout the agricultural sector to evaluate supplies and determine competitive prices for world marketing of U.S. commodities. These statistics promote a level playing field in production agriculture with impartial information available to everyone at a predetermined and publicized date and time.

Statistical data are also provided on chemical use and biotechnology for use in monitoring and evaluating risk assessment to both food safety and food security. Data on agricultural practices, farm and ranch irrigation practice trends, and the geographic information system cropland data layer provide meaningful information on the Nation's resource base and environment.

NASS continues to keep abreast of information needs through a variety of means, including data user meetings, advisory committees, attending industry meetings, and sponsoring outreach activities. Even though most NASS reports consist of specific data series, improvements to reports and databases are constantly being made in terms of additional data breakouts, improved coverage, and improved timeliness. Special reports or additional categories within existing reports are added to best summarize the constantly changing character of agriculture. The following examples represent FY 2007 accomplishments.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

New and Expanded Agricultural Statistics published by NASS

- A special report, *Overview of the U.S. Sheep and Goat Industry*, was issued September 28, 2007. This report provides a graphic historical look at sheep and goat supplies in the United States for the last 25 years. Historical data on the inventory, operations, sheep, lamb, and wool prices as well as inventories of angora, milk, and meat goats and data on mohair price and production were presented.
- A new report, *Ethanol Co-Products Used for Livestock Feed*, was issued June 29, 2007. This report was a joint effort between NASS and the Nebraska Corn Board involving 12 Midwestern States. The report highlights the use of co-products among dairy, cattle on feed, and beef cow operations as well as hog producers. The study also identifies the concerns and barriers that prevented producers from using co-products.
- Two new data series, net poults placed and eggs hatched, were added to the monthly *Turkey Hatchery* released in April. Net poults placed replaced the poults placed data series to capture the impact of international trade on the turkey industry. The previous poults placed data series will remain accessible on the Quick Stats Web site for analysis purposes, but will no longer be updated. The new data series, net poults, can be found on Quick Stats.
- A reliability table was added to the August *Turkey Hatchery* and the August *Turkeys Raised* releases. The reliability tables show how well an estimator of interest performs in estimation. Ten years of data are used to calculate the "Root Mean Square Error" percent that compares the first estimate to the final estimate
- The monthly *Dairy Products* report released in March 2007, contained new cumulative U.S. level tables for lactose (human and animal) and total whey protein concentrate. The table containing hard nonfat ice cream was discontinued. The two new tables continue in subsequent monthly Dairy Products releases.
- Beginning with the annual *Dairy Products 2006 Summary* released in April 2007, State level tables for ice cream, regular, total; ice cream, lowfat, hard; and ice cream, lowfat, soft; were discontinued due to confidentiality concerns and data quality issues at the State level. U.S. level estimates are still provided in the Frozen Product tables of this publication.
- The monthly *Cold Storage* report released in January 2007 contained modifications to the publication to reduce respondent burden. The following items at the U.S. and regional level were discontinued: other shelled nuts, other in-shell nuts, canned hams, other canned meat, miscellaneous cooler items, and miscellaneous freezer items. Regional publication of pork ribs, pork trimmings, and other pork were discontinued. Consolidation of publication regions occurred for pecans and chicken.

