



## NASS Programs

# 2013 December Agricultural Survey: Grain Crops and Stocks

### About the Survey

The December Agricultural Survey (also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey) gives producers and industries estimates of 2013 production and 2014 supplies.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the survey, which will be added to the County Agricultural Production Survey data and used to calculate county yields to be released in the spring. These yields are used by USDA to evaluate and administer farm disaster and insurance programs.

NASS will release the results of the survey in the *Crop Production Annual Summary* and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report. All reports are available on the NASS website: [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/index.asp).

### Response Confidentiality

The information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. The results of this survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

### How NASS Collects Data

In November, NASS will mail December Agricultural Survey questionnaires to farmers in all states except Hawaii, reaching approximately 80,000 farms selected from among the nation's 2.2 million farms.

The survey asks producers to provide information on their planted and harvested acres, total yield and production of specific commodities, and the quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm.

At the same time, NASS will survey grain facility operators to determine year-end off-farm grain and oilseed stocks.

Producers receiving the survey may respond in either of the following ways:

- **Online** – Secure, online reporting is the most timely, cost-effective option. The cover letter includes instructions for this easy option.
- **By mail or fax** – Producers fill out the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided or via fax.

A NASS representative will contact producers who do not respond to offer the option of a telephone or personal interview.

### Who Uses the Information?

All agricultural sectors rely on NASS to produce timely and accurate acreage, yield, and production estimates.

- The grain industry uses stocks estimates to calculate the supply of the crop available for the marketing year.
- Agricultural businesses use the information to ensure an orderly flow of goods and services among producers, processors, and agriculture commodity handlers.
- USDA agencies use the information to evaluate and administer vital farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, insurance, and loan programs.
- Agricultural traders and the international community rely on the data to accurately evaluate U.S. export potential.
- Universities, extension agents, private and government economists, farm media, and others use the data to analyze past and current trends.

