

## 2027 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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**PREFACE**

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2027 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 2024 and 2025; Working Families Tax Cut Act; Agriculture, Rule Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026; and the President’s Budget request for 2027. Amounts for 2026 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 Working Families Tax Cut Act is used to refer to the Public Law 119-21.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027.

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 small non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1). Due to rounding, some tables may not sum exactly.

**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 categories. 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. All parties have equal access to official statistics. NASS regularly surveys thousands of farm operators, ranches, and agribusinesses 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 CoA 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. Plans for the 2027 CoA 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 Census of Agriculture is crucial to the reimbursable program, providing an updated list frame for sampling records used in client work.

NASS maintains a central office in Washington, D.C., a National Operations Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and a network of 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, 2025, there were 770 permanent full-time employees, including 346 in the headquarters office and 424 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.

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 based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management. USDA is currently developing the FY 2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan. A detailed FY 2027 performance plan, including Key Performance Indicators, can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance>.

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

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations .....	\$187,850	707	\$187,850	646	\$185,000	389	\$187,455	389
Mandatory Appropriations.....	-	-	-	-	2,000	6	-	-
Total Discretionary Appropriations	187,850	707	187,850	646	185,000	389	187,455	389
Total Mandatory Appropriations....	-	-	-	-	2,000	6	-	-
Total Adjusted Appropriation.....	187,850	707	187,850	646	187,000	395	187,455	389
Balance Available, SOY .....	154	-	417	-	267	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other.....	11,322	-	9,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available .....	199,326	707	197,267	646	187,267	395	187,455	389
Balance Available, EOY .....	-417	-	-267	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations .....	198,909	707	197,000	646	187,267	395	187,455	389
Total Obligations, NASS .....	198,909	707	197,000	646	187,267	395	187,455	389
Other USDA:								
AMS, pesticide cert. and base month .....	399	-	745	2	1,743	2	1,743	2
ARS, Nutrient Data Laboratory ..	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
APHIS.....	420	-	545	-	-	-	-	-
ERS .....	9,185	30	9,110	28	9,100	26	9,100	26
FAS .....	612	1	40	-	306	-	306	-
FS .....	83	-	-	-	86	-	86	-
FSA .....	6,256	30	6,620	30	6,620	27	6,620	27
NRCS.....	15,510	33	10,081	31	13,114	33	13,114	33
OCIO .....	37	-	226	-	156	-	156	-
RMA .....	19	-	2,232	3	-	-	-	-
WAOB, Lock-up.....	22	-	12	-	12	-	12	-
Miscellaneous USDA								
Reimbursable.....	11,400	-	9,448	-	237	-	-	-
Total, Other USDA .....	43,962	94	39,059	94	31,374	88	31,137	88
Total, Agriculture Available.....	243,288	801	236,326	740	218,641	483	218,592	477
Other Federal Funds: .....								
American Pecan Council .....	241	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Soybean Assn. ....	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
DHS.....	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DOI, BLM Grazing Fees Survey..	82	-	85	-	85	-	88	-
Health & Human Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NASA.....	143	-	-	-	82	-	-	-
National Corn Growers Assn.....	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Penn State University.....	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
South Dakota State University ..	-	-	-	-	143	-	-	-
United Soybean Council.....	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
University of Wisconsin .....	-	-	180	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Other Federal .....	574	-	279	-	310	-	88	-
Non-Federal Funds:								
State Agencies - survey work....	2,859	12	3,186	12	2,952	12	3,277	12
Non-Federal Funds .....	85	-	52	-	13	-	13	-
Total, Non-Federal .....	2,944	12	3,238	12	2,965	12	3,290	12
Total Available, NASS .....	246,806	813	239,843	752	221,916	495	221,970	489

**PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTEs**

**Table NASS-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs**

Item	2024 Actual			2025 Actual			2026 Estimated			2027 Estimate		
	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total	HQ	Field	Total
SES .....	9	1	10	9	1	10	5	1	6	5	1	6
SL.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-15.....	24	13	37	24	13	37	13	9	22	13	9	22
GS-14.....	72	59	131	72	59	131	52	40	92	49	36	85
GS-13.....	194	56	250	171	55	226	132	50	182	141	48	189
GS-12.....	30	173	203	30	162	192	12	113	125	13	105	118
GS-11.....	15	22	37	15	20	35	8	11	19	8	11	19
GS-10.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-9.....	15	47	62	15	42	57	2	21	23	2	21	23
GS-8.....	5	35	40	5	32	37	-	22	22	-	22	22
GS-7.....	3	28	31	3	28	31	1	3	4	1	4	5
GS-6.....	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-5.....	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-4.....	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
GS-3.....	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Permanent.....	369	446	815	346	424	770	225	270	495	232	257	489
Total Perm. FT EOY.....	369	446	815	346	424	770	225	270	495	232	257	489
FTE.....	369	417	813	336	418	752	223	268	491	231	256	487

## **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 business related to its agricultural statistics programs through its regional field offices and state 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 regional offices and state offices, there are 1 NASS owned vehicles, and 36 vehicles leased from General Services Administration (GSA). While all 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 National Association of 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.

At the end of 2025, NASS had 37 vehicles; 1 owned and 36 GSA leased vehicles.

### **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
<b>2018 End of Year Operating Inventory .....</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	-	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>50</b>	<b>\$238,000</b>
<b>2024 End of Year Operating Inventory .....</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	-	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>49</b>	<b>247,365</b>
2025 Actual Acquisitions .....	5	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	13	
2025 Actual Disposals .....	-	-	-	-	24	1	-	-	25	
<b>2025 End of Year Operating Inventory .....</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>37</b>	<b>316,865</b>
2026 Planned Acquisitions .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2026 Planned Disposals .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>2026 End of Year Operating Inventory .....</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>37</b>	<b>380,175</b>
2027 Planned Acquisitions .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2027 Planned Disposals .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>2027 End of Year Operating Inventory .....</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>37</b>	<b>456,146</b>

**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
2024	1	-	-	-	-	1
2025	-	-	6	-	6	6
2026	6	-	-	-	-	6
2027	6	-	-	-	-	6

**SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS**

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

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
<b>Working Capital Fund:</b>				
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA Contact Center .....	\$252	\$239	-	-
General Counsel Legal Compliance.....	-	36	449	449
Material Management Service Center .....	149	121	102	102
Mail and Reproduction Management Division .....	196	210	170	171
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	56	56	39	39
Human Resources Enterprise System Management ...	10	15	60	61
Subtotal .....	663	677	820	822
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center .....	117	119	129	129
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center.....	240	229	218	218
Financial Shared Services .....	1,325	1,258	1,035	1,030
Internal Control Support Services	57	73	84	85
Personnel and Document Security Program .....	43	51	45	-
Subtotal .....	1,665	1,611	1,382	1,333
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center .....	7,061	6,984	4,985	4,530
Department Admin Information Technology Office ....	142	4	-	-
Digital Infrastructure Services Center .....	5,214	5,184	2,058	2,058
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services .....	642	729	597	597
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services .....	1,967	477	90	93
Enterprise Network Services .....	3,390	3,153	2,010	2,010
Subtotal .....	18,416	16,531	9,740	9,288
Correspondence Management Services:				
Office of the Executive Secretariat .....	12	11	9	9
Total, Working Capital Fund .....	20,873	18,949	12,080	11,581
<b>Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:</b>				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services .....	3	2	-	-
Agency Partnership Outreach .....	62	60	29	31
America’s Agricultural Heritage.....	-	-	5	4
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility .....	22	5	-	-
Employee Experience .....	31	23	2	-
Medical Services .....	98	-	-	-
NCR Interpreting Services.....	43	53	44	44
OCFO Shared Services Branch.....	-	-	5	9
Office of Customer Experience.....	25	12	-	-
Physical Security .....	39	49	21	21
Security Detail .....	63	57	57	57
Security Operations .....	45	65	126	127
Talent Group.....	28	28	3	-
TARGET Center .....	14	13	10	10
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs ...	473	367	303	303
Agency Total .....	21,346	19,316	12,383	11,884

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**ACCOUNT 1: NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

*National Agricultural Statistics Service*

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, [~~\$185,000,000~~]\$187,455,000, of which up to [~~\$46,000,000~~]\$48,500,000 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): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress in writing at least 30 days prior to discontinuing data collection programs and reports.