- Monthly canola prices are now available in the *Agricultural Prices* release. Previously only Market Year Average prices were available from NASS. Canola prices will be used in the calculation of the monthly All Farm Products received index beginning in 2008.
- The 2007 *Agricultural Prices Summary* was released to coincide with July monthly *Agricultural Prices* release. Having both reports issued on the same day, containing the same data, reduces confusion for the data users.
- The 2007 *January Labor Survey* was not conducted due to budget constraints. However, the All Hired, Field & Livestock, and Field annual average wages and number of workers estimates were created from multivariate time series models. The estimates were published on November 16, 2007. The January estimates were utilized along with the April, July and October estimates to create the annual average wage rates. These estimates are essential to the Department of Labor H2A wage rate for non-immigrant agricultural labor.
- A special corn objective yield report was issued on May 18, 2007, titled *Corn Objective Yield Survey Data, 1992-2006*. This report provides information on the types of data collected from the corn objective yield surveys and how they relate to the Agricultural Statistics Board yield estimates. This information was provided to data users to aid in understanding the corn objective yield program and to provide a historical perspective of the changes that have occurred in the objective yield data over the last 15 years.
- A special soybean objective yield report was issued on July 27, 2007, titled *Soybean Objective Yield Survey Data, 1992-2006*. This report provides information on the types of data collected from the soybean objective yield surveys and how they relate to the Agricultural Statistics Board yield estimates. The information was provided to data users to aid in understanding the soybean objective yield program and to provide a historical perspective of the changes that have occurred in the objective yield data over the last 15 years.
- Colorado and Kansas were added to the canola estimation program and were published as part of the combined Other States total in the *Crop Production 2006 Summary* report.
- In July 2007, NASS began estimating percent of acreage planted to yellow type potatoes. Historically, yellow potatoes have been included with white potatoes. However, white potatoes yield differently and are utilized differently than yellow potatoes, and yellow type potatoes have been an increasing portion of the potato crop over the past few years
- Beginning in March 2007, the *Prospective Plantings* report now includes planting intentions for dry edible peas, chickpeas, Austrian winter peas, and lentils. Previously, the first planted acreage estimates for these crops were not published until the June *Acreage* report.
- Beginning in 2007, the number of States included in the annual Floriculture program was reduced from 36 to 15.
- Beginning in 2007, NASS began estimating and publishing acreage, yield, production, price, and value for Scotch and Native varieties of spearmint in Washington.

- Graphical presentations depicting weekly crop progress and crop condition throughout the growing season were posted to the Internet. These graphs make it easier for the data user and analyst to see the effects of conditions on the crop because the progress and condition are displayed simultaneously.

Chemical Use

- In May 2007, NASS released its annual *Agricultural Chemical Usage 2006 Field Crops Summary* report featuring the following target crops: soybeans, rice, and wheat. Rate Distribution Tables for Percent of Acres Treated, Number of Applications, Rate per Application, and Rate per Crop Year were again provided in this publication as a more detailed display of the chemical usage data. These tables include the 10th and 90th percentile, median, and average of the chemical usage data.
- In May 2007, NASS released the *Agricultural Chemical Usage 2006 Dairy Cattle and Dairy Facilities Summary*. The data were compiled from the 2007 General Dairy Management Survey, a cooperative project between NASS and the National Animal Health Monitoring System within the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The report provides insecticide use information on dairy cattle and dairy facilities in 17 program States which account for approximately 91 percent of the milk cow inventory in the United States, based on the January 2007 Milk Production release published by NASS.
- In December 2006, NASS released the *Agricultural Chemical Usage in Swine and Swine Facilities Summary*. The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report are based on data compiled from a survey conducted in the summer of 2006 in 17 program States, which contain approximately 94 percent of the U.S. hog inventory. The program States are the 17 States published individually in the *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs* report. This report provides insecticide use information on the swine sector of agriculture. All data refer to the on-farm use of active ingredients contained in insecticides applied during the 2005 calendar year. Insecticides are applied to swine and swine facilities to control mange/mites, lice, flies, and other pests. Chemical data are provided on a rate per head per application and rate per head per year basis.
- In March 2007, NASS released its annual *Agricultural Chemical Usage Postharvest Applications* report featuring oats and potatoes as the target crops. The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report are based on data compiled from the 2006 Oats Postharvest Chemical Use Survey and the 2006 Potato Postharvest Chemical Use Survey. The Postharvest Survey was conducted for oats and potatoes marketed from August 1, 2005 to July 31, 2006 which covers the 2005 crop. All results refer to pesticide applications and integrated pest management at off-farm oat storage and processing facilities after the crops were harvested. On-farm and off-farm storage and processing facilities were included in the potato survey.
- The biennial *Agricultural Chemical Usage 2006 Vegetables Summary* was released in July 2007. This report includes information on 23 targeted vegetables in 19 program States. It is the ninth report in this series. Active ingredient and publication tables are provided to show all active ingredients reported in the program States.
- The annual *Agricultural Chemical Usage - Restricted Use Summary* report was released October 2007 providing a summary of pesticides applied to surveyed commodities classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as requiring certified applicators.

