



UTAH
AGRICULTURAL
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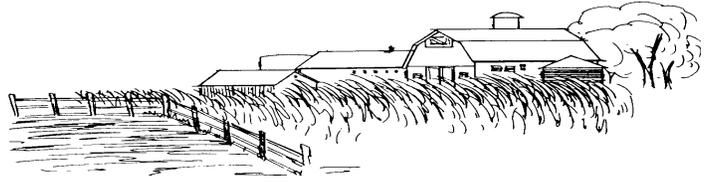
News Release

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National Agricultural Statistics Service

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AGRICULTURAL SURVEY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE THE FACTS

How many acres will be planted to crops this spring? What impact will spring planting and growing conditions have for Utah and American agriculture? To gather reliable, objective information, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will contact a sample of farmers and ranchers for the June Agricultural Survey.

Continuing drought and uncertain water supplies have heightened speculation about the new crop season. Rick Kestle, Director of the Utah Agricultural Statistics Office said, "This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2004." The survey will be conducted between May 29 and June 15.

The up-to-date results are an unbiased snapshot of agriculture from the best source – the producers. Producers rely on the data to make production and marketing plans. The information gathered is widely valued by agriculture's supporters, too. Producer associations, extension agents, industry analysts and Congress use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Kestle reminds producers. "Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the important regional, State and national statistics."

All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at www.usda.gov/nass/. For more information, call 1-800-747-8522.