



**United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service**



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[www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide\\_to\\_NASS\\_Surveys/Prices/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Prices/index.asp)

# **Agricultural Price Program Update**

## **April 2015**

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**2015**

## NASS Price Program Mission, Vision, and Goal

**Mission Statement:** *The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) price program provides **relevant, timely, accurate and useful statistics** for use in evaluating the economic condition of the United States agricultural economy.*

**Vision Statement:** *NASS strives to be a premier provider of **relevant, high quality, and useful agricultural price data**, consistent with other United States Federal and international statistical programs.*

**Goal:** *The objective of the price program for indexes is to measure the general level of price change farmers pay for agricultural inputs and the general level of price change farmers receive for commodities sold.*

## Overview of Program Modifications

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Price Program Team (PPT), with NASS's Senior Executive Team approval, completed a comprehensive review of the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) recommendations. In addition, the PPT team considered the impact of modern technological advances occurring in agricultural production and developed plans to implement necessary program improvements. The January 2014 price program modifications included updating the base reference period, revising the group structure, increasing commodity coverage, updating monthly market share weights, and normalizing weights. The January 2015 price program update eliminated estimation and publication of preliminary monthly prices and the construction of annual commodity group indexes. Based on the review of the C-FARE recommendations and the price program the following modifications will be implemented in April 2015.

- Discontinue publication of the annual March survey prices paid data

### Prices Paid Annual Survey Data

Historically NASS's price program has published Annual Survey price data. These data include prices

paid and value of hatchery production for poultry, and prices paid for agricultural chemicals, farm machinery, feed, fertilizer, fuels, and plant materials.

Departmental and Agency standardization initiatives impacting the price program continue to address survey inconsistencies in collecting agricultural commodity price data. Additional review of the price program included seeking data user applications and needs of price data. Data users cited the challenges and lack of current trends in the value of prices paid price data.

The major mission of NASS' Prices Paid by producers for farm inputs is in measuring the general level of price change at the production input group level. As the products used by producers are continually changing, it is a never ending challenge to keep abreast of the new technology to provide accurate and timely item level prices. The index groupings provided reflect the general level of price change for common input items collectively.

Based on the results of the price program review, the PPT team is evaluating and making changes to better serve NASS' mission of providing relevant, timely, and useful statistics. NASS will discontinue publishing annual survey prices paid data. This program change will be implemented with the April 2015 *Agricultural Price* report.