Research and Development

- For over 50 years, NASS has been conducting research studies on how to improve data collection and estimates. This research and its findings have been documented in over 700 reports. Over time, only paper copies of these reports remained and availability was limited. Recently, however, all non-sensitive NASS research reports have been scanned and published to the Internet making these reports available not only to all NASS staff, but also to the general public. This sharing of information will assist NASS employees as well as other government agencies and statistical organizations in identifying best practices in surveys and in using geospatial information.
- NASS collected data for the weight per pod (WPP) research project in Illinois for the fourth consecutive year and in Iowa for the first time; and software was created to efficiently process these data. The WPP project is researching the concept of improving the September 1 WPP indication based on specific soybean pod measurements taken during NASS' September Soybean Objective Yield Survey. Currently, yield and production models utilize historic 5-year averages until final harvest. This research will allow NASS to utilize current information on pod weight in the models.
- For the first time, the Agricultural Statistics Board had access to acreage indications based on remote sensing methodology for the major corn and soybean States during the October Board process. This was accomplished by re-engineering the remote sensing classification and estimation process and taking advantage of data sharing with other agencies. The indications were produced 75 days earlier than in the past, while simultaneously increasing the number of corn and soybean States by 40 percent to 13 major producing corn and soybean States. In addition, county level acreage indications will be available in late December or January for dissemination to NASS Field Offices.
- Corn and soybean State level yield indications based on remote sensing methodology for Illinois, Indiana and Iowa were supplied to the Agricultural Statistics Board for the first time in August and October 2007 for Board use. County level indications were also available in October.

Datalab Services

- NASS offers Datalab services to approved data users. Customers, with NASS approved projects and signed pledges of confidentiality, are permitted to access selected NASS datasets for research purposes. NASS entered into 15 new project agreements in FY 2007. NASS operates a full-time Datalab at its Headquarters and part-time Datalabs in any of its Field Office for the convenience of approved customers. The Headquarters Datalab had 108 visits in FY 2007 and 15 Field Offices operated Datalabs at various times throughout the year. The Headquarters Datalab also handled 99 special tabulation requests from customers. An off-site Datalab was opened at the Economic Research Service (ERS) to facilitate agreements with our most frequent customers. NASS is participating in a data enclave on a trial basis. The enclave was organized by the National Institute for Standards and Technology and is operated by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. It provides similar services as the NASS Datalabs, only on a Web platform accessible at a personal data users location.

Security and Contingency Planning

- Survey and census data collection procedures were modified to eliminate collection of Social Security Numbers.

- NASS migrated to a new network operating system that will improve security throughout NASS.
- NASS implemented the USDA Universal Telecommunications Network throughout its Wide Area Network increasing security of data transfers between its offices.
- Full disk encryption software was implemented to all agency laptops eliminating the risk of losing data.
- NASS modified its incident response procedures and policies to effectively address potential incidents related to lost/stolen portable devices, and potential loss of data containing Personally Identifiable Information.
- NASS started completing background checks for all staff in compliance with HSPD-12 mandate.
- NASS continues to educate its users on the importance of sound security procedures by means of security awareness and privacy training. System and Network Administrators with significant security responsibilities were required to complete security courses specific to their field of expertise.
- NASS improved and tested its Headquarters Continuity Of Operations Plan.

Data Users Meeting

- Data user meetings were held in Salt Lake City, UT in May and in Chicago, IL in October to update data users on program changes and to solicit input on new data needs. The meetings were hosted by NASS, ERS, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, and the Foreign Trade Division of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics

- In May 2007, a meeting was held in Arlington, VA, to advise NASS on annual program priorities; the 2007 Census of Agriculture follow-on surveys; the potential transfer of Census of Agriculture records to the National Archives and Records Administration; and access to Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) data by researchers. In addition, the committee discussed reports from their subcommittees on energy and equine.

eGovernment

- The NASS Quick Stats database available to the public contains the most current prices paid and received index values. Previously, index revisions were calculated quarterly (January, April, July, and October). The new process allows the public to obtain the most current index values even though not published in a NASS *Agricultural Prices* release.
- NASS leveraged its Question Repository System and continued developing Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (QRS- CATI) instruments and systems. In 2007, NASS successfully collected data using a QRS-CATI tool for the following surveys:

Equine Financial survey (Va.)
Grape survey (Va.)
2 Peach surveys (Va)
Tobacco survey (Va)

