



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE



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NASS SURVEY TO ASSESS 2008 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION STATEWIDE

Richmond, VA – Amidst ongoing concerns over the availability of grain supplies for food, fuel, feed and fiber, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon measure U.S. farmers' final 2008 production of small grains, including wheat, oats, and barley.

During the first two weeks of September, the Virginia Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will contact more than 1,200 producers statewide as part of the September Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey. Results will provide the basis for official USDA estimates of 2008 acreage, yield and production for small grains.

"This is one of the most important surveys NASS conducts each year," explained Herman Ellison, director of the NASS Virginia Field Office. "Not only will we be gathering final data on 2008 small grains production, but we'll also be collecting information on quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on farms statewide.

"Especially in times as uncertain as these, such data is widely anticipated not only by farmers, but by their customers, international trading partners, policymakers and many others," Ellison noted.

NASS will contact selected Virginia producers by mail, telephone, or personal interview and ask them to provide information on their 2008 small grain production and on-farm stocks of wheat, barley, corn, and soybeans. 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," Ellison said.

Survey results will be published in several reports, including the annual *Small Grains* summary and the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on September 30. These and all NASS reports are available on the agency's web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at 1-800-772-0670.

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