



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW ENGLAND FIELD OFFICE
53 PLEASANT ST. ROOM 2100, CONCORD, NH 03301



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Contact: Dianne Johnson
(603) 227-3134

USDA TO SURVEY FARMERS' PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR 2012

[Concord, NH] – How will the uncertain economy affect U.S. farmer's planting intentions in 2012? How many acres of field corn, oats, and barley do farmers intend to plant this growing season? The March Agricultural Survey, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey 82,000 U.S. farmers in March 2012 to ask such questions about farmers' plans for the 2012 season.

"Each year, the agricultural industry watches for the results of the March Agricultural Survey, which provides the first official estimates of U.S. farmers' planting intentions for 2012," said Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. "When producers finalize their cropping and marketing plans, this survey will be one of the most important sources of information for them," he added.

NASS will mail the survey questionnaire in late February, asking producers to provide information about the types of crops they intend to plant in 2012, how many acres they intend to plant, and the amounts of barley and oats stored on Maine farms. NASS encourages producers to respond via the Internet but also welcomes mail or fax responses and offers non-responding producers the opportunity for a telephone or personal interview.

NASS will compile and analyze the survey information and publish the results in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Prospective Plantings* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on March 30, 2012.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only State- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Keough.

All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS New England Field Office at 1-800-642-9571.

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