



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
ARKANSAS FIELD OFFICE

10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110, Little Rock, AR 72211



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Jill Bishop  
(800) 327-2970

## USDA TO CONDUCT YEAR-END AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

Little Rock, Arkansas – As the 2011 growing season officially comes to an end the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will contact producers nationwide to gather final year-end production numbers. After months of drought, flooding and wild fires in some parts of the country, it’s vital for farmers to respond to the December Agricultural Survey to ensure the impacts of these natural disasters are accurately reported.

“The December Agricultural Survey is the largest and most important year-end survey conducted by NASS,” explained Becky Cross, director of the NASS Arkansas Field Office. “This survey is the basis for the official USDA estimates of production and harvested acres of all major agricultural commodities in the United States.

“Following a growing season with unprecedented weather-related challenges, data from the December Agricultural Survey will benefit farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical year-end business decisions and begin planning for next year,” added Cross.

During the first two weeks of December, NASS will contact selected Arkansas producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on their 2011 production and on-farm stocks of corn, rice, soybeans, sorghum, and wheat. The information will be compiled, analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Crop Production* summary and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on January 12, 2012.

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 Cross.

All reports are available on the NASS website: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Arkansas Field Office at (800) 327-2970.

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