



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/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/) and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

Contact: Marc Tosiano, 717-787-3904  
[nass-pa@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-pa@nass.usda.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## USDA to Survey Farmers' Planting Intentions for 2008

HARRISBURG, PA, Jan 18, 2008 - - How many acres of corn do farmers intend to plant this growing season? Will intended acreage be above or below last year? These are just a few of the critical questions that the USDA/NASS Pennsylvania Field Office will be asking of more than 1800 producers statewide as a part of the nation-wide March Agricultural Survey.

The Pennsylvania Field Office is responsible for publishing statistics about Pennsylvania's crop intentions. Farmers see direct benefits from this project because it allows producers to make sound planting decisions, based on changes in agricultural markets and planting intentions reported in this survey. For example, as of December 1, 2007, there was 1.7 million tons of dry hay in storage in Pennsylvania, down 49 percent from the previous year. As these stocks are consumed, it becomes more important to know farmers' intentions for making dry hay, so that plans for feeding livestock can be made.

In Pennsylvania, we collect information on acreage planting intentions for corn, soybeans, sorghum, oats, and tobacco; on-farm stocks data for whole grain corn, soybeans, sorghum grain, wheat, oats, and barley; to be cut for dry hay in 2008.

"The participation of Pennsylvania farmers is imperative to ensure that planting intentions, stocks, and hay to be cut are accurately being measured," said Marc Tosiano, Director of the Pennsylvania Field Office.

At the end of February, selected Pennsylvania producers will be mailed a pre-survey letter informing them of the requested information. The operators will be telephoned or personally visited beginning February 29 through March 10, 2008.

Individual operation information is completely **CONFIDENTIAL** by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses and publishes only state and national level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Marc Tosiano.

Results from the survey will be available in the *Prospective Plantings* report from Washington, D.C. on March 31, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. It will be available on the internet at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). The statistics are also available in the *Keystone Ag Digest*. This bi-monthly publication is available from our web site at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/).

**For more information, contact Brijette Robinson or Marc Tosiano at 1-800-498-1518.**

