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## AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED

St. Paul, MN, September 26, 2003 – How are changes in farm programs affecting agricultural productivity? What land conservation practices are agricultural producers using? To answer these questions and gather reliable, objective information about U.S. agriculture, the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service will conduct the Agricultural Resource Management Survey on production practices for barley, corn, and potatoes as part of a nationwide study.

This survey will gather information on these crop production practices, chemical applications, and pest management practices from October through December 2003. In addition, cost of production data will be obtained. Fewer than 12,000 of the Nation's two million farmers will be asked to participate in the survey, so every response is critical. Some 500 producers in Minnesota will be included.

Producers selected to participate in the Agricultural Resource Management Survey will be making an important contribution to the overall welfare of the U.S. agricultural community. This survey gives participants an opportunity to set the record straight about issues that affect them, such as use of fertilizers and pesticides on these crops. Results from this survey will be used to develop agricultural production practices that improve productivity for farm operators and ensure a safer, cleaner working environment for producers, their families, and communities. All survey information will be merged and used by commodity analysts, producer organizations, and others to benefit Minnesota farmers.

Minnesota farm operators selected to participate in this year's survey will soon be notified by letter, and interviewers will visit them personally to collect their reports at their convenience. USDA will use the results to publish information on agricultural chemical usage and analyze commodity production costs and returns in a series of reports in 2004.

The Agricultural Resource Management Survey is one way that USDA and producers work together to provide the meaningful, accurate, and objective statistical information and services that help keep U.S. agriculture and rural communities among the most robust in the world.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," said Minnesota State Statistician, Michael Hunst. "Information about individual operations is used only in conjunction with data from other producers. We will not disclose any information about an individual operation."

All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/). For additional information on ARMS visit the Economic Research Service (ERS) Web site at [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov).