

2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the "Budget" is in regard to the 2026 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2023 and 2024, Full-Year Continuing Resolution levels for 2025, and the President's Budget request for 2026. Amounts for 2025 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the "2018 Farm Bill" is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2025, as extended by the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158, Division D). Amounts shown in 2025 and 2026 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1).

AGENCY-WIDE**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 is essential to the public and private sectors for making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions on a wide range of agricultural commodities. Every five years the Census of Agriculture (CoA) provides comprehensive national, state, and county data as well as selected data for Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa Islands. NASS's 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 (Title 7 U.S. Code 2204g).

Agricultural Estimates Programs (AEP)

In the AEP, NASS annually publishes approximately 450 agricultural statistical national reports and thousands of additional agricultural statistical state reports, covering more than 120 crops, 45 livestock items, and 12 major economic and environmental categories. These releases are complemented by state agricultural statistical releases. These basic and objective data are critical to maintain an orderly association between the consumption, supply, marketing, expenses, and income sectors of agriculture. NASS uses scientifically designed surveys to 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 statistical 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; prices received and paid by farmers; agricultural chemical use; and on other subjects as needed. The regional field offices analyze, estimate, and compile estimates at the state level and forward the estimates to NASS headquarters where they are combined and released at preannounced scheduled times to the press and public through the Agricultural Statistics Board. The statistical data provided by NASS enhances the competitiveness and sustainability of rural farm economics by leveling the playing field. All parties have equal access to official statistics. NASS regularly surveys thousands of operators of farms, ranches, and agribusiness who provide information on a confidential basis. The necessity of protecting respondent confidentiality and ensuring the impartiality of official agricultural statistics and

universal accessibility at predetermined and publicized dates and times are addressed by having the federal government produce these statistics.

Census of Agriculture Programs (CoA)

The Census of Agriculture is taken every five 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. The Census of Agriculture data collection is conducted in close cooperation with the nation's agricultural user groups and farmer organizations. The CoA ensures that the list frame used for sampling records for surveys, which encompasses the AEP and the reimbursable survey program, is current. Under the Census of Agriculture appropriation in 2015, NASS started publishing the Current Agricultural Industrial Reports. Full release of the 2022 Census of Agriculture was on February 13, 2024. Plans for the 2027 Census of Agriculture are underway.

Work Performed for Others

NASS lends technical expertise and conducts surveys for other federal agencies, state governments, and private organizations on a reimbursable basis. Through the reimbursable program, 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 CoA is essential to the reimbursable program and provides a current list frame to draw sampling records from which to do client work.

NASS maintains a central office in Washington, D.C., a National Operations Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and a network of 12 regional field offices that serve all 50 states operating through cooperative agreements with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture or universities. As of September 30, 2024, there were 815 permanent full-time employees, including 380 in the headquarters office and 435 in field offices. The total staff count includes staff from the Agricultural Research Service's Administrative and Financial Management division, who provides critical administrative and business services to NASS.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTEs**Table NASS-1. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

Item	2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations	\$211,076	733	\$187,850	707	\$187,850	648	\$185,000	389
Total Adjusted Appropriation.....	211,076	733	187,850	707	187,850	648	185,000	389
Balance Available, SOY	182	-	154	-	417	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	11,134	-	11,322	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	222,392	733	199,326	707	188,267	648	185,000	389
Balance Available, EOY	-154	-	-417	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	222,238	733	198,909	707	188,267	648	185,000	389
Total Obligations, NASS.....	222,238	733	198,909	707	188,267	648	185,000	389
Other USDA:								
AMS, pesticide cert. and base month.....	1,046	5	399	-	1,567	2	-	-
ARS, Nutrient Data Laboratory.....	16	-	19	-	-	-	-	-
APHIS	321	-	420	-	430	-	280	-
ERS.....	9,091	39	9,185	30	9,165	28	9,100	29
FAS.....	611	1	612	1	605	-	96	-
FS	-	-	83	-	86	-	86	-
FSA	6,136	35	6,256	30	6,633	30	6,620	30
NRCS	7,049	6	15,510	33	17,222	31	15,000	33
OCIO.....	86	-	37	-	37	-	-	-
RMA	-	-	19	-	2,232	3	1,000	2
WAOB, Lock-up.....	19	-	22	-	17	-	-	-
WCF	6,000	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous USDA Reimbursable.....	200	-	11,400	-	780	-	-	-
Total, Other USDA	30,575	92	43,962	94	38,774	94	32,182	94
Total, Agriculture Available.....	252,967	825	243,288	801	227,041	742	217,182	483
Other Federal Funds:								
American Pecan Council.....	225	1	241	-	241	-	-	-
American Soybean Assn.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
DHS	150	1	88	-	-	-	-	-
DOI, BLM Grazing Fees Survey	82	-	82	-	85	-	85	-
Health & Human Services	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NASA	15	-	143	-	82	-	-	-
National Corn Growers Assn.	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
United Soybean Council.....	26	-	20	-	20	-	-	-
University of Wisconsin.....	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
USGS (RDD).....	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Other Federal	553	2	574	-	439	-	85	-
Non-Federal Funds:								
State Agencies - survey work.....	3,043	12	2,859	12	3,878	12	3,099	12
Non-Federal Funds	-	-	85	-	14	-	-	-
Total, Non-Federal	3,043	12	2,944	12	3,892	12	3,099	12
Total Available, NASS	256,563	839	246,806	813	231,372	754	220,366	495

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTEs**Table NASS-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs**

Item	2023 Actual			2024 Actual			2025 Estimated			2026 Estimated		
	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total
SES.....	9	1	10	9	1	10	9	1	10	6	-	6
SL.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
GS-15.....	24	13	37	24	13	37	24	13	37	19	12	31
GS-14.....	72	59	131	72	59	131	72	59	131	51	45	96
GS-13.....	198	59	257	194	56	250	161	55	216	116	36	152
GS-12.....	30	173	203	30	173	203	30	156	186	16	97	113
GS-11.....	15	22	37	15	22	37	15	20	35	11	6	17
GS-10.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
GS-9.....	15	47	62	15	47	62	15	42	57	11	25	36
GS-8.....	5	35	40	5	35	40	5	32	37	-	15	15
GS-7.....	3	28	31	3	28	31	3	28	31	2	19	21
GS-6.....	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	3	3
GS-5.....	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	2	2
GS-4.....	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	3	3
GS-3.....	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	-	-
Total Permanent ...	373	449	822	369	446	815	336	418	754	232	263	495
Total Perm. FT EOY ..	373	449	822	369	446	815	336	418	754	232	263	495
FTE	383	456	839	369	417	813	336	418	754	232	263	495

