



1NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
[FIELD OFFICE NAME] FIELD OFFICE
[ADDRESS]



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[Month ##], 2017

Contact: [Firstname] [Lastname]
(XXX) XXX-XXXX

USDA TO SURVEY FARMERS' PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR 2017

[CITY, STATE] – What is on the horizon for U.S. farmers in 2017 as they finalize plans for planting this spring? The March Agricultural Survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey approximately 84,000 of the nation's farmers to determine their plans for the upcoming growing season.

"Each year, the agriculture industry eagerly awaits USDA's *Prospective Plantings* report, which provides the first survey-based estimates of U.S. farmers' planting intentions for the year," said NASS' [STATE] State Statistician [FIRSTNAME LASTNAME]. "The March Agricultural Survey provides the factual data that underpins these projections, making it one of the most important surveys we conduct each year."

NASS will mail the survey questionnaire in February, asking producers to provide information about the types of crops they intend to plant in 2017, how many acres they intend to plant, and the amounts of grain and oilseed they store on their farms. NASS encourages producers to respond online or by mail. Those producers who do not respond by the deadline may be contacted for a telephone or personal interview.

NASS will compile and analyze the survey information and publish the results in the annual *Prospective Plantings* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on March 31, 2017.

As with all NASS surveys, the results of this survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. These and all NASS reports are available online at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/>. For more information call the NASS [STATE] Field Office at [TOLL-FREE NUMBER].

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