

ARIZONA NEWS RELEASE

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Press Release Announcement – (November 3, 2006)
- For Immediate Release -

USDA RELYING ON PRODUCERS TO PROVIDE KEY INFORMATION ON THE DECEMBER AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

Phoenix, Arizona, November 3, 2006 – How many acres of cotton have you produced this growing season? Has your yield been above or below expectations? Is the world supply going to continue to increase? These are just a few of the important questions the Arizona Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be asking producers as part of the December Agricultural Survey.

“The December Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is one of the most vital surveys conducted each year by NASS,” explained Steven Manheimer, Director of the NASS Arizona Field Office. “This survey provides the official USDA data on production and harvested acres of major agricultural commodities, including cotton, corn and alfalfa hay.” All sectors of the agricultural industry rely on NASS acreage, production and stocks estimates to help make sound business decisions.

“This survey data also benefits farmers and ranchers by providing a level playing field. You will have access to the same information at the same time as elevators, input suppliers, bankers and others with whom you do business,” added Manheimer. Knowing the 2006 production and stocks of the Nation's corn crop also is of special interest to producers because of the recent increase in the corn demand for ethanol production.

A small number of Arizona producers will be contacted by mail or telephone during the first two weeks of December and asked to provide data on their total acres, acres planted and

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harvested, total yield and production. NASS will also collect data on quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm. The information will be compiled and analyzed with the information collected from more than 77,000 producers nationwide and published in a series of USDA reports beginning January 12, 2007.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. “NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified,” stated Manheimer. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Arizona Field Office at 1-800-645-7286.

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