



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Press Release

The Illinois Field Office

Cooperating with The Illinois Department of Agriculture
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USDA TO GATHER DATA ON CROP ACREAGE AND STOCKS; HOGS AND PIGS

Springfield, IL – How many acres of corn and soybeans have farmers planted this year? Will the excessive rainfall this spring alter the March prospective planting intentions? How has the biofuels boom influenced the balance of crop acres? Are biotech crop varieties continuing to grow in popularity?

Conducted by the Illinois Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the June Agricultural Report, Quarterly Hogs Report, and June Area Study will help answer these and other critical questions about the production and supply of major commodities for 2008.

"The June Agricultural Report, also known as the Crops/Stocks Report, is the most important report conducted each spring by NASS," explained Brad Schwab, director of the NASS Illinois Field Office. "This report will provide the first clear indication of the potential production and supply of major commodities in the United States for the 2008 crop year."

During this time frame, the Illinois Field Office will also be conducting the Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Report. This report assists in measuring the conditions and trends in the pork industry over the course of the year.

Also, during the first two weeks of June, enumerators for the Illinois Field Office, equipped with aerial photos, will visit selected areas of land throughout the state and conduct personal interviews with the owners and operators. These enumerators will be collecting information on crop acreage, grain stocks, livestock inventory, cash rents, land values, and value of sales.

"The results of these reports benefit farmers and the entire agricultural industry by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical business decisions," added Schwab.

Beginning in early June, NASS will contact crop and hog producers by mail, telephone, or personal interview and ask them to provide information on their operation. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of highly anticipated USDA reports, including the *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs* report on June 27, and the annual *Acreage* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on June 30.

As with all NASS reports, 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 Schwab. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS reports, call the NASS Illinois Field Office at 1-800-622-9865.