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Agri-News

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Agricultural Survey Is an Opportunity to Provide the Facts

How many acres will be planted to cotton and soybeans this year? What will spring planting conditions mean for Tennessee agriculture? To answer these and many other questions, the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be surveying farmers for the June Agricultural Survey.

There is always speculation about each new crop season and agricultural producers are the main source for the facts. "If we speak up and answer the questions about the 2004 crop season, we can reduce uncertainty in the agriculture marketplace," says Debra Kenerson, State Director.

TASS will conduct the survey and a representative will contact local producers between May 29 and June 14. Some respondents will be chosen from sampled areas of land identified on aerial photographs. This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2004. It will also provide genetically modified seed use, livestock inventory, and the amount of grains in storage.

The information gathered is widely used. Producers rely on the data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Industry analysts, extension agents, and farm organizations use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Ms. Kenerson says. "Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data." TASS works with farmers and ranchers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep those interested in U.S. agriculture informed.

For a copy of survey results or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the TASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/tn or call 1-800-626-0987.

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