- NASS leveraged the Question Repository System to create internal systems that support the efficient tracking of performance data. These systems include an Action Item Tracking System and an internal Survey Evaluation Specifications System.
- NASS continued to expand the use of electronic data reporting (EDR) during FY 2007. EDR allows respondents to report data via the Internet. EDR was made available for the following commodities/surveys during FY 2007. Plans are to complete the system with the electronic availability of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Oregon Vineyard Survey
Oregon Wine Survey
Oregon Wine and Vineyard Survey
2007 Census of Agriculture

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Current Activities:

The Census of Agriculture is taken every 5 years and provides comprehensive data at the national, State, and county level on the agricultural economy, including the number of farms, characteristics of farm operators, land use, production expenses, value of land and buildings, farm size, market value of agricultural production sold, acreage of major crops, inventory of livestock and poultry, and farm irrigation practices.

Information from the Census of Agriculture provides comprehensive and detailed data at the county level which facilitates locality-based policy and business decisions affecting the agricultural industry and rural residents. The following examples represent accomplishments during fiscal year 2007.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

2007 Census of Agriculture

- List building activity continued with an emphasis on improved coverage of minority and small farms. An Agricultural Identification Survey (AIS) was conducted in December 2006 mailing 1.1 million questionnaires. The AIS was designed to screen and collect data on potential farms and ranches prior to adding or deleting them to the census mail list. These survey collections resulted in over 634,000 updates to the list frame.
- NASS prepared for its marketing campaign to encourage producers to complete the 2007 Census of Agriculture in a timely fashion. The marketing firm of Osborn & Barr was contracted to aid in national census of agriculture promotion. Additionally, partnering USDA agencies were contacted to aid NASS with promotion of the census at their local field offices.
- Editing and analysis programs were developed and tested utilizing NASS's 45 field offices. All of the edit logic was documented and converted into computer programs which automatically identify reporting errors or omissions. Programs are designed to use various imputation strategies for correcting errors and minimizing human intervention.

- A user-friendly electronic data reporting instrument was designed and will be used for the first time with the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Follow-up interviews with respondents provided recommendations for improvements which were then implemented in the final product.
- Efforts were made to develop partnerships with community based organizations and groups representing American Indian operators on reservations. Many meetings were held throughout the country to develop relationships focusing on improved coverage and data quality.
- New coverage adjustment methodology was planned, tested, and is being implemented. New programs were written and tested using previously reported historic data. The results were reviewed extensively by field offices and recommended actions were subsequently implemented.
- A new and extensive Incoming Telephone Call (ITC) system has been developed to personally service census respondent's questions. The new ITC system will ensure a trained customer service representative will answer any questions or concerns regarding the Census of Agriculture.
- Several efforts have been implemented to reduce respondent burden of the Census of Agriculture. An integrated questionnaire was developed to concurrently acquire both census data and ARMS information in a single contact. Data from 50,000 small farming operations acquired in early 2007, from the previously mentioned AIS, were utilized to satisfy their census requirement.
- An aggressive census follow-on survey program plan has been formulated for post census. Content and form design have begun for a follow-on Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey (FRIS) with input from industry, the Environmental Protection Agency, and ERS. Other planned follow-on surveys include Energy, Horticulture, Land and Farm Economics, Orchard & Vineyards, and Aquaculture.
- New and improved census products have been developed such as a user's ability to map census data and perform individual data queries via the Internet.
- A Quality Control System was developed to detect system and data handling problems that can impact the 2007 Census of Agriculture results. The system review employs a two step process looking for inconsistencies at an individual record level and at the aggregate level. At the record level, the process checks for internal inconsistencies on an individual's report form. At the aggregate level, a series of 166 data relationships are monitored.

Research and Development

- A target of 3.1 million potential farms was set for the 2007 Census Mail List. SAS Data Mining software was used to create decision logic trees to reduce the number of names and minimize the amount of "dead-wood" on the final mail list.
- Imputation for nonresponse on the 2007 Census was redesigned to improve both data quality and editing performance. A program was developed to stratify donor records, that is, records whose data could be used to fill in missing information for partial nonresponse. This stratification allows the imputation program to run more efficiently by searching for a donor only within a stratum of operations with characteristics similar to those of the recipient.