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¹ This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

VEHICLE FLEET**Motor Vehicle Fleet**

All passenger motor vehicles operated by NASS are located at various field offices and are assigned based on approved program needs and geographic region. NASS uses its fleet to conduct agricultural statistics programs through its 12 regional statistical offices and 28 statistical offices that serve all 50 states. The NASS fleet is comprised primarily of sport utility vehicles (SUVs) that allow passengers and equipment to travel easily to farms, ranches, fields and trade shows. Among the 12 regional offices and 28 state offices, there are 3 NASS owned vehicles, and 46 vehicles leased from General Services Administration (GSA). While all 12 NASS regional offices and 28 state offices require the use of motor vehicles, it is often more cost-effective to acquire vehicles through existing cooperative agreements with the individual State Departments of Agriculture, through leases from state motor pools, or via rental agreements. Field offices monitor and track vehicles' use and costs. Where possible NASS uses short term rental and shared motor pools. The use of common carriers is not feasible. The ability to reach the nation's farms, ranches, and fields is crucial to the NASS mission and for ensuring data are collected and reported accurately.

Replacement Criteria

NASS retires or replaces vehicles based upon age, utilization, operating costs.

Table NASS-3. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet

Item	Sedans and Station Wagons	Vans	SUVs	Light Trucks 4X2	Light Trucks 4X4	Medium Duty Vehicles	Buses	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs
2018 End of Year Operating Inventory	1	3	21	-	24	1	-	-	50	\$238,000
2023 End of Year Operating Inventory	1	3	20	-	24	1	-	-	49	286,178
2024 Actual Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2024 Actual Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2024 End of Year Operating Inventory	1	3	20	-	24	1	-	-	49	348,454
2025 Planned Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
2025 Planned Disposals	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
2025 End of Year Operating Inventory	1	3	20	-	24	1	-	-	49	365,384
2026 Planned Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2026 Planned Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2026 End of Year Operating Inventory	1	3	20	-	24	1	-	-	49	536,866

Table NASS-4. Statement of Proposed Acquisition of Passenger Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Additions	Total Acquisitions	Net Active Fleet, EOY
2023	1	-	-	-	-	1
2024	1	-	-	-	-	1
2025	1	-	-	-	-	1
2026	1	-	-	-	-	1

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS**Table NASS-5. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)**

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA	\$101	\$252	\$239	\$239
General Counsel Legal Compliance.....	-	-	36	449
Material Management Service	134	148	120	123
Mail and Reproduction Services	242	217	209	209
Integrated Procurement Systems	68	56	56	56
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems.....	12	10	62	60
Subtotal	557	683	722	1,136
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center	354	117	162	193
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center	229	241	234	235
Personnel and Document Security	39	45	51	51
Internal Control Support Services	50	57	73	73
Financial Management Support Services.....	1,251	1,333	1,249	1,248
Subtotal	1,569	1,676	1,607	1,607
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	7,979	7,061	7,164	7,824
Department Administration Information Technology Office	128	142	-	-
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services	369	643	730	730
Digital Infrastructure Services Center	6,666	4,669	2,058	2,058
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services	2,158	1,968	478	477
Enterprise Network Services.....	2,824	4,092	3,430	2,800
Subtotal	20,124	18,575	13,860	13,889
Correspondence Management Services	-	-	-	-
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	12	12	7	11
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	22,616	21,063	16,358	16,836
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services	3	3	3	3
Agency Partnership Outreach	60	62	63	63
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility	16	22	5	-
Employee Experience	28	31	24	24
Medical Services	91	98	147	147
National Capital Region Interpreting Services	32	43	53	53
Office of Customer Experience	26	25	25	25
Physical Security	37	39	49	49
Security Detail	41	45	67	67
Security Operations Program.....	56	63	62	62
Talent Group	29	28	28	28
TARGET Center.....	13	14	13	13
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs.....	432	473	539	534
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business	1	1	1	1
E-Rulemaking	-	6	8	7
Financial Management Line of Business	1	2	2	2
Geospatial Line of Business	13	13	13	13
Human Resources Line of Business	2	2	2	2
Total, E-Gov	17	24	26	25
Agency Total	23,065	21,560	16,923	17,395

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² In alignment with the current Administration's priorities, the 2025 amounts reflect expenses incurred prior to January 20, 2025.

ACCOUNT 1: SALARIES AND EXPENSES**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored):

Salaries and Expenses

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, \$185,000,000, of which up to \$46,000,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture: Provided, That amounts made available for the Census of Agriculture may be used to conduct Current Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204g(d) and (f).

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**Table NASS-8. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)**

Item	Amount
Enacted, 2025	\$187,850,000
Change in Appropriation	-2,850,000
Budget Estimate, 2026	185,000,000

PROJECT STATEMENTS**Table NASS-9. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimate d	FTE s	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Ch g Ke y
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Agricultural Estimates											
Programs.....	\$144,663	463	\$140,000	477	\$140,000	418	\$138,000	289	-\$2,000	-129	(1)
Statistical Research and											
Services	-	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	
Census of Agriculture Program .	66,413	270	46,850	230	46,850	230	46,000	100	-850	-130	(2)
Total Appropriation	211,076	733	187,850	707	187,850	648	185,000	389	-2,850	-259	
Recoveries, Other.....	11,134	-	11,322	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY	182	-	154	-	417	-	-	-	-417	-	
Total Available	222,392	733	199,326	707	188,267	648	185,000	389	-3,267	-259	
Bal. Available, EOY	-154	-	-417	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Obligations	222,238	733	198,909	707	188,267	648	185,000	389	-3,267	-259	

Table NASS-10. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Agricultural Estimates Program	\$144,663	463	\$140,000	477	\$140,000	418	\$138,000	289	-\$2,000	-129
Statistical Research and Services .	-	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Census of Agriculture Program	77,575	270	57,909	230	47,267	230	46,000	100	-1,267	-130
Subtotal Disc Obligations.....	222,238	733	198,909	707	188,267	648	185,000	389	-3,267	-259
Total Obligations	222,238	733	198,909	707	188,267	648	185,000	389	-3,267	-259
Add back:										
Balances Available, EOY:										
Census of Agriculture Program	154	-	417	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY.....	154	-	417	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	222,392	733	199,326	707	188,267	648	185,000	389	-3,267	-259
Less:										
Recoveries, Other.....	-11,134	-	-11,322	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-182	-	-154	-	-417	-	-	-	+417	-
Total Appropriation	211,076	733	187,850	707	187,850	648	185,000	389	-2,850	-259

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES**Agricultural Estimates Program (AEP)**

Base funding for AEP provides objective data essential to both the public and private sectors of the agriculture industry. AEP base funding will be used to continue collecting integrated surveys and estimates used for approximately 450 agricultural statistical reports that:

- Directly impact the market,
- Directly contribute to the Principal Federal Economic Indicators of the United States,
- Provide data for which NASS reports are the only publicly available objective sources of information,
- Support USDA program delivery, and
- Have specific legislative requirements for release.

