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# Why Corn and Grain Producers Should Respond to National Agricultural Statistics Service Surveys

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As a statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys each year. These questionnaires ask farmers, ranchers and others in the agricultural industry for a variety of data. Every five years, NASS also conducts the Census of Agriculture, a complete accounting of farms, ranches, and agricultural production in the country. The results of these surveys provide many benefits to farmers and ranchers. Some of the data are Principal Federal Economic indicators.

- Farmers, ranchers, policymakers, community planners, agribusinesses, researchers, USDA, and other federal and state government agencies use aggregated NASS data from farmers and ranchers for planning, market assessment, decision making, research, and many other purposes.
- High-quality statistical information is essential for the smooth operation of federal farm programs, as well as for planning and administering federal and state programs in areas such as consumer protection, conservation and environmental quality, trade, education, and recreation.
- NASS information contributes to a stable economic climate and reduces the uncertainties and risks in producing, marketing, and distributing commodities. **Objective, timely, and equally available to all users, NASS data help level the playing field.**

## Here are just a few of the ways USDA uses NASS data to serve farmers and ranchers directly.

NASS provides the Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency with important statistics that they then use to serve farmers and ranchers. As always, individual responses to NASS surveys are kept confidential. Data are provided in aggregate form so that no individual operation or operator can be identified.

## Farm Programs Depend on Farmer-Reported NASS State and County Data

- **County Loan Rates for Wheat, Feed Grains and Oilseeds**
- **Regional Loan Rates for Pulses**
- **Loan Repayment Rates**
- **Program Parameters for ACRE and CCP (2008 Farm Bill programs) and ARC and PLC (2014 programs)**
- **Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**
- **Livestock Disaster Assistance Programs**
- **Dairy Programs**
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**
- **County Committee Elections**
- **Beginning Farmer Ownership Loan Eligibility**
- **Guaranteed Loan Limit Adjustments**
- **Production Loss Calculations**
- **Funding Targets and Allocations**
- **Farm Business Planning**
- **Farm Appraisals**

## Risk Management Programs Depend on Farmer-Reported NASS Data

The Risk Management Agency uses NASS data to provide federal crop insurance to America's farmers and ranchers. These data are used to establish yields and to aid in the establishment of price elections for various crops.

Statisticians, working with researchers, develop the scientific and economic models and data needed to determine control strategies and interventions to prevent foodborne contamination from pathogens, toxins, and chemicals.

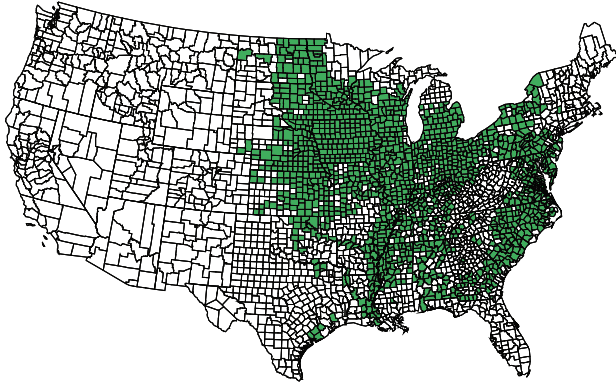
- **Area Risk Protection Insurance Plan**
- **Actual Revenue History (ARH) Pilot Program**
- **Establishment of Transitional Yields**
- **Establishment of Price Elections on Non-Program Crops**



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## Soybeans 2013

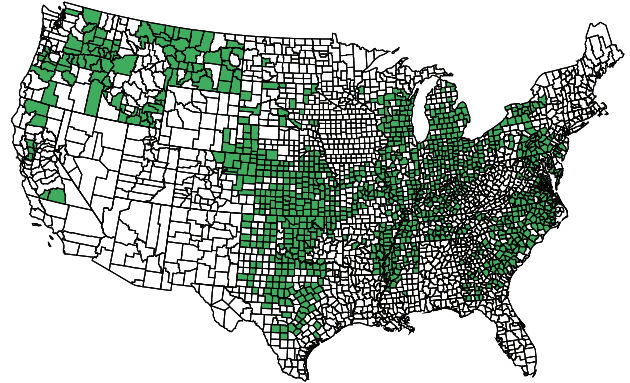
Counties with Published Yield per Harvested Acre



U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Winter Wheat 2013

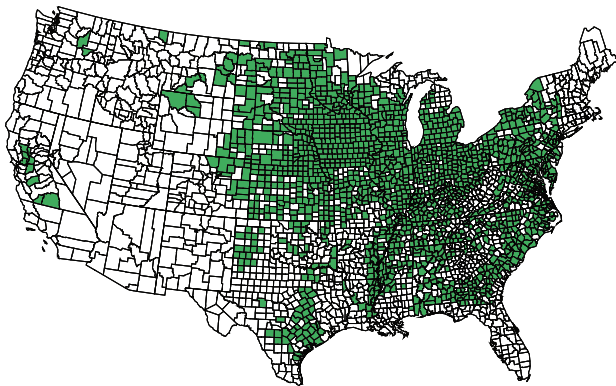
Counties with Published Yield per Harvested Acre



U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Corn for Grain 2013

Counties with Published Yield per Harvested Acre



U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

**Green**—The green color in these maps shows counties with USDA NASS-published yield-per-harvested-acre data.

**White**—The white color shows counties with no published yield-per-harvested-acre data.

There are three primary reasons for a lack of published data: areas not included in the NASS county estimating program for a particular state; no production; or exclusion to maintain confidentiality/nondisclosure of individual identifying information.

When enough producers do not respond to surveys, NASS is not able to publish data. Without data, agencies such as USDA's Risk Management Agency or Farm Service Agency do not have information on which to base the programs that serve those same producers. Producers lose out when there is no data to determine accurate rates for loans, disaster payments, crop insurance price elections and more.

### Confidentiality

NASS is required by law (Title 7, U.S. Code, and CIPSEA, Public Law 107-347) to keep every survey respondent's information confidential. This includes names, addresses, personal identifiers, and reported data. Only authorized persons working for or on behalf of NASS can access individual data records and only for approved official purposes. Anyone who discloses the information is subject to a fine, a jail term, or both. In addition, data is published in aggregate form only and individual information is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.



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