



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 Survey Farm Operations Across Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG, PA, May 1, 2009 - - - How many acres of wheat did farmers plant this growing season? Which percentage of corn acres were planted to biotech varieties? Will actual planted acreage be above or below farmers' reported planting intentions? These are just a couple of the critical questions the Pennsylvania Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be asking more than 2,300 producers statewide as part of the June Agricultural Survey.

"The June Area Survey is one of the largest and most comprehensive surveys conducted each year by NASS," explained Dan Capstick, Deputy Director of the NASS Pennsylvania Field Office. "By providing an in-depth look at land uses and agricultural activities, the survey provides the most timely, accurate and useful information on the current condition of U.S. agriculture. Understanding that the information we gather is only as good as the source it comes from, we are counting on the most reliable, frontline source of information for this survey – the producers themselves," added Capstick.

Beginning the end of May, NASS will contact selected Pennsylvania producers by mail, telephone or personnel interview and ask them to provide information on the total number of acres planted to specific commodities, including soybeans, corn, tobacco, wheat, barley, oats, rye, sorghum, potatoes, and hay. NASS will also collect data on quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm, as well as livestock inventory, cash rents and value of sales. Many producers will be personally interviewed and asked to outline field boundaries on an aerial photo of a selected land segment that may include part or all of their farming operation. The June Agricultural Survey is designed to account for every acre of land and all agricultural activities and land uses within the Commonwealth. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Acreage* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on June 30, 2009.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Capstick. 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 Office at 1-800-498-1518.

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