Providing market information was one of the USDA's key missions when it was created in 1862. Critical market-sensitive data are used by the commodity and agricultural markets to operate efficiently, providing a fair and equitable environment for price discovery in the marketplace. Without a federal provision of objective data available for the U.S. and world markets, key market information would be in the hands of a few. Individual producers and ranchers would be at a disadvantage compared to those who have resources to pay for information, and markets could be exposed to manipulation.

Funds will be used for salaries and benefits, travel and transportation, rental payments, communications and utilities, printing and reproduction, goods and services from non-federal and federal sources, research and development, equipment, operation and maintenance of equipment, and supplies and materials.

The NASS AEP is an integrated program; most report costs cannot be itemized as separate costs for a single report. For example, the June Area, Crops, and Objective Yield surveys provide direct estimates or are a component of data collection and estimation for the following publications: June Acreage; Cattle Inventory; Small Grains Summary; Crop Production Summary; Hogs & Pigs Inventory; Sheep Inventory; Farm Production Expenditures; Agricultural Land Values; Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations.

As with base funding, the increases and decreases shown below support the mission, vision, and goals of the agency. In pursuit of streamlining workforce efforts, facilities, and other government efficiencies, NASS has reduced its staff count from 754 to 495. NASS has reorganized its internal operations and functions to align with the administration's priorities while ensuring we continue to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. The funding changes are requested for the following items:

The numbers and letters of the following listing relate to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

- (1) A decrease of \$2,000,000 and 129 FTEs (\$140,663,000 and 418 FTE's available in 2025). The funding change is requested for the following items:

A) A decrease of \$2,000,000 to eliminate the Farm Labor Report informed by the Agricultural Labor Survey (ALS) program. NASS conducts the ALS semi-annually and the Department of Labor (DOL) uses data from the report as an input in the calculation of the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR), the prevailing rate used in the administration of the H-2A program. Agricultural producers have expressed concerns with the Farm Labor Survey not capturing accurate and reflective wage rates. Funding previously allocated to this report will now be redirected towards high-priority projects that are better aligned with the interests and support requirements of farmers and ranchers and the Administration.

Census of Agriculture Program (CoA)

The Census of Agriculture is conducted every five years to obtain agricultural statistics for each county, state and the nation. The Census is the leading source of statistics about the nation's agricultural production and the only source of consistent, comparable data at the county, state and national levels. The Census is authorized by law under Title 7, U.S. code 2204g and is conducted in close cooperation with the nation's agricultural user groups and farmer organizations.

Continuation of the CoA Program is critical because funding below the base level would result in:

- A data gap that hinders NASS ability to complete the CoA.
- Lack of CoA data used by public and private decision-makers, including USDA and Congress, to make sound, well-informed, and effective policy, production and marketing decisions.
- Lack of CoA data that is vital to USDA programs in the Economic Research Service, Agricultural Research Service, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, Foreign Agricultural Service, Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Rural Development.
- Difficulty producing other NASS reports. If the CoA is not completed, NASS will not have a current list frame for conducting its ongoing surveys in the Agricultural Estimates program, census follow-on surveys, and reimbursable surveys as well.
- The CoA Program is conducted over a five-year cycle of activities. Annual and Quinquennial Census of Agriculture special study follow-on surveys are a vital part of the Census of Agriculture Program and can include: the annual Current Agricultural Industrial Reports; and the Quinquennial Special Studies: the Census of Aquaculture; the Census of Horticulture; the Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey; the Tenure, Ownership and Transition of Land Survey; Organic Production Survey; and Local Foods Special Study.

The entire CoA Program is broken down into five general categories. Due to the cyclical nature of the quinquennial Census of Agriculture Program, appropriated funds will shift among these five broader categories over the five year cycle of activities. Research, evaluation and analysis are continually being conducted during the entire cycle of the quinquennial Census of Agriculture throughout all aspects to ensure data quality and efficiency.

(2) A decrease of \$850,000, and 130 FTEs (\$46,850,000 and 230 FTE's available in 2025) for Census research activities.

A) A decrease of \$850,000 to streamline the workforce which will increase the efficiency of CoA. NASS is utilizing existing modeling to improve our estimates, which allows NASS to both leverage and automate the flow of data from a wide variety of sources, including administrative, geospatial, and economic data to improve the timeliness and quality of planted acreage estimates.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs**Table NASS-11. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for Agricultural Estimates Program (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

State/Territory/Country	2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Alabama	\$202	2	\$155	1	\$155	1	\$150	1
Alaska	143	1	155	1	155	1	-	-
Arizona	203	2	155	1	155	1	-	-
Arkansas.....	215	12	2,187	10	2,187	10	2,200	7
California	2,145	16	2,095	18	2,095	18	2,100	13
Colorado	2,954	23	3,665	17	3,665	17	3,600	14
District of Columbia	99,399	143	102,825	198	102,825	139	102,240	35
Florida	296	3	200	1	200	1	200	1
Georgia.....	1,983	11	3,068	18	3,068	18	3,000	18
Hawaii	247	2	155	1	155	1	150	1
Idaho.....	247	2	155	1	155	1	150	1
Illinois.....	234	2	247	2	247	2	-	-
Indiana	247	2	147	1	147	1	-	-
Iowa.....	2,165	17	2,616	13	2,616	13	2,600	13
Kansas.....	203	2	150	1	150	1	150	1
Kentucky	2,406	17	2,687	10	2,687	10	2,600	10
Louisiana	215	2	255	2	255	2	200	1
Maryland.....	180	1	180	1	180	1	180	1
Michigan	2,080	20	2,634	15	2,634	15	2,600	15
Minnesota	221	2	250	2	250	2	250	1
Mississippi.....	224	2	160	1	160	1	160	1
Missouri	14,300	57	2,288	78	2,288	78	2,200	78
Montana	398	4	160	1	160	1	160	-
Nebraska	2,536	20	2,744	18	2,744	18	2,700	18
Nevada	250	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire.....	390	3	255	2	255	2	250	1
New Jersey	247	2	255	2	255	2	250	1
New Mexico	224	2	255	2	255	2	250	1
New York.....	224	2	255	2	255	2	250	1
North Carolina.....	390	2	160	1	160	1	160	1
North Dakota	224	2	155	1	155	1	150	1
Ohio	192	2	230	2	230	2	230	2
Oklahoma	361	3	255	2	255	2	250	2
Oregon	241	2	255	2	255	2	250	2
Pennsylvania.....	2,325	22	3,393	10	3,393	10	3,300	10
South Carolina	247	2	255	2	255	2	250	1
South Dakota.....	205	2	160	1	160	1	160	1
Tennessee	202	2	160	1	160	1	160	1
Texas	2,343	22	2,104	18	2,104	18	2,100	18
Utah	231	2	155	1	155	1	150	1
Virginia	215	2	155	1	155	1	150	1
Washington.....	2,016	15	2,550	10	2,550	10	2,500	10
West Virginia.....	208	2	250	2	250	2	250	2
Wisconsin	231	2	155	1	155	1	150	1
Wyoming.....	254	4	255	2	255	2	200	1
Obligations.....	144,663	463	141,000	477	141,000	418	139,000	289
Total, Available.....	144,663	463	141,000	477	141,000	418	139,000	289