WORK PERFORMED FOR OTHERS

Current Activities:

NASS conducts surveys for and lends technical expertise to other Federal agencies, State governments, and private organizations on a reimbursable basis. NASS provides support and assistance in the areas of questionnaire and sample design, data collection and editing, analysis of survey results, and training. NASS also provides technical consultation, support, and assistance to foreign countries desiring to enhance their statistical programs.

NASS performs services and statistical consultation for other Federal and State agencies and private commodity organizations on a reimbursable basis. Statistics generated meet special needs not covered by the National Agricultural Statistics Program. In addition, statistical consultation by NASS staff members contributes to improvements in the overall quality and consistency of statistical information produced for the needs of other organizations. The following examples represent accomplishments during fiscal year 2007.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

Agricultural Resource Management Survey.

- The ARMS is conducted in cooperation with the USDA's ERS. The survey provides data to enable NASS to publish chemical use statistics and to provide ERS the ability to estimate farm income, conduct economic analysis relating to field crop chemical usage, estimate costs associated with producing agricultural commodities, and compile farm business and household financial data. Data collected support both agencies' estimation programs for farm production expenditures. Use of respondent incentives continued in 2007 with the use of debit cards for respondents in the core ARMS sample. Agricultural commodities included in the cost of production and chemical use studies in fiscal year 2007 included poultry, rice, and soybeans.

National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

- NASS conducted a survey under contract for APHIS, NAHMS to study health management practices of dairy animals on farms in 17 States. This survey is a continuation of a series of surveys sponsored by NAHMS, an information gathering and dissemination organization within APHIS. NASS provided statistical services including questionnaire development, data collection, data keying, data editing, and summarization.
- NASS, in cooperation with APHIS, conducted a Small Enterprise Hog Study in 31 States. The overall purpose of the project was to evaluate the relationship between small (100 or fewer head) swine producers' management practices and animal health and food safety problems. Additionally, NASS conducted a Small Enterprise Chicken Study for NAHMS. The project focused on health and management practices of small chicken operations, specifically operations with between 1,000 and 19,999 birds, in all 50 States. Both projects were follow-up, complementary studies to earlier collections that focused on commercial size hog and poultry operations.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

- NASS conducted a nationwide survey, for NIOSH, of approximately 50,000 farm operations that focused on childhood injuries on farms. This Occupational Injury and Illness Survey is a continuation of NIOSH studies conducted by NASS and sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control that focus on the occupational health of farm operators and their families. This study focused on injuries of children, up to 20 years in age, on farm operations across the Nation. NASS provided statistical services such as sample selection, questionnaire and computer-assisted telephone instrument development, data collection, data keying, and data editing. NASS will publish a press release highlighting some of the study's findings and a final detailed report will be published by NIOSH in 2008.

Nebraska Corn Development, Utilization, and Marketing Board.

- NASS completed a survey for the Nebraska Corn Development, Utilization, and Marketing Board that identified and described the potential uses of distillers' grains. A large-scale survey of livestock producers in 12 Midwestern States occurred in February 2007 that targeted identification of barriers or concerns that prevent producers from using distiller's grains and identified feed characteristics of these grains. NASS selected a statistical sample, developed questionnaires and computer assisted telephone instruments, collected data, edited and summarized data, and prepared a final published report.

United Soybean Board.

- NASS has been collaborating with the United Soybean Board (USB) for 4 years by supplying the USB with soybean samples from 11 States involved in our annual Soybean Objective Yield Survey. Compositional analysis of the random samples is made to determine such variables as oil and protein content. These analyses help determine the quality of soybeans produced in the U.S. and how they compare with those grown in other countries and help USB establish priorities for research and education efforts. At the end of each crop season, USB provides analyses back to NASS field offices that can be provided to Soybean Objective Yield respondents.

USDA Office of Communications.

- NASS coordinated and mailed informational postcards to over 100,000 beef cattle producers in 9 States in November 2006. The producer names were from the NASS list of known beef operators in the selected States. The mailing was targeting beef producers for information on a new Risk Management Agency (RMA) insurance program related to pasture, rangeland, and forage. NASS worked directly with the USDA Office of Communications on behalf of USDA's RMA.