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

**Table NASS-6. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (in dollars)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Estimate, 2026 .....	\$185,000,000
Change in Appropriation .....	<u>+2,455,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2027 .....	<u><u>187,455,000</u></u>

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

**Table NASS-7. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs) <sup>1</sup>**

Item	2024		2025		2026		2027		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Chg Dec. Key
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Discretionary Approp:										
Agricultural Estimates .....	\$140,000	477	\$140,000	416	\$138,000	289	\$137,955	289	-\$45	(1)
Statistical Research and Services .....	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Census of Agriculture .....	46,850	230	46,850	230	46,000	100	48,500	100	+2,500	(2)
Subtotal Disc. Approps.....	187,850	707	187,850	646	185,000	389	187,455	389	+2,455	-
Mandatory Approp:										
Organic Production and Market Data .....	-	-	-	-	2,000	6	-	-	-2,000	-6
Subtotal Mand. Approps.....	-	-	-	-	2,000	6	-	-	-2,000	-6
Total Appropriation.....	187,850	707	187,850	646	187,000	395	187,455	389	+455	-6
Recoveries, Other .....	11,322	-	9,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY .....	154	-	417	-	267	-	-	-	-267	-
Total Available.....	199,326	707	197,267	646	187,267	395	187,455	389	+188	-6
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-417	-	-267	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations .....	198,909	707	197,000	646	187,267	395	187,455	389	+188	-6

**Table NASS-8. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs) <sup>2</sup>**

Item	2024		2025		2026		2026		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs		
Discretionary Obligations:										
Agricultural Estimates.....	\$140,000	477	\$140,000	416	\$138,000	289	\$137,955	289	-\$45	
Statistical Research and Services.....	1,000		1,000		1,000		1,000			
Census of Agriculture .....	57,909	230	56,000	230	46,267	100	48,500	100	+2,233	
Subtotal Disc Obligations.....	198,909	707	197,000	646	185,267	389	187,455	389	+2,188	
Mandatory Obligations:										
Organic Production and Market Data In.....					2,000	6			-2,000	-6
Subtotal Mand Obligations...					2,000	6			-2,000	-6
Total Obligations.....	198,909	707	197,000	646	187,267	395	187,455	389	+188	-6
Balances Available, EOY:										
Census of Agriculture .....	417		267							
Total Bal. Available, EOY .....	417		267							
Total Available .....	199,326	707	197,267	646	187,267	395	187,455	389	+188	-6
Recoveries, Other.....	-11,322		-9,000							
Bal. Available, SOY.....	-154		-417		-267				+267	
Total Appropriation.....	187,850	707	187,850	646	187,000	395	187,455	389	+455	-6

<sup>1</sup> This table does not match MAX Schedule X due to reimbursables.

<sup>2</sup> This table does not match MAX Schedule X due to reimbursables.

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

Base funding for the 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. In the absence of a federal provision for objective data for U.S. and global markets, critical market information would be exclusively controlled by a limited number of entities. 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, the NASS staff count has been reduced from 754 to 489. 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.

In accordance with administration policy announced in the Budget, NASS will follow new government-wide grants guidance prohibiting the use of Federal funds to pay for subscriptions to academic journals, as well as for the publication of research results that are not specifically required by Federal statute or approved in advance by a Federal agency. This policy preserves funds to support actual research by ensuring that the American taxpayer does not pay for the research, publication, and access to that research, essentially triple-charging the public for the same product.

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

1. A decrease in funding in the amount of \$45,000 for the Agricultural Estimates Program (\$139,000,000 and 289 FTEs available in 2026).
  - A) A decrease of \$45,000 for National Security Related Expenses being transferred to the Office of Homeland Security (\$45,000 available in 2026).

The decrease in funds of \$45,000 for National Security Related Expenses, being realigned to the Office of Homeland Security (OHS), will enhance efficiency and effectiveness within USDA. This strategic realignment will centralize resources under OHS, which provides leadership in national security through policy development,

emergency preparedness and response initiatives, and threat mitigation coordination. Consolidating the budget under OHS eliminates redundancies, ensures more coordinated resource allocation, and improves the execution of departmental security policies, ultimately bolstering the USDA's resilience and readiness without compromising overall security.