Table NASS-12. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for Census of Agriculture Program (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2023		2024		2025		2026	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Alabama	\$109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alaska	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas.....	116	-	\$505	14	\$505	14	\$500	5
California	1,177	10	1,413	10	1,413	10	1,400	5
Colorado	4,545	10	1,428	10	1,428	10	1,400	5
District of Columbia	50,138	137	42,915	111	32,273	111	32,000	30
Florida	159	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia.....	1,095	10	1,361	10	1,361	10	1,300	5
Hawaii	133	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Idaho.....	133	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Illinois.....	128	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indiana	135	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iowa.....	1,166	10	1,274	10	1,274	10	1,200	7
Kansas.....	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kentucky	1,606	10	1,446	6	1,446	6	1,400	4
Louisiana	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Michigan	1,120	6	1,130	6	1,130	6	1,100	4
Minnesota	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi.....	121	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Missouri	7,700	30	1,297	10	1,297	10	1,200	5
Montana	214	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	1,403	11	1,473	11	1,473	11	1,400	9
New Jersey	133	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Mexico	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New York	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina.....	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Dakota	121	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ohio	103	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma	194	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oregon	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania.....	1,337	12	1,555	14	1,555	14	1,500	10
South Carolina	133	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Dakota.....	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tennessee	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	1,262	10	496	4	496	4	-	4
Utah	124	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Washington.....	1,152	13	1,616	14	1,616	14	1,600	7
West Virginia.....	112	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	124	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	137	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations.....	77,575	270	57,909	230	47,267	230	46,000	100
Bal. Available, EOY	154	-	417	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available.....	77,729	270	58,326	230	47,267	230	46,000	100

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**Table NASS-14. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)**

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.	\$39,308	\$39,500	\$38,000	\$25,000
	Personnel Compensation, Field	36,870	37,500	36,000	25,000
11	Total personnel compensation	76,178	77,000	74,000	50,000
12	Personal benefits	30,000	28,333	28,000	19,000
13.0	Benefits for former personnel		12	12	12
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	106,178	105,345	102,012	69,012
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	1,600	1,174	1,000	1,000
22.0	Transportation of things	1,500	1,012	1,000	1,000
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	6,030	6,062	6,100	6,700
23.2	Rental payments to others	7,247	4,968	3,400	5,000
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	3,404	2,594	3,100	3,100
24.0	Printing and reproduction	383	337	468	420
25	Other contractual services				
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	3,232	12,592	11,744	12,000
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	44,000	32,271	38,000	57,165
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	12,072	8,512	4,240	9,000
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	11,244	12,314	6,000	9,000
25.5	Research and development contracts	11,000	689	1,000	1,000
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	10,829	8,596	9,000	9,000
26.0	Supplies and materials	1,043	484	600	600
31.0	Equipment	996	1,956	600	1,000
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	1,480	3	3	3
	Total, Other Objects	116,060	93,564	86,255	115,988
99.9	Total, new obligations	222,238	198,909	188,267	185,000
DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)...		\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100
Information Technology Investments:					
Major Investment 1					
Related Mission Area PPA #1					
11	Internal Labor	\$11,300	\$9,371	\$13,700	\$12,150
	External Labor (Contractors)	13,750	4,338	33,290	30,195
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting)	959	959	890	0.900
Related Mission Area PPA #2					
11	Internal Labor	31,409	31,409	33,388	33
	External Labor (Contractors)	14,487	15,772	17,955	1,796
	Total Major Investment 1	71,905	61,849	99,223	44,175
	Total IT Investments	71,905	61,849	99,223	44,175
Cybersecurity					
	Recover	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
	Total Cybersecurity	150	150	150	150
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	\$199,726	\$205,718	\$211,889	\$218,245
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$96,138	\$99,022	\$101,993	\$102,992
	Average Grade, GS Position	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5

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³ This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (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, which consists of the Agricultural Estimates and the Census of Agriculture programs. The NASS statistical data 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 conducts its survey work through 12 regional field offices (RFOs) and 33 state offices serving all 50 states.

Annually, NASS publishes approximately 450 national agricultural statistical reports, covering over 120 crops, 45 livestock items, and 12 major economic and environmental categories, complemented by additional state agricultural statistical releases. These basic and objective data are critical to maintain an orderly association between the consumption, supply, marketing, expenses, income, and input sectors of agriculture. These statistics promote a level playing field in production agriculture with impartial information available to everyone at a predetermined and publicized date and time.

Agricultural Estimates Program

NASS produced six of USDA's eight principal economic indicator reports: *Agricultural Prices*, *Crop Production*, *Grain Stocks*, *Cattle on Feed*, *Hogs and Pigs*, and *Acreage*. These are broadly used in agribusiness and market analyses, including for decision making by buyers and sellers of agricultural commodities.

Geospatial Program**Remote Sensing for Enhanced Crop Acreage Estimates**

NASS uses remote sensing to enhance its crop acreage estimates as a major input in constructing the nation's area sampling frame – the statistical foundation for collecting agricultural estimates with complete coverage of U.S. agriculture. The Cropland Data Layer (CDL) is the agency's core remote sensing product; it provides crop-specific land cover information and serves as the basis of acreage estimates. The CDL shows the type and location of crops planted in a particular season using freely available mid-resolution satellite imagery, such as Landsat 8 and 9 and Copernicus Programme Sentinel 2a and 2b; high-quality ground reference data; and efficient and robust land cover classification software. In addition, NASS distributed the CDL for the CONUS to stakeholders for the 2023 crop seasons via the USDA Geospatial Data Gateway and CroplandCROS, and is planning on releasing the 2024 CDL at 10-meters in February 2025.

