



NEWS RELEASE

Utah Agricultural Statistics Service

National Agricultural Statistics Service - U. S. Department of Agriculture

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AGRICULTURAL SURVEY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE THE FACTS

(Salt Lake City, May 28, 2003) - How many acres will be planted to corn? What will spring planting conditions mean for American agriculture? To gather reliable, objective information, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be surveying farmers and ranchers 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 2002 crop season, we can reduce uncertainty in the agriculture marketplace," says Rick Kestle, State Statistician for the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. "We will be conducting the survey and a representative will contact local producers between May 30 and June 16. This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2002."

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," Rick Kestle says. "Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data." NASS works with farmers and ranchers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep U.S. agriculture informed.

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

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