



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture
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Released: May 27, 2008

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Survey of Idaho Farmers to Begin Soon

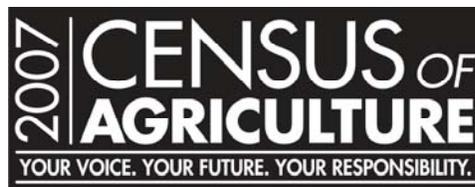
Boise, Idaho, May 27, 2008 – The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is preparing to conduct its annual June Agricultural Survey. A representative will be contacting local farmers and ranchers between May 30 and June 13. This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2008.

Agriculture is always in a state of change and 2008 is no different. The effect of higher fuel and fertilizer costs and a possible shift in crops due to drastic changes in prices for several commodities are some of the questions that need to be answered. “The June Agricultural Survey gives producers the opportunity to set the record straight for the upcoming marketing year,” says Bill Meyer, Idaho State Director.

The information gathered is widely used. Producers themselves rely on the data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Congress and regulators use the information to produce better regulations and farm programs. Industry analysts, extension agents, farm organizations, and agricultural lenders need the information for a variety of reasons. It is therefore important for Idaho farmers and ranchers to participate in the survey to ensure that local agriculture is accurately portrayed. Most producers selected for interviews will soon be notified by mail.

“The information provided by survey respondents is **confidential by law**,” Meyer says. “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.”

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) works with farmers and ranchers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep U.S. agriculture informed.



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