Remote Sensing for Yield Assessments

NASS utilized the MODIS-based normalized difference vegetation index and the NASA GIMMS Global Agricultural Monitoring System application for modeling corn and soybean yield estimates covering the 16 largest corn producing and 11 largest soybean producing states. Updated yield estimates were delivered operationally to the NASS Agricultural Statistics Board as an independent indication for setting official August, September, and October yield estimates by state. After the growing season's conclusion, county-level yield estimates for corn and soybeans are generated and further refined by integrating land surface temperature.

Remote Sensing for Disaster Assessments

Geospatial decision-support products were derived and provided for rapid response to assess the impact on agricultural disaster areas from fire and flooding to identify potential crop losses. In 2024, geospatial decision-support data products were delivered for disaster inundation and wildfire assessments to assess impacts on agriculture from the Kentucky and Tennessee tornadoes (December 2023), Texas wildfires (February 2024), midwestern floods (June 2024), Hurricane Debby (August 2024), Hurricane Helene (September 2024) and Hurricane Milton (October 2024). The products included tornado damage assessments, wildfire impact on crops, grasslands, and ranching infrastructure, and flooding over

impacted crop and pasture areas. This information was used to assess near real-time storm inundation or wildfire impact over croplands and pasturelands and shared with USDA and the public. The disaster assessment reports, maps, crop inundation raster layers, metadata and a methodology report were posted on the NASS website for public dissemination at https://www.nass.usda.gov/Research_and_Science/Disaster-Analysis/index.php. Final reports, excluding in-season crop and pasture hay estimates, were posted on the NASS web site for public use.

Census of Agriculture Program

The Census of Agriculture is conducted every five years and provides a comprehensive data series at the national, state, and county level. It provides a snapshot of the agricultural economy including the number of farms, farm typology, characteristics of farm operators, land use, production expenses, value of land and buildings, farm size, market value of agricultural production, acreage of hundreds of crops, inventory of livestock and poultry, and extensive farming practices including irrigation, marketing, and utilization of government sponsored programs. The results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture were published in 2024. Additional data products from the 2022 Census of Agriculture will continue into 2025.

2022 Census of Agriculture

NASS successfully released the final results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture on February 13, 2024. The following are products provided to the public on the day of the release:

- Volume 1- Geographic Area Series - Part 1-51 – Provides uniform and comprehensive agricultural statistics for the U.S., all 50 states, and over 3,000 counties or county equivalents.
- Quick Stats – Electronic database providing a data user the ability to customize data queries and download aggregated data in a format that allows for additional data analysis.
- State and County Profiles – Highlights key agricultural production, farm and farmer characteristics, and practices for each state and county in the U.S.
- Ag Census Highlights – Topical fact sheets regarding characteristics, conditions, and trends in U.S. farms and farmers.

NASS successfully rolled out a variety of other census products that are derived from the census of agriculture. In response to data user requests and needs to have data provided in different media and tabular formats, NASS has provided the public the following products since the data release in April:

- Congressional District Profiles - Highlights key agricultural production, farm and farmer characteristics, and practices by Congressional District.
- Congressional District Rankings – Ranks selected census of agriculture statistics by Congressional District.
- Watersheds – Provides data users selected census of agriculture statistics for the six-digit Hydrological Unit Code.
- American Indian Reservations – Provides key agricultural production and demographic reservation-level data for all farms on American Indian reservations.
- Ag Census Web Mapping – Online application provided to users to access key census of agriculture data through a collection of interactive maps.

Census of Agriculture - Puerto Rico

NASS successfully released the 2022 Puerto Rico Census of Agriculture. Published on July 18, 2024, the census of agriculture is the only source of official agriculture statistics for Puerto Rico. This year's release was accompanied by a briefing with island stakeholders representing Puerto Rico's agriculture industry.

Census of Agriculture - Outlying Areas

During 2024, NASS completed data collection from farmers for the agriculture census in each of the U.S. territories of American Samoa, April 2025, Guam, April 2025, Northern Mariana Islands, February 2025, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, March 2025. The census of

agriculture is the only source of official agriculture statistics for the territories. Census of Agriculture data for these U.S. territories are scheduled to be released in 2025.

Census Follow-on Surveys

Irrigation and Water Management Survey

NASS concluded data collection, editing, and analysis for the 2023 Irrigation and Water Management Special Study. The primary purpose of the Irrigation and Water Management survey is to provide a wide range of irrigation information covering water usage, irrigation practices, irrigation by type, irrigation by crop, expenses, sources of irrigation, purchase of energy for pumping water by power source, and use of recycled or reclaimed water. The official statistics from the 2023 Irrigation and Water Management Survey were released in October 2024.

Census of Aquaculture

NASS completed data collection, editing, and analysis for the 2023 Census of Aquaculture Special Study. The Census of Aquaculture collects detailed information relating to production methods, surface water acres and sources, production, sales, point of first sale outlets, and aquaculture distributed for restoration, conservation, or recreational purposes. The release for the 2023 Census of Aquaculture was released in December 2024.

Census of Horticultural Specialties

NASS completed its final preparations to conduct the 2024 Census of Horticultural Specialties. This census special study, conducted as a follow-on survey to the Census of Agriculture, is the leading source of detailed production and sales data for this specialized industry.

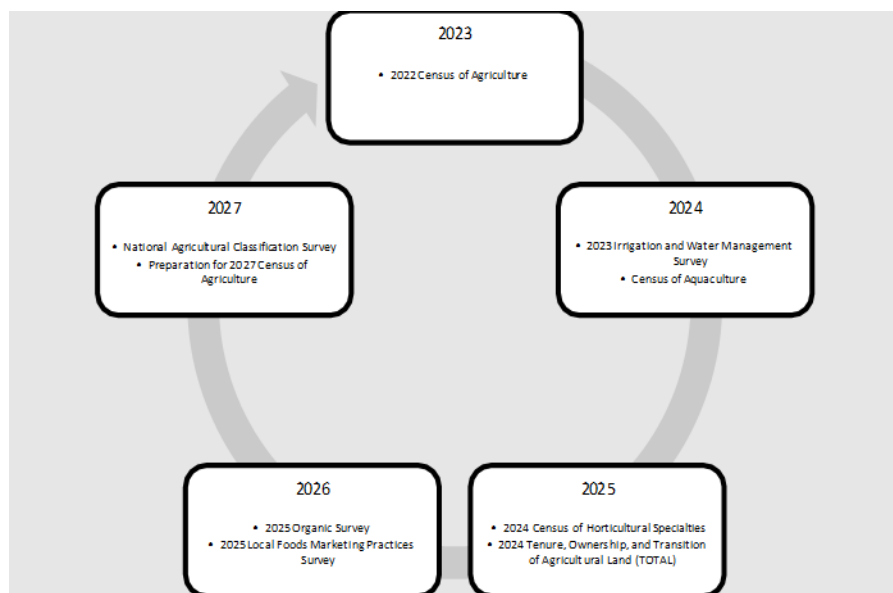
Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agriculture Land (TOTAL)