Florida Citrus Project

- NASS developed and pilot tested an algorithm to detect change in citrus blocks from year to year so that staff resources can be allocated to those areas where change is suspected. The goal was to increase program efficiency and lower costs and to develop an automated analytical tool to make the change detection for the Citrus GIS more flexible and responsive.

California Department of Food and Agriculture

- NASS continued their cooperation and collaboration in the re-engineering of the Dairy Accounting System for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The Dairy Accounting System redistributes raw milk sales revenue generated by processing plants among the market milk producers in the State. This new system will allow for more timely processing and greater data analysis. Programming has been completed, and the system is being parallel tested for comparisons against the old application.

International Technical Assistance Provided

- NASS provided technical assistance and training to improve agricultural statistics programs in 11 countries. Short-term assignments supported work in Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, China, El Salvador, Georgia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Russia, and Ukraine. The technical assistance ranged from basic survey concepts and procedures to complete national Census of Agriculture support. In addition, NASS coordinated and/or conducted training programs in the U.S. for 119 visitors representing 15 countries. These assistance and training activities promote better quality data and improved access to data from other countries, which allows U.S. analysts to better understand the world supply and demand situation. Improved analysis supports trade and more efficient marketing of U.S. agricultural products.
- NASS entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Union's Joint Research Center for Monitoring Agriculture through Remote Sensing. This collaboration allows the exchange of information and methodology related to remote sensing between the two groups.
- NASS supported the Geographic Information Systems Section of Mexico's Agriculture and Fisheries Information Service in its efforts to construct an area frame for the state of Sinaloa. This project was a result of a Tri-partite agreement with NASS, Statistics Canada, and Agricultural and Fisheries Information and Statistics Service, Mexico, to discuss solutions to problems and concerns shared by all three countries.

PART Assessment: The NASS program, including the agricultural estimates and the Census of Agriculture, underwent an assessment by the Office of Management and Budget's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) during the fiscal year 2006 budget process and received an overall program rating of "Moderately Effective." The findings gave NASS a perfect score for "program purpose & design," "program management," and "strategic planning." The lack of a recent independent, external evaluation of the NASS program was cited. Based on these findings, NASS contracted for two external reviews. The National Academy on Science reviewed ARMS and the Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics reviewed the quinquennial Census of Agriculture. Both organizations have completed their assessments and NASS is reviewing and prioritizing the recommendations. The "program results" section of the PART indicated the need for improved demonstration of NASS achieving its long-term and annual performance goals. The American Customer Satisfaction Index will be conducted periodically and used to demonstrate progress in these areas.

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 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
 Summary of Budget and Performance
 Statement of Goals and Objectives

The NASS strategic goals are aligned with the Department’s strategic goals. The agency has four strategic goals and five strategic objectives that contribute to four of the Department’s Strategic Goals and five of the Department’s Strategic Objectives.

USDA Strategic Goal/Objective	Agency Strategic Goal	Agency Objectives	Programs that Contribute	Key Outcome
<p>USDA Strategic Goal 2: Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural and Farm Economies</p> <p>USDA Strategic Objective 2.2: Increase the Efficiency of Domestic Agricultural Production and Marketing Systems</p> <p>USDA Strategic Objective 2.3: Provide Risk Management and Financial Tools to Farmers and Ranchers</p>	<p>Agency Goal 2: Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural and Farm Economies</p> <p>Agency Goal 3 : Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America</p>	<p>Objective 2.2: Provide Statistical Data to Promote Efficient Domestic Agricultural Production and Marketing Systems.</p> <p>Objective 2.3: Provide Statistical Data for Risk Management and Financial Tools to Farmers and Ranchers.</p>	<p>Agricultural Estimates</p> <p>Census of Agriculture</p>	<p><u>Key Outcome 1:</u> Ensure high quality statistics for stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Key Outcome 2:</u> Ensure data are relevant and useful to stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Key Outcome 3:</u> Ensure timely release of data.</p>
<p>USDA Strategic Goal 3: Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America</p> <p>USDA Strategic Objective 3.1: Expand Economic Opportunities by using USDA Financial Resources to Leverage Private Sector Resources and Create Opportunities for Growth</p>		<p>Objective 3.1: Conduct the Census of Agriculture To Help Create Opportunities for Growth, Through Sound Agricultural Decision Making</p>	<p>Census of Agriculture</p>	<p><u>Key Outcome 1:</u> Ensure high quality statistics for stakeholders</p> <p><u>Key Outcome 2:</u> Ensure data are relevant and useful to stakeholders</p> <p><u>Key Outcome 3:</u> Ensure timely release of data</p>

