



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW ENGLAND FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August, 2009

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NASS TO MEASURE 2009 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

Concord, New Hampshire – During the first two weeks of September, the New England Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will contact more than 250 producers in Maine as part of the September Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey. Results will provide the basis for official USDA estimates of 2009 acreage, yield and production for small grains.

"This is one of the most important surveys NASS conducts each year," explained Gary Keough director of the NASS New England Field Office. "Not only will we be gathering final data on 2009 small grains production, but we'll also be collecting information on quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on farms statewide.

"Data from the September Agricultural Survey benefits farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical year-end business decisions and evaluate the success of the growing season," added Keough.

NASS will contact selected Maine producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on their 2009 production and on-farm stocks of oats and barley. 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," Keough 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 New England Field Office at 1-800-642-9571.

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