NASS completed its final preparations to conduct the 2024 Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL) Survey. The 2024 TOTAL survey is conducted in collaboration with the Economic Research Service. The survey consists of two components: (1) a survey with a target population of owners of agricultural land who are not also agricultural operators and (2) a survey with a target population of owners of agricultural land who are also agricultural operators.

Census Five Year Plans

Future Census Plans

The chart below shows the planned Census studies for 2024 through 2027. These follow the normal census rotation cycle but are subject to change based on funding and direction provided by policy makers.



ACTIVITIES COVERING BOTH AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES & THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Operational Transformation to Streamline Business Process

NASS is advancing efforts to modernize legacy systems, aligning with its Strategic Plan to improve efficiency, the customer experience, and resource utilization. Current initiatives include developing a new data collection interface to streamline the collection of survey data and provide respondents with access to value added secondary data, empowering their decision-making. Modernized customer interfaces will make it easier and faster for them to respond to surveys and access this data, with future developments focused on automation, mobile applications, and user-centered digital experiences. The agency is also reimagining its operating model to deliver greater output with fewer resources. In 2024, NASS expanded its suite of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to include solutions for outlier detection, survey editing, and generative AI for program support, enabling more resource-efficient operations.

Additionally, efforts to modernize data dissemination are underway, aiming to create a system that is both more accessible to users and less burdensome to maintain internally.

USDA Cybersecurity Performance

NASS continues to maintain a high level of security maintaining current Authority to Operate on all its Federal Information Security Modernization Act systems. The Agency manages risks in accordance with established federal cybersecurity regulations. In compliance with Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency requirements, NASS has successfully completed implementing multi-factor authentication, as well as the encryption of data at rest and in transit across its environment. NASS has implemented a Zero Trust environment on its cloud platform in accordance with OMB 22-09, "Moving the U.S. Government Toward Zero Trust Cybersecurity Principles", ensuring that no actor, system, network, or service operating outside or within the security perimeter is trusted. The Agency also continues to enhance its capabilities to ensure full compliance with Executive Order 14028, "Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity."

Stakeholder Engagement/Information Technology Projects

NASS X and YouTube

In 2024, NASS increased its X following from 66,546 to 69,790, an increase of 4.9% for a net gain of 3,230 followers. The @usda_nass X account team produced 879 posts or replies

on accurate, resourceful, and timely topics, including 355 photos or data visualizations, 22 videos, and 372 links, increasing content by 38% from 2023.

NASS continued its monthly #StatChat series on X with 21 #StatChats, inviting users to ask questions directly to NASS representatives following the report releases. The most popular topics by impressions were:

- A NASS video on YouTube received 31.7k views in 2024 and the account gained 402 subscribers for a total of 1.75k. Top viewed videos that were created or streamed in 2024 were:
- September Crop Production and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) briefing with 2.9k views from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and India
- January Crop Production and WASDE briefing with 1.2K views from United States, Canada, and United Kingdom.

Agricultural Statistics Board Livestream Report Briefings

NASS has livestreamed the Secretary of Agriculture's data report briefings since March 2022. Data briefings are streamed on [NASS's YouTube channel](#) five minutes after NASS reports are released to the public. Livestreaming improves access for the public, increasing transparency and understanding of NASS's and World Agricultural Outlook Board data and processes. For anyone unable to attend a livestream, a recording is posted to YouTube following the data release. A calendar of the livestream schedule is available at nass.usda.gov/Publications.

Using Email and Text Communications in Data Collection

NASS continued to use the NASS Enterprise Messaging Outreach (NEMO) system, a custom-built system to facilitate and manage the implementation of electronic messaging through a multi-stage process for message campaign development, approval, validation, and tracking. The system is also integrated with NASS's Survey Management Services system to access sample and data collection information in real-time to send reminders only to eligible operations. Using electronic reminders costs less than mailed reminders and promotes earlier responses, reducing the need for more expensive follow-up methods. Email and text reminders contain links that facilitate easier access to NASS web instruments and help encourage operators to complete questionnaires in a timely manner. Agricultural operators are also able to reply to the reminders to easily reach NASS with any questions or issues. In 2024, NASS successfully utilized the NEMO system to send approximately 165,000 email and 3,000 text reminders to agricultural operations for its data collection programs. NASS also continued to collect consent from agricultural operators who would like to opt-in to text messaging. To date, NASS has approximately 29,000 operators who have consented to receiving text message notifications. NASS also worked on optimizing the agency's communication strategy by using historic response data to delay electronic reminders for consistent self-responders where feasible and minimize unnecessary communications. Throughout the year, NASS continued to evaluate the analytics and effectiveness of its electronic campaigns to ensure success going forward.

Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) Pooler

CAPI is a powerful and flexible tool that NASS uses to streamline survey data collection and manage it remotely. It saves costs, optimizes data collection activities, and ensures data security. CAPI uses cloud technology, broadband transmission, and mobile tablets that do not store any data on the hard drive.

The CAPI Call Pooler application was designed to improve efficiency of field phone enumeration. Historically, the distributed field data collectors did not have an application that allowed for an efficient routing of respondents, similar to the methods used in data collection centers. Implementing the CAPI pooler has allowed NASS to access a larger group

of data collectors, particularly during heavy data collection periods, reducing pressure on limited resources. Development of this new application included rigorous testing, conducting training sessions for end users and integrating it with existing data collection systems. To ensure success of the application, a pilot was successfully launched in December 2024 with formal release in June 2025.

Centralized Edit Limit Tool (CELT)

CELT was developed to give NASS users a simple and modern way to review, request, and approve limits on edit errors for NASS Surveys. Initially, it was part of an effort to replace older systems, but now it's a valuable tool for data analysts who set guidelines for what counts as a warning or serious error in almost all NASS production surveys. CELT helps make operations more efficient and marks a big improvement in how the Regional Field Office and Headquarters staff handle error limits for these surveys.

