



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110

Upcoming survey information is contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA TO COLLECT FINAL 2009 CROP PRODUCTION NUMBERS

HARRISBURG, PA, November 3, 2009 - - - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is preparing to contact producers nationwide to gather final year-end production numbers. With soybean and corn production forecasted at record and near-record level highs, respectively, it's vital for farmers to respond to the December Agricultural Survey to determine if these expectations were realized.

"The December Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is the largest and most critical year-end survey conducted by NASS," explained Kevin Pautler, Director, NASS Pennsylvania Field Office. "This survey is the basis for the official USDA estimates of production and harvested acres of all major agricultural commodities in the United States.

"With a potential record-setting crop year, data from the December Agricultural Survey will benefit farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical year-end business decisions and begin planning for the next growing season," added Pautler.

During the first two weeks of December, NASS will contact nearly 1,700 Pennsylvania producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on their 2009 production of dry hay, corn, soybeans, potatoes and tobacco as well as on-farm stocks of corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, and oats. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Crop Production* summary and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on January 12, 2010.

As with all NASS surveys, 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 Pautler.

All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Pennsylvania Field Office at 1-800-498-1518.

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