### **Census of Agriculture**

The Census of Agriculture is conducted every five years to obtain agricultural statistics for each county, state and 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's ability to complete the CoA.
- The absence of CoA data utilized by public and private decision-makers, including the USDA and Congress, hinders their ability to make sound, well-informed, and effective policy, production, and marketing decisions.
- A 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.

The CoA Program is conducted over a five-year cycle of activities. The quinquennial Census of Agriculture and special study follow-on surveys are a vital part of the Census of Agriculture Program. It includes the annual Current Agricultural Industrial Reports as well as the following quinquennial special studies: Census of Aquaculture, Census of Horticultural Specialties, Irrigation and Water Management Survey, Tenure, Ownership and Transition of Agricultural Land Survey, Organic Production Survey, and the 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. An increase of \$2,500,000 in Census of Agriculture (\$46,000,000 and 100 FTE's available in 2026).
  - A) An increase of \$900,000 for finalizing the 2027 Census Mail List (CML).

In 2027, NASS will complete the mail list for the Census of Agriculture. The National Agricultural Classification Survey (NACS), will be mailed to determine if an operation should be included in the CML. With this funding amount, NASS will send the NACS to approximately 1,000,000 potential agricultural operations. NASS will follow up by phone for those reports not returned by mail.
  - B) An increase of \$1,600,000 to supplement measurement of Census coverage.

In 2027, NASS will conduct the Agricultural Coverage Evaluation Survey (ACES). ACES functions as a preliminary screening tool for the Census of Agriculture (CoA), with the goal of improving and refining the CML. Resources are allocated to create a CML that includes all farms in the United States. However, some farms may be omitted from the list, while others

listed may not qualify as farms. ACES is an important part of the preparation for the CoA, aiding in estimating potential under-coverage related to the CoA. This funding allows NASS to perform the ACES pre-screening process through in-person interviews, followed by phone calls for producers who were not contacted in person.

**GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTEs**

**Table NASS-9. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for Agricultural Estimates (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

State/Territory/Country	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Alabama .....	\$155	1	\$155	1	\$160	1	\$160	1
Alaska.....	155	1	155	1	160	1	160	1
Arizona .....	155	1	155	1	160	1	160	1
Arkansas.....	2,187	10	2,790	14	2,800	9	2,800	9
California.....	2,095	18	3,288	14	3,300	9	3,300	9
Colorado .....	3,665	17	4,701	17	4,800	9	4,800	9
District of Columbia.....	102,825	198	95,954	149	95,945	100	95,500	100
Florida.....	200	1	200	1	-	-	-	-
Georgia .....	3,068	18	3,068	18	3,000	12	3,000	12
Hawaii.....	155	1	200	1	-	-	-	-
Idaho.....	155	1	155	1	200	1	200	1
Illinois.....	247	2	270	2	-	-	-	-
Indiana .....	147	1	147	1	150	1	150	1
Iowa.....	2,616	13	3,079	10	3,100	9	3,200	9
Kansas.....	150	1	150	1	150	1	150	1
Kentucky.....	2,687	10	3,149	10	3,200	9	3,200	9
Louisiana.....	255	2	255	2	-	-	-	-
Maryland.....	180	1	180	1	200	1	200	1
Michigan .....	2,634	15	2,690	13	2,800	9	2,900	9
Minnesota .....	250	2	250	2	300	1	300	1
Mississippi.....	160	1	160	1	200	1	200	1
Missouri .....	2,288	78	3,987	78	4,100	73	4,100	73
Montana.....	160	1	160	1	-	-	-	-
Nebraska .....	2,744	18	3,300	15	3,500	9	3,600	9
New Hampshire.....	255	2	255	2	-	-	-	-
New Jersey.....	255	2	255	2	175	1	175	1
New Mexico.....	255	2	255	2	-	-	-	-
New York .....	255	2	255	2	200	1	200	1
North Carolina.....	160	1	160	1	200	1	200	1
North Dakota.....	155	1	160	1	200	1	200	1
Ohio.....	230	2	230	2	300	2	300	2
Oklahoma .....	255	2	255	2	300	1	300	1
Oregon .....	255	2	255	2	300	-	300	-
Pennsylvania .....	3,393	10	3,393	8	3,400	8	3,500	8
South Carolina.....	255	2	255	2	-	-	-	-
South Dakota.....	160	1	160	1	200	1	200	1
Tennessee.....	160	1	160	1	200	-	200	-
Texas.....	2,104	18	2,509	16	2,000	6	2,000	6
Utah .....	155	1	155	1	-	-	-	-
Virginia .....	155	1	155	1	-	-	-	-
Washington.....	2,550	10	2,875	10	2,700	7	2,700	7
West Virginia.....	250	2	250	2	300	2	300	2
Wisconsin.....	155	1	155	1	-	-	-	-
Wyoming .....	255	2	255	2	300	1	300	1
Obligations.....	141,000	477	141,000	416	139,000	289	138,955	289

