

NASS Programs

2015 County Agricultural Production Survey

About the Survey

In July 2015, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will contact producers in 44 states to collect data on total acres planted and harvested, and total yield and production of specific commodities. The commodities vary somewhat from state to state but include data on major grains, oilseeds, edible beans, sugar crops, cotton and tobacco.

The results of the County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) provide the data needed to estimate acreage and production of selected crops at the county level for state and federal programs.

For publication dates for all county level crop production estimates visit:
http://bit.ly/NASS_CAPS.

Response Confidentiality

All 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

NASS conducts CAPS once a year in two segments:

- The first segment collects data from small grain producers beginning in July.
- The second segment collects data from row crop producers beginning in October.

Producers who receive the survey may respond in either of the following ways:

- **Online – Respond online at www.agcounts.usda.gov.** Online is the easiest, fastest, most cost-effective, and safest way to complete your survey. To get started, all you need is your identification number. Both the number and easy-to-follow instructions are on your survey form.
- By mail or fax – Producers fill out the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided or via fax.

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

Who Uses the Information

All sectors of the agricultural industry rely on NASS to produce timely and accurate acreage, yield, and production estimates. For instance:

- USDA agencies use the information to evaluate and administer vital farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, insurance and loan programs.
- USDA's Risk Management Agency uses the data to administer the Federal Crop Insurance Program.
- USDA's Farm Service Agency uses the estimates to administer disaster assistance programs.
- Businesses look at the data when determining where to locate processing plants and other facilities.
- Farmers and ranchers use county production data to help them make strategic business decision.

