



# NEWS RELEASE

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April, 2012

Contact: Dave Mikelson  
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## USDA TO COUNT LAND USES ACROSS THE STATE

Concord, NH – USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will spend the first two weeks of June surveying hundreds of farmers across New England to get a clear indication of the production and supply of major commodities for 2012. NASS will compile information collected across the country into one publically accessible report to ensure the confidentiality of individual farmer information.

Through two major mid-year surveys, the June Agricultural Survey and the June Area Survey, NASS will gather data on what crops have been planted and what commodities are in storage. This information will provide a comprehensive picture of how things are shaping up in 2012 for the U.S. agriculture industry.

“The agriculture survey is done online, by mail or by phone, but for the area survey, we visit randomly selected tracts of land and interview the operators of any farm or ranch on that land. We collect information on crop acreage – including biotech crops—as well as grain stocks, livestock inventory, cash rents, land values, and value of sales,” said Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office.

“This information is a critical component of several key national reports, including the annual *Acreage* report and the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on June 29. Survey data also contribute to NASS’s monthly and annual *Crop Production* reports and various other crop and livestock-related publications, including USDA’s *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*,” Keough said.

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](http://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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## USDA TO GATHER DATA ON CROP ACREAGE AND STOCKS

Concord, NH – How many acres of field corn, oats, barley, and potatoes did farmers plant this growing season? Will actual planted acreage be above or below farmers' reported planting intentions? These are a few of the critical questions the New England Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will soon ask more than 800 producers statewide as part of the June Agricultural Survey.

"The June Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is the most important survey conducted each spring by NASS," explained Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. "This survey will provide the first clear indication of the potential production and supply of major commodities in the United States for the 2012 crop year.

NASS will mail the survey questionnaire in late May, asking producers to provide information about the types of crops they planted in 2012, how many acres they intend to harvest, and the amounts of grain stored on their 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 *Acreage* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on June 29, 2012. Survey data also contribute to NASS's monthly and annual *Crop Production* reports, as well as the annual *Small Grains Summary* and USDA's monthly *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*.

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.

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