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Summary of Budget and Performance
Statement of Goals and Objectives

USDA Strategic Goal/Objective	Agency Strategic Goal	Agency Objectives	Programs that Contribute	Key Outcome
<p>USDA Strategic Goal 6: Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment</p> <p>USDA Strategic Objective 6.2: Enhance Soil Quality to Maintain Productive Working Cropland</p>	<p>Agency Goal 6: Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment</p>	<p><u>Objective 6.2:</u> Provide Statistical Data to Support Management of Productive Working Cropland</p>	<p>Agricultural Estimates</p> <p>Census of Agriculture</p>	<p><u>Key Outcome 1:</u> Ensure high quality statistics for stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Key Outcome 2:</u> Ensure data are relevant and useful to stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Key Outcome 3:</u> Ensure timely release of data.</p>

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Strategic Objective and Funding Matrix
(On basis of appropriation)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2.2: Increase the Efficiency of Domestic Agricultural Production and Marketing Systems

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2.3: Provide Risk Management and Financial Tools to Farmers and Ranchers

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3.1: Expand Economic Opportunities by Using USDA Financial Resources To Leverage Private Sector Resources and Create Opportunities for Growth

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6.2: Enhance Soil Quality to Maintain Productive Working Cropland

	<u>2007 Actual</u>		<u>2008 Estimated</u>		<u>Increase or Decrease</u>	<u>2009 Estimated</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff Years</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff Years</u>		<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff Years</u>
Strategic Objective 2.2:							
Agricultural Estimates	\$103,389,000	782	\$102,737,000	782	\$4,231,000	\$106,968,000	782
Census of Agriculture	0	0	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	6
Strategic Objective 2.3:							
Agricultural Estimates	6,615,000	67	6,615,000	67	0	6,615,000	67
Strategic Objective 3.1:							
Census of Agriculture	36,249,000	266	51,725,000	266	-15,833,000	35,892,000	232
Strategic Objective 6.2:							
Agricultural Estimates	800,000	0	800,000	0	0	800,000	0
Census of Agriculture	200,000	1	260,000	1	+1,940,000	2,200,000	20
Total Available	147,253,000	1,116	162,137,000	1,116	-8,662,000	153,475,000	1,107

Selected Accomplishments Expected at the FY 2009 Proposed Resource Level:

- Summarization and publication of the 2007 Census of Agriculture will occur during the first half of FY 2009. Additionally, NASS will expand its program to include vital agricultural statistics on the bio-energy boom. Finally, proposed funding will transform the cyclical census of agriculture funding to a flat level (with only pay costs and new initiatives providing increases) from the current annual cyclical process.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Summary of Budget and Performance
Key Performance Outcomes and Measures

NASS has developed performance measures based on the R&D Investment Criteria in the President's Management Agenda and the NASS mission to provide timely, accurate, and useful agricultural statistics. Each goal of the USDA Strategic Plan to which NASS contributes and receives appropriated funding has a measure for each of the Investment Criteria: Usefulness (relevance), accuracy (quality), and timeliness (performance). The NASS key outcomes and long term performance measures are consistent across all goals and are stated here only once for efficiency.

Goal 2: Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural and Farm Economies.

Goal 3: Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America.

Goal 6: Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment.

Key Outcome 1: Ensure high quality statistics for stakeholders.

Longterm Performance Measure: Percent of key survey estimators meeting predefined levels of precision.

Key Outcome 2: Ensure data are relevant and useful to stakeholders.

Longterm Performance Measure: Alignment of commodity inclusion and coverage with stakeholders needs.

Key Outcome 3: Ensure timely release of data.

Longterm Performance Measure: Percent of time official reports are released on the date and time prespecified to data users.

