



NASS Programs

2023 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 on the farm;
- Total number of hours worked;
- Total wages paid each reference week.

NASS will publish the data from the October survey in the *Farm Labor* report on November 22, 2023.

All previous farm labor publications are available online at nass.usda.gov/go/labor.

Confidentiality

All information NASS collects is kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. The data 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 mails the survey in April and October to nearly 18,000 agricultural operations, asking them to provide information for four one-week periods. In 2023, the reference weeks are:

- **April Survey:** January 8-14 and April 9-15.
- **October Survey:** 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** – A fast and secure way to complete the survey.
- **By mail** – Fill out the survey and return it in the prepaid envelope provided.

A NASS representative will call producers who do not respond to the survey to collect this important information by phone. Respondents may also receive a reminder email.

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 data to establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers and assist legislators in determining labor policies.
- USDA and the Department of Labor use these data to estimate the demand for and availability of seasonal agricultural workers.
- Agencies responsible for administering farm labor recruitment and placement programs use these statistics in their planning and evaluation.