**Table NASS-10. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for Census (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

State/Territory/Country	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
Arkansas.....	\$505	14	\$505	10	\$600	10	\$700	9
California.....	1,413	10	1,413	10	1,500	8	1,500	7
Colorado .....	1,428	10	1,428	10	1,500	7	1,500	6
District of Columbia.....	42,915	111	38,663	118	31,567	26	33,700	29
Georgia .....	1,361	10	1,361	7	1,400	6	1,400	6
Iowa .....	1,274	10	1,274	10	800	4	800	4
Kentucky.....	1,446	6	1,446	6	1,000	4	1,000	4
Michigan .....	1,130	6	1,130	6	900	2	900	2
Missouri .....	1,297	10	3,640	10	3,700	10	3,700	10
Nebraska .....	1,473	11	1,473	11	800	5	800	5
Pennsylvania.....	1,555	14	1,555	14	1,000	9	1,000	9
Texas.....	496	4	496	4	500	3	500	3
Washington.....	1,616	14	1,616	14	1,000	6	1,000	6
Obligations.....	57,909	230	56,000	230	46,267	100	48,500	100
Bal. Available, EOY.....	417	-	267	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available.....	58,326	230	56,267	230	46,267	100	48,500	100

**Table NASS-11. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs for Mandatory Organic (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

State/Territory/Country	2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Actual	FTEs	Actual	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs	Estimated	FTEs
District of Columbia.....	-	-	-	-	\$2,000	6	-	-
Obligations .....	-	-	-	-	2,000	6	-	-
Total, Available .....	-	-	-	-	2,000	6	-	-

**OBJECT CLASSIFICATION**

**Table NASS-12. Classification by Objects – Object Class (thousands of dollars) <sup>3</sup>**

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
<b>Personnel Compensation:</b>					
	Washington D.C. ....	\$39,500	\$44,297	\$34,451	\$36,000
	Personnel Compensation, Field.....	37,500	35,935	30,660	32,000
11	Total personnel compensation.....	77,000	80,232	65,111	68,000
12	Personal benefits.....	28,333	29,254	27,000	28,000
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	12	12	12	12
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	105,345	109,498	92,123	96,012
<b>Other Objects:</b>					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	1,174	334	908	1,000
22.0	Transportation of things.....	1,012	850	2,417	2,000
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	6,062	5,900	6,100	6,100
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	4,968	1,946	500	1,000
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	2,594	2,599	4,137	4,000
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	337	407	422	1,000
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	12,592	13,966	12,623	12,000
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	32,271	39,297	42,068	41,738
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	8,512	7,568	8,284	7,500
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	12,314	2,979	2,237	2,000
25.5	Research and development contracts.....	689	40	1,000	1,000
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	8,596	11,121	11,300	11,000
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	484	269	538	500
31.0	Equipment.....	1,956	223	605	600
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities.....	3	3	5	5
	Total, Other Objects.....	93,564	87,502	93,144	91,443
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	198,909	197,000	185,267	187,455
<b>Position Data:</b>					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$205,718	\$210,860	\$216,132	\$221,535
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$99,022	\$101,498	\$104,035	\$106,636
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5

**Table NASS-13. Classification by Objects – Mandatory Funding (thousands of dollars)**

Item No.	Item	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated
<b>Personnel Compensation:</b>					
	Washington D.C.....	-	-	\$1,050	-
	Personnel Compensation, Field.....	-	-	-	-
11	Total personnel compensation.....	-	-	1,050	-
12	Personal benefits.....	-	-	450	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	-	-	1,500	-
<b>Other Objects:</b>					
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	-	-	500	-
	Total, Other Objects.....	-	-	500	-
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	-	-	2,000	-

<sup>3</sup> This table does not match MAX Schedule O due to reimbursables.

