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2005 Agricultural Statistics Bulletin

Arizona farmers and ranchers finally got a break in the weather for 2005. For several years prior to the Fall of 2004, farmers and ranchers were faced with higher than normal temperatures, lower than normal rainfall, varying drought conditions and less than favorable forage conditions. However, moisture levels were higher than normal through the Fall 2004 - Spring 2005 timeframe, which helped improve forage conditions and restock most reservoirs. Planting conditions were also much improved in 2005.

This year's Bulletin contains some changes, especially in the way we published our county estimates. We now tabulate our county estimates to include District and County totals. We also reduced the number of years published. I would also like to encourage you to take a look at our redesigned website at www.nass.usda.gov/az. We hope the new look allows you to navigate through our products more efficiently.

Everyone at the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Arizona Department of Agriculture has worked hard to try and support Arizona farmers and ranchers as they dealt with the many challenges that crop and livestock production present.

The statistics included in the **2005 Arizona Agricultural Statistics Bulletin** will show the size and scope of one of Arizona's largest industries. Crop and livestock producers need a source for accurate and relevant statistics to make important decisions. We hope all producers and others interested in agriculture will use this publication, and the other reports released by USDA-NASS to make well-informed decisions about their production and marketing.

Our thanks to the thousands of Arizona crop and livestock producers, agribusiness firms, and others who have voluntarily provided information that makes this publication possible.