



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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USDA-NASS TO MEASURE 2009 CALIFORNIA SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

SACRAMENTO, August 17, 2009 – The 2009 harvest of small grains is complete and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will now measure U.S. farmers' final production of those grains, including wheat, oats, barley and rye.

During the first two weeks of September, representatives of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will contact more than 1,700 California producers statewide as part of the September 2009 Agricultural Survey. Results will provide the basis for official USDA estimates of 2009 acreage, yield and production for small grains.

"The September Agricultural Survey is one of the most important annual surveys conducted by NASS," explained Vic Tolomeo, Director of the USDA-NASS, California Field Office. "We will be gathering final data on 2009 small grains production, as well as information on quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on farms statewide. Survey results provide the basis for official USDA estimates of acreage, yield and production of harvested acres for the 2009 crop year."

"California farmers will be provided timely and accurate information to help make critical year-end business decisions and evaluate the success of the growing season," added Tolomeo. "California needs to be fairly represented in a nationwide sample of nearly 58,000 agriculture producers."

NASS representatives will contact survey participants by mail or telephone during the first two weeks of September and ask them to provide information on their 2009 production and on-farm stocks. Once compiled and analyzed, the information will be published in a series of USDA reports including the annual *Small Grains* summary and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on September 30.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Tolomeo reminds producers. "Individual information is combined with other responses and published only as part of State, regional and national summaries. No individual person or operation can be identified."

Visit the NASS web site at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/ to see all completed NASS reports, as well as a comprehensive collection of other data on U.S. agriculture. Reports and additional information can also be obtained by calling the NASS Hotline at 1-800-727-9540.