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## **STATUS OF PROGRAMS**

The mission of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. NASS achieves this by managing USDA's program for collecting and publishing agricultural statistics at national, state, and county levels, including the Agricultural Estimates and Census of Agriculture programs. These statistical data are crucial for both public and private sectors to make informed decisions on policies, production, and marketing across various agricultural commodities. NASS conducts surveys through regional field offices, a National Operations Center in St. Louis, MO, and a Headquarters unit in Washington, D.C., serving all 50 states.

Each year, NASS publishes approximately 450 national agricultural statistical reports. These reports encompass data on over 120 crops, 45 livestock items, and 12 major economic and environmental categories, along with supplementary state agricultural statistical releases. This fundamental and objective data is essential for sustaining an organized relationship between the consumption, supply, marketing, expenses, income, and input sectors of agriculture. These statistics ensure fairness in production agriculture by providing unbiased information accessible to everyone at predetermined and announced dates and times.

### **Agricultural Estimates Program**

NASS produces 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 implemented the predictive crop type modeling and the development of a new estimation method based on the Cropland Data Layer (CDL), which has improved crop-specific indications of planted areas. Additionally, NASS conducted a comprehensive study to quantify under-coverage in Farm Service Agency planted area data, supported USDA's emergency response to Tropical Storm Barry by providing rapid cropland impact assessments, and released an upgraded CDL map product with enhanced spatial resolution. NASS is also helping to provide actionable data on conservation metrics through an interagency initiative and has established a secure, cloud-hosted, high-performance computing enclave, facilitating collaborative data science across USDA agencies. These achievements underscore NASS's dedication to delivering high-quality, actionable data that supports rural prosperity, resilience, and innovation.

#### **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 2025, geospatial decision-support data products were delivered for disaster inundation and wildfire assessments to assess impacts on agriculture from Hurricane Milton (October 2024) and the Texas floods (July 2025). The products were used to assess near real-time storm inundation 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](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 website for public use.

**Census of Agriculture Program**

The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years, offers a detailed data series at the national, state, and county levels. It captures various aspects of the agricultural economy, such as the number of farms, farm types, characteristics of farm operators, land use, production costs, value of land and buildings, farm size, market value of agricultural production, acreage of numerous crops, and inventory of livestock and poultry. It also covers extensive farming practices including irrigation, marketing, and the use of government-sponsored programs. The results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture were published in 2024. Additional data products from the 2022 Census will be released into 2026.

**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, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The census of agriculture is the only source of official agriculture statistics for the territories. Census of Agriculture data for these U.S. territories were released in February 2025 (Northern Mariana Islands), March 2025 (U.S. Virgin Islands), and April 2025 (Guam and American Samoa).

**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 official statistics for the 2023 Census of Aquaculture were released in December 2024.

**Census of Horticultural Specialties**

NASS completed its final preparations to conduct the 2024 Census of Horticultural Specialties. This special census 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. The official statistics for the 2024 Census of Horticultural Specialties are scheduled for release in 2026.

**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. The official statistics for the 2024 Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land are scheduled for release in 2026.

## **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, customer experience, and resource utilization. NASS is modernizing its data dissemination practices by developing a new web application to replace traditional PDF reports. This new service will empower the data user to determine how they view the data while providing easily customizable visualizations. To further improve the user experience, NASS is creating a public-facing chatbot specifically designed to interact with NASS Quick Stats data which remains the backbone of our dissemination process.

This chatbot will be properly domained to ensure accurate information and prevent hallucinations. Currently, NASS has been working with a contracting group, who has built a rough proof of concept in their environment for NASS to explore. NASS plans to import the concept into co-pilot studio, conduct training sessions, and then test and expand to release for public consumption.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

#### **NASS X and YouTube**

In 2025, NASS increased its @usda\_nass account following on X from 69,790 to 71,600, an increase of about 1% with a net gain of 1,810 followers. NASS continued its monthly #StatChat series on X with 14 #StatChats, inviting users to ask questions directly to NASS representatives following the report releases.

