

MINNESOTA AG NEWS
PRESS RELEASE



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**USDA, NASS, MINNESOTA FIELD OFFICE LAUNCHES REDESIGNED
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS WEB SITE**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 05, 2005 – The Minnesota Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) today launched its newly redesigned web site, www.nass.usda.gov/mn/. With a click of the mouse, there is now more agricultural data available at your fingertips. The entire NASS web site, including pages for its 46 field offices, has been completely revamped to better serve the needs of farmers, researchers, government officials, journalists, teachers and other NASS customers.

“NASS continues to strive to meet the needs of all of our data users. The new www.nass.usda.gov/mn/ site will further our mission by providing a user-friendly and abundant resource of statistics to serve Minnesota agriculture,” said Douglas Hartwig, Director of the NASS Minnesota Field Office.

Technological enhancements include a new Google-powered search engine, an SVG interactive mapping application, an RSS news feed and XML technology. To complete the redesign effort, the site also received a new look and feel to mirror the official USDA web site.

At the same time, the site continues to provide comprehensive statistical data on Minnesota agriculture. Features such as the Quick Stats Agricultural Statistics Database provide the most up-to-date state and county agricultural statistics. Data users can search for state and county level data by commodity and easily download information for use in a database or spreadsheet.

Data users of Minnesota agricultural statistics are encouraged to bookmark the site and visit it often, as it will be frequently updated with new information. USDA reports, such as the monthly *Crop Production* publication, will continue to be available online just minutes after release. Additionally, up-to-date information on surveys currently being conducted in Minnesota, as well as upcoming initiatives such as the 2007 Census of Agriculture, is just a click away.

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