Mail Room Services

In 2024, NASS continued modernization and efficiency initiatives by consolidating all mailroom services. Over a period of two weeks, NASS mailroom services provided by staff in headquarters for more than 30 years, was successfully moved to the National Operations Division located in St. Louis, Missouri. As part of this transition, print orders are now being shipped directly to the facility for efficient handling of Regional Field Office distributions and respondent mailings. This centralization of services streamlines operations, ensuring faster processing and improves logistical efficiency of mailings.

Work Performed for Others – Reimbursable Program

Reimbursable Work for Federal, State, and Private Organizations

NASS conducts surveys for and lends technical expertise to other federal agencies, state governments, and private organizations on a reimbursable basis. Statistics generated meet special needs not covered by the NASS programs. 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. 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.

External Project Agreements

NASS partners extensively with external state governmental organizations, universities, and agricultural commodity organizations to provide high-quality, rigorous, and standardized statistical consultation.

NASS provides statistical services on a fee-for-service basis and fully recovers all costs. To date, NASS has worked on more than 1,493 projects since beginning this centralized process in 2012, which includes about 90 such projects in 2024. NASS relies on the discretion of cooperators to fund these projects; however, the number of projects in 2025 is anticipated to be similar to past years.

The Pacific Regional Office, servicing California, Hawaii, and Nevada, conducts around 20-25 reimbursable projects annually that are funded by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, or California agricultural industry groups. The 2024 revenue from these projects totaled just under \$2 million. Reimbursable projects conducted annually in the region include Citrus, Grape, Almond, and Walnut Acreage Surveys, Grape Crush Survey, and Tree Crop Objective Measurement Surveys. Other reimbursable projects that are conducted based on available funding include Hawaii Ag Theft and Hawaii Farm Technology.

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Pesticide Data Program (PDP)

NASS continued to provide sampling support to AMS and select AMS-PDP samples in 2024. The AMS-PDP Sampling Frame comprises terminal markets and large chain store food distribution centers. The Sampling and Frame Development Section (SFDS) in NASS's Methodology Division compiles the AMS-PDP sampling frame information supplied by State Department of Agriculture agencies prior to selecting the quarterly AMS-PDP samples using a probability-proportional-to-size as well as stratified simple random sample techniques. SFDS is also working on a project to analyze representativeness of PDP samples by comparing (for selected fruit and vegetable commodities) Economic Research Service (ERS) commodity country of origin data.

The AMS-PDP uses samples selected by SFDS to collect data on pesticide residue on commodities most consumed by infants and children. The Environmental Protection Agency relies on sample results to conduct dietary risk assessments and to ensure pesticides residues – if any – are at safe levels. USDA uses the data to ascertain the relationship of pesticide residues to agricultural practices, to enhance USDA's Pest Management objectives and to work with growers to improve agricultural practices.

Agricultural Resources Management Survey (ARMS)

ARMS is conducted annually in cooperation with USDA's ERS. The survey provides data that enables NASS to publish chemical use statistics and provides 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. ARMS Phase I target commodities for the 2024 crop year will be wheat (spring, durum, and winter) and sorghum. Phase II target commodities for the 2024 crop year are wheat (spring, durum, and winter) and sorghum for the production practices and return data (PPR). The 2024 ARMS Phase III will be replaced by the Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL) Survey. The 2024 TOTAL survey is conducted in collaboration with ERS. The survey consists of two components: (1) a survey with a target population of owners of agricultural land who are not also agricultural operators and (2) a survey with a target population of owners of agricultural land who are also agricultural operators.

County Cash Rents Survey

Through the 2018 Farm Bill, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rental rates are based on soil productivity and county average rental rates. USDA may use the NASS survey estimates relating to dryland cash rental rates when determining annual rental rates. NASS is required to conduct a survey no less than once a year on county average market dryland and irrigated cash rental rates. The 2024 County Cash Rents Survey is designed to collect statistically reliable county or state subdivision estimates of average market dry land and irrigated cash rental rates for cropland and pasture; and at least 20,000 acres cropland and pastureland per county. Data collected supports the Farm Service Agency's administration of payments for CRP.

Chemical Use Data is Useful to Federal Agencies and State and Local Governments

The NASS Chemical Use program provides chemical usage statistics to enable informed, science-based decisions. Through various programs and activities, NASS provides data which other federal agencies, as well as state and local governments, rely on to protect the U.S. food supply, agricultural production and water quality. NASS's agricultural chemical use database is USDA's official source of statistics about on-farm and post-harvest fertilizer and pesticide use and pest management practices. It encompasses surveys looking at chemical use by producers of fruits, vegetables, field crops, livestock, and other animals and crops. The database also includes post-harvest chemical use, obtained by surveying storage facilities, processors, packers, and shippers.

Chemical Use Database

To create the database, NASS surveys fruit and vegetable producers to determine use of fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and other pesticides; each chemical produced is classified by its active ingredients. The data collected includes acreage of the targeted commodities grown during the year and treated with chemical applications; the name, amount, and method of application of all chemical products applied; and the operation's pest management practices.

Chemical Use Program

The 2024 Vegetable Chemical Use survey is currently being conducted with data collection continuing through January 2025. The Fruit Chemical Use Survey was last conducted in 2023 and will be conducted again in 2025. Data from the Fruit Chemical Use Survey was released in July 2024. The chemical and fertilizer use survey is also coordinated in conjunction with ARMS for row crops and other crops.

2024 Conservation Practice Adoption Motivation Survey

NASS supported USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with a series of surveys to capture and measure the state of their programs. NASS conducted this survey in 2022 with information that was asked for the first time from U.S. producers. The survey data will help NRCS, and the U.S. agriculture sector understand conservation practice adoption and motivation to better examine key factors to help improve NRCS programs. NASS surveyed producers with two questionnaire versions (grazing/pasture and forestry practices) in 2024.

NRCS conservation programs seek to leverage long-term changes in the use of crop, livestock, grazing/pasture, and forestry practices that conservation resources protect the environment by providing technical and financial assistance to producers/landlords who agree to adopt or install best conservation practices.

For structural practices (e.g., terraces, grassed waterways), NRCS provides technical and financial assistance that covers part of the cost of initial installation. Producers must maintain these practices over their useful life (usually 10-15 years).

For management practices (e.g., no-till, cover crops), NRCS provides technical and financial assistance that covers part of application cost. These practices typically have a one-year useful life. NRCS programs typically provide financial assistance over a period of three-five years. Once the contract ends, the producer/landowners have no further obligation to continue applying these annual practices.