The NASS YouTube account had about 180 new subscribers for a total of 1.93k. The video clip "How to Find 2022 Census of Agriculture Data" had the most views, while the "January Crop Production and Grain Stocks ASB and WASDE Briefing" had the most impressions in 2025. 19 ASB Livestreams were presented in 2025.

#### **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](https://nass.usda.gov/Publications).

### **Work Performed for Others – Reimbursable Program**

#### **Reimbursable Work for Federal, State, and Private Organizations**

NASS conducts surveys and offers technical expertise to other federal agencies, state governments, and private organizations on a reimbursable basis. The statistics generated address specialized needs not covered by NASS programs. Additionally, statistical consultation by NASS staff members enhances the overall quality and consistency of statistical information produced for other organizations' requirements. The areas of consultation include questionnaire and sample design, data collection and editing, survey result analysis, and training. Furthermore, NASS offers technical consultation, support, and assistance to foreign countries seeking 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 1,600 projects since beginning this centralized process in 2012, which includes about 98 such projects in 2025. 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.

### **Agricultural Resources Management Survey (ARMS)**

The Agricultural Resources Management Survey (ARMS) is conducted annually by NASS in partnership with the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). The survey provides critical data for estimating farm income, analyzing chemical use in field crops, calculating production costs, and compiling financial data for farm businesses and households. These data support both agencies' estimation programs for farm production expenditures. For the 2025 crop year, ARMS Phase I targeted cotton and potatoes, Phase II focused on production practices and returns for potatoes, and Phase III (conducted in 2026) will include cotton and hogs.

### **County Cash Rents Survey**

The County Cash Rents Survey, authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, provides USDA with data used to determine rental rates for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). NASS is required to conduct this survey at least annually to estimate average market dryland and irrigated cash rental rates at the county level. The 2025 survey is designed to produce statistically reliable estimates for cropland and pasture rental rates, covering at least 20,000 acres per county. These data support the Farm Service Agency's administration of CRP payments.

### **Chemical Use Program**

NASS's Chemical Use Program provides essential statistics on the use of fertilizers and pesticides, enabling science-based decision-making by federal, state, and local agencies. The program includes surveys of producers of fruits, vegetables, field crops, and livestock, as well as post-harvest chemical use by storage and processing facilities. It is USDA's official source for data on on-farm and post-harvest chemical use and pest management practices.

### **2025 Hemp Production, Disposition, and Income Survey**

The Hemp Production, Disposition, and Income (PDI) Survey authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, collects data on hemp acreage, yield, and sales. All data are protected under federal confidentiality laws, including Section 1619 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The 2025 survey will be conducted in February and March 2026 and marks the fourth year of this data series. Results will be published in the 2025 National Hemp Report, scheduled for release in April 2026.

### **The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)**

The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) is a joint effort between NASS and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation practices on cropland. The survey collects data on farm production practices, fertilizer and chemical use, tillage, irrigation, and installed conservation measures. Eligible farmers will be contacted between December and April. Survey results are combined with NRCS modeling to assess conservation outcomes from 2024 through 2026.

### **International Technical Assistance Provided**

NASS provided statistical capacity building activities to Kazakhstan and Ukraine, key global grain producers. The efforts in these countries have led to more accurate crop area and production information, allowing U.S. producers to potentially expand exports or proactively market their crops and lock in favorable prices. NASS also provided technical assistance to Kenya and Armenia as they worked to improve and expand their agricultural statistics. Better data from these countries will provide insight into opportunities for American input providers and farmers, helping them profitably navigate global markets. NASS directed the third annual meeting between Japan's Ministry of

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) and NASS as a peer-to-peer technical exchange of methodology and other topics of agricultural statistics with this key agricultural trading partner. NASS also participated in the North American Tripartite Committee on Agricultural Statistics (NATCAS). NATCAS consists of the lead agricultural agencies of Canada, Mexico, and the United States and to advance the development and publication of North American agriculture and agricultural related statistics. As a result of the collaboration, NASS issued joint North American publications for cattle, sheep, hogs, potatoes, and oilseeds.