

Winter Wheat Objective Yield Survey

About the Survey

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the Objective Yield Survey each year to monitor sample areas of wheat fields during the growing season. By gathering data on wheat plants, grain count and weight, NASS can better determine the official estimate of wheat yield and production.

NASS publishes the findings each month, May through August, in the monthly *Crop Production* report. Wheat final yield and production estimates are published in the *Small Grains Summary* report every September.

All previous reports are available on the NASS website: www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/index.asp.



How NASS Collects Data

In April, NASS representatives contact selected producers in the major wheat producing states to participate in the Objective Yield Survey. An initial visit with the producer consists of a brief interview to determine field production and to gain permission to enter the selected field.

Once in the field, the representative establishes two sample areas to monitor during the growing season. On all future visits NASS representatives conduct counts and measurements of the wheat plants within the sample areas. These monthly visits do not require any time from the producer.

In addition to taking regular monthly measurements, we select some fields for inclusion in the post-harvest gleaning sample. Those producers need to contact the NASS representative during harvesting, so we can acquire samples to determine harvest loss.

Who Uses the Information?

This survey is a crucial tool for estimating wheat yield and production in the United States. All sectors of the agricultural industry rely on NASS yield and production estimates to help make sound business decisions. For example:

- Farmers use the information to evaluate expected prices and to determine when and how to market their crops.
- Agribusinesses that provide farmers and ranchers with inputs, equipment, and other goods and services use the information when developing their future marketing strategies.
- Congress relies on current yield and production data to help formulate farm legislation.
- USDA agencies use the crop yield data to determine crop insurance and disaster aid payments along with other program benefits.