Key Performance Targets:

Performance Measure	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Target	2009 Target
Usefulness – The accuracy and usefulness of the report content of NASS products and services as measured by ACSI ^{1/}						
a. Units(Percent)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	88	n/a
Timeliness-Percent of time official reports are released on the date and time pre-specified to data users						
a. Units(Percent)	99.4	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Timeliness – Publish the Census of Agriculture results 14 months after the initial mail date						
a. Units	Feb 2004 (met)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Feb 2009

^{1/}The American Customer Satisfaction Index is only measured about every 3 years. However, the usefulness of NASS reports is monitored annually and efforts are continuously made to ensure USDA is meeting the growing data needs of its constituents.

**Summary of Budget and Performance
Full Cost by Strategic Objective**

Strategic Objective 2.2: Increase the Efficiency of Domestic Agricultural Production and Marketing Systems

PROGRAM	PROGRAM ITEMS	AMOUNT (\$000)		
		FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Agricultural Estimates				
	Salary expenses	\$69,510	\$70,179	\$73,224
	Contracts	22,910	23,788	23,628
	Travel	1,704	1,705	1,837
	Printing	128	137	422
	Hardware/software	2,243	1,960	2,629
	Postage/Shipping/Contingencies	5,292	3,292	3,346
	Indirect	<u>1,602</u>	<u>1,676</u>	<u>1,882</u>
	Total Costs	\$103,389	\$102,737	\$106,968
	FTEs	753	782	782

Performance measure: Percent of time official reports are released on the date and time pre-specified to data users

Units	100.0	100	100
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Census of Agriculture

	Salary expenses	0	0	\$608
	Contracts	0	0	348
	Travel	0	0	12
	Printing	0	0	9
	Hardware/software	0	0	10
	Postage/Shipping/Contingencies	0	0	0
	Indirect	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13</u>
	Total Costs	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
	FTEs	0	0	6

Total for Agency Strategic Objective 2.2

Total Cost (program, direct, ind	\$103,389	\$102,737	\$107,968
	753	782	788

Strategic Objective 2.3: Provide Risk Management and Financial Tools to Farmers and Ranchers

PROGRAM	PROGRAM ITEMS	AMOUNT (\$000)		
		FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Agricultural Estimates				
	Salary expenses	\$3,587	\$3,637	\$3,837
	Data collection	893	893	893
	Contracts	1,872	1,822	1,622
	Printing	33	33	33
	Hardware/Software	61	61	61
	Postage/Shipping/Contingencies	34	34	34
	Indirect	<u>135</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>135</u>
	Total Costs	\$6,615	\$6,615	\$6,615
	FTEs	67	67	67

Total for Strategic Objective 2.3

Total Cost (program, direct, indirect)	\$6,615	\$6,615	\$6,615
FTEs	67	67	67

Strategic Objective 3.1: Expand Economic Opportunities By Using USDA Financial Resources to Leverage Private Sector Resources and Create Opportunities for Growth

PROGRAM	PROGRAM ITEMS	AMOUNT (\$000)		
		FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Census of Agriculture				
	Salary expenses	\$21,500	\$25,533	\$23,527
	Contracts	3,653	16,683	4,759
	Printing	8,211	1,312	1,112
	Hardware/Software	2,051	2,703	2,377
	Travel/transportation	765	1,515	1,095
	Indirect	<u>69</u>	<u>3,979</u>	<u>3,022</u>
	Total Costs	\$36,249	\$51,725	\$35,892
	FTEs	266	266	232
Total for Strategic Goal 3				
	<i>Total Cost (program, direct, indirect)</i>	\$36,249	\$51,725	\$35,892
	<i>FTEs</i>	266	266	232

Strategic Objective 6.2: Enhance Soil Quality to Maintain Productive Working Cropland

PROGRAM	PROGRAM ITEMS	AMOUNT (\$000)		
		FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Agricultural Estimates				
	Contracts	<u>\$800</u>	<u>\$800</u>	<u>\$800</u>
	Total Costs	800	800	800
	FTEs	0	0	0
Census of Agriculture				
	Salary expenses	\$100	\$100	\$2,000
	Travel	3	4	17
	Hardware/software	15	71	83
	Postage/shipping/Contingencies	1	2	21
	Indirect	<u>81</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>79</u>
	Total Costs	200	260	2,200
	FTEs	1	1	20
Total for Agency Strategic Goal 6.2				
	<i>Total Cost (program, direct, indirect)</i>	1,000	1,060	3,000
	<i>FTEs</i>	1	1	20