What has been difficult for NRCS to track are producers who may have already applied basic conservation practices that received financial assistance for an ongoing maintenance of existing practices. The plan is to measure the producers that are not using NRCS program technical and financial assistance to enhance the function of existing practices through the Conservation Stewardship Program. While NRCS seeks to leverage long-term changes for their programs in conservation behavior, farmers and landowners eventually decide whether to continue or expand adoption without financial assistance. NASS will present to NRCS a method of tracking and monitoring programs in a way that currently does not exist.

2024 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Sheep Study

In partnership with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in 2024, NASS conducted a Sheep Study. The 2024 NAHMS Sheep Study Phase I took place in January – February 2024 (with some coordination with December 2023 surveys). The purpose of the study is to describe the following: management and biosecurity practices; antimicrobial stewardship on sheep operations; management practices used to control internal parasites, changes in animal health, nutrition, and management practices in the US sheep industry from 1996 to current; and provide a serologic bank for future research. NASS's portion of the study included two phases and had a sample size of 4,940.

Phase I consisted of operations that were coordinated with NASS's January Sheep and Goat survey (having 500+ sheep); these operations received a presurvey letter and promotional materials in December. The NAHMS Sheep mailing coincided with the January Sheep and Goat survey mailing. These surveys were completed via paper, Mobile Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview, and CAPI data collection. The second phase of NASS data collection targeted operations not in the January 2024 Sheep Survey and/or had less than 500 head of sheep. These respondents received three mailings. The first mailing consisted of a presurvey letter and promotional materials. This mailing took place during the second week of January. The second mailing, which took place during the third week of January, consisted of a letter and the questionnaire. The final mailing was sent the final week of January and consisted of a pressure sealed reminder. Surveys in the second phase had the options of responding via Personal Assisted Paper Interview, Computer-Assisted Self Interview, Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview, and a small amount of CAPI which was collected in the field.

A consent form was obtained from operations (contractors) giving permission to participate in the NAHMS Phase II follow-up which will be conducted by APHIS veterinarians. The consent forms were collected digitally, via web, and verbal consent was collected through phoning. Consent forms, which were incorporated into the questionnaire, were also collected via surveys that are completed by mail.

2023 Hemp Production, Disposition, and Income Survey

The authority of the agencies to enter into this agreement are described in the 2018 Farm Bill. Data described within are collected, kept confidential, and protected by the parties pursuant to section 1619 of the Food, Conservation, Farm Security and Energy Act of 2008, P.L. 110-246 ("Section 1619"); section 2004 of the Food, Conservation, Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, P.L. 107-171; the Privacy Act of 1974; and the E-Government Act of 2002. Section 11102 of the 2018 Farm Bill states the following about hemp: "Data collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, whether published or unpublished, shall be provided in an aggregate form to the Corporation for the purpose of providing insurance under this subtitle; and kept confidential by the Corporation in the same manner and to the same extent as is required under – section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Title 7 U.S.C. 2276); and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (Title 44 U.S.C. 3501)". Other authorities may also apply.

The 2023 Hemp Acreage, Production, Disposition, and Income (PDI) survey was conducted in February and March 2024, and the data were published in 2023 National Hemp Report in April 2024. The 2024 Hemp PDI will be conducted in February and March 2025 and will be the fourth year for this data series. The publication of the 2024 National Hemp Report was released on April 17, 2025.

The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

The CEAP survey is conducted in partnership with NRCS. This survey gathers information from farmers about their farming and conservation practices on cropland. This information is crucial for determining the effectiveness of existing conservation measures and identifying the resources farmers needed to further protect soil, water, and related resources. It also helps document on-farm conservation achievements. Nearly 12,000 operators nationwide received the survey in 2024.

Local representatives from NASS began visiting farmers and agricultural landowners from August to September 2024 to determine whether their operations met the criteria for eligibility in the survey. Eligible farmers and landowners will be contacted between November 2024 and March 2025 and asked to participate. The survey includes typical questions about farm production practices, as well as chemical, fertilizer, and manure applications; tillage; irrigation use; and installed conservation practices. NASS provides the survey data to the NRCS, the USDA agency responsible for publishing the CEAP survey findings. The NRCS combines the survey results with modeling to report on trends in cropland conservation and related outcomes from 2024 through 2026.

AGENCY-WIDE PERFORMANCE**Introduction**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Production and supplies of food and fiber, prices paid and received by farmers, farm labor and wages, farm finances, chemical use, and changes in the demographics of U.S. producers are only a few examples.

The purpose of the Summary of Performance section is to provide an update on Performance and Evidence and Evaluation efforts, facilitating compliance with the Government Performance Results Modernization Act (GPRMA) and the Evidence Act of 2018, as well as departmental Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The Office of Budget and Program Analysis leads the Department in performance, evaluation, evidence, and risk management and chairs the Performance, Evaluation, Evidence Committee (PEEC) and the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) committee. Each USDA Mission Area is represented on these committees.

The Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area and the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) are jointly represented through the OCS's Strategic Planning, Program Evaluation, and Enterprise Risk Officer, whose team functions as the coordinating members on USDA's PEEC and ERM committees.

The REE mission area of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has federal leadership responsibility for advancing scientific knowledge related to agriculture through research, extension, and education. The mission area office is led by the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and Chief Scientist for USDA, whose responsibilities include oversight of the four agencies that comprise OCS/REE, the Agricultural Research Service, National Institute for Food and Agriculture, Economic Research Service, and National Agricultural Statistics Service. The National Agricultural Library, National Arboretum, and the Office of the Chief Scientist also fall under this mission area.

The mission of the Office of the Chief Scientist is to provide strategic coordination of the science that informs the Department's and the federal government's decisions, policies, and regulations that impact all aspects of U.S. food and agriculture, related landscapes, and communities.

Therefore, REE performance, evaluation, evidence and risk management efforts are coordinated and led by the Office of the Chief Scientist on behalf of the Mission Area. The OCS Strategic Planning, Program Evaluation, and Enterprise Risk Officer leads the Mission Area by chairing two committees: the OCS/REE Performance, Evaluation and Evidence Committee (OCS/REE-PEEC) and the OCS/REE Enterprise Risk Management Committee. The two Mission Area committees are comprised of REE agency leaders in performance, evaluation, evidence, and risk management, as well as the Mission Area's functional and operational leads as necessary.

Alignment to USDA Strategic Plan

NASS activities contribute to the success of USDA's overall mission to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues using sound public policy, the best available science, and effective management, to the benefit of all Americans. USDA is currently developing the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan and will report alignment in the 2027 Explanatory Notes.

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

USDA is currently developing the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, including new KPIs. A more detailed report of the performance plan can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance>.