

NASS Programs

2017 Agricultural Labor Survey

About the Survey

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the Agricultural Labor Survey twice a year, in April and October. The survey asks for:

- Number of hired workers worked on the farm;
- Total number of hours worked;
- Total wages paid each reference week.

NASS will publish the results of the October survey on November 20, 2017.

All previous farm labor publications are available online at <http://bit.ly/FarmLabor>.

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 will conduct the Agricultural Labor Survey in every state except Alaska.

NASS will mail the survey in October to more than 14,000 agricultural operations, asking them to provide information for two one-week periods in 2017: July 9-15 and October 8-14.

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

- **Online at www.agcounts.usda.gov** - This is the easiest, fastest, and most secure way to complete the survey.
- **By mail** – Producers fill out the survey and return it in the envelope provided.

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

Who Uses the Information

NASS labor estimates impact the entire agriculture community. Federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as educational institutions, farm organizations, and private sector employers all use these data. For example:

- The Department of Labor uses the results of this survey to establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers and assist legislators in determining labor policies.
- USDA and the Department of Labor use the data to estimate the demand for, and availability of seasonal agricultural workers.
- Agencies responsible for administering farm labor recruitment and placement programs use the statistics in their planning and evaluation.
- Farm operators can use the information to compare wage rates and labor demand in their area to other areas around the country.

