

The background of the slide is a photograph of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. The monument is a tall, white, obelisk-shaped structure that rises above a line of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow. In the foreground, there is a paved walkway with several wooden benches and a small pond. The sky is overcast and grey.

*Virtual  
Data Users' Meeting*

OCTOBER 13 - 14, 2021  
12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

# CONTENTS

Agenda .....	3
Breakout Session Descriptions .....	5
Meeting Links .....	7
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	8
Economic Research Service.....	13
Foreign Agricultural Service.....	21
World Agricultural Outlook Board.....	27
U.S. Census Bureau .....	30
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	36



2021 USDA Data Users' Virtual Meeting  
October 13 - 14

Live Webinar – All times are Eastern

**AGENDA**

**DAY 1 — OCTOBER 13**

- 12:00 p.m. .... Welcome and Overview ..... Joe Parsons  
National Agricultural Statistics Service
- 12:10 p.m. .... Agency Reviews .....  
Mike Lynch, Agricultural Marketing Service  
Spiro Stefanou, Economic Research Service  
Patrick Packnett, Foreign Agricultural Service  
Mike Walter, Farm Service Agency  
Mark Jekanowski, World Agricultural Outlook Board  
Joseph DeCampo, U.S. Census Bureau  
Dan Kerestes, National Agricultural Statistics Service
- 12:50 p.m. .... Break
- 1:00 p.m. .... Breakout Session #1
- 1:55 p.m. .... Break
- 2:05 p.m. .... Breakout Session #2
- 3:00 p.m. .... Day 1 End

**DAY 1 BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Day 1 – October 13		
All times Eastern	Session A	Session B
<b>1:00pm</b>	AgTransport Platform <i>Agricultural Marketing Service</i>	Foreign Production, Trade, and Import/Export Data <i>World Agricultural Outlook Board, Foreign Agricultural Service, and U.S. Census Bureau</i>
<b>1:55pm</b>	<b>10 Minute Break</b>	
<b>2:05pm</b>	Milk Production Program <i>National Agricultural Statistics Service</i>	Showcasing ERS Data and New Initiatives <i>Economic Research Service</i>

## DAY 2 — OCTOBER 14

12:00 p.m. .... **Open Forum** - Questions and comments from participants

1:20 p.m. .... Break

1:30 p.m. .... Breakout Session #3

2:10 p.m. .... Break

2:20 p.m. .... Breakout Session #3

3:00 p.m. .... Day 2 End

### DAY 2 BREAKOUT SESSION

Day 2 – October 14		
<i>All times Eastern</i>	<b>Session A</b>	<b>Session B</b>
<b>1:30 pm</b>	Data and Programs Assisting Our Nation’s Producers During the 2021 Western Drought <i>World Agricultural Outlook Board</i>	Market News <i>Agricultural Marketing Service</i>
<b>2:10 pm</b>	<b>10 Minute Break</b>	
<b>2:20 pm</b>	NASS Modernization <i>National Agricultural Statistics Service</i>	Building Country Capacity with the Global Agricultural & Disaster Assessment System <i>Foreign Agricultural Service</i>

# BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## DAY 1 BREAKOUT SESSIONS – OCTOBER 13, 2021

### **Breakout #1 – 1:00 p.m. – 1:55 p.m. ET**

#### **Session A**

##### ***AgTransport Platform – Agricultural Marketing Service***

The AMS AgTransport platform provides up-to-date access to USDA transportation data (rail, truck, barge, ocean vessel, and containers) that can help inform timely marketing decisions about moving agricultural products across the country and around the world. Join us as we demonstrate how usable, shareable, accessible, and discoverable agricultural transportation datasets are. In this session, we will explore numerous dashboards and datasets, customized visualizations, open formatting, and easily accessible API's to help quickly put USDA's data to work for you.

#### **Session B**

##### ***Foreign Production, Trade, and Import/Export Data – Foreign Agricultural Service, World Agricultural Outlook Board, and U.S. Census Bureau***

These agencies collect, report, and forecast U.S. goods trade, Export Sales data, and U.S. and Foreign, production supply and demand for major commodities. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and understand the respective agencies' programs, procedures, and systems to access the data efficiently.

### **Breakout #2 – 2:05 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET**

#### **Session A**

##### ***Milk Production Program – National Agricultural Statistics Service***

This session will provide the details of the entire process used by NASS in determining milk production estimates. This will include detailed descriptions of procedures used from sampling through estimation, along with information regarding how NASS incorporates administrative data.

#### **Session B**

##### ***Showcasing ERS Data and New Initiatives – Economic Research Service***

This session will highlight two sets of data products, the Meat Price Spreads Data and Commodity Costs and Returns Reports, as well as a new initiative linking food acquisition and nutrition data.

## **DAY 2 BREAKOUT SESSIONS – OCTOBER 14, 2021**

### **Breakout #3 – 1:30 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. ET**

#### **Session A**

#### ***Data and Programs Assisting Our Nation’s Producers During the 2021 Western Drought – World Agricultural Outlook Board***

Large portions of the West have been experiencing significant periods of drought off and on for more than two decades, leading it to be referred to as a “Mega Drought”. The longevity of the current drought, combined with a warmer climate and increased competition for limited water resources, has not only caused direct losses to producers but also raises questions about the future of agriculture in many communities in its present form. Today’s breakout session will provide an overview of the still-evolving drought, the prospects for improvement, and why this event stands out amongst others for its severity. The information used in these determinations will be introduced, including those identifying the changing conditions noted in recent decades, along with other information producers may find useful as they prepare for future droughts.

#### **Session B**

#### ***Market News – Agricultural Marketing Service***

Market News provides unbiased, timely price and volume information to facilitate the marketing and distribution of farm commodities and products. Please plan to join us for this breakout session to learn about new Market News initiatives and get the latest updates on the My Market News platform. Most importantly, we want to hear from you! AMS always welcomes your feedback and questions about the AMS Market News program, data, and reports.

### **Breakout #4 – 2:20 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET**

#### **Session A**

#### ***NASS Modernization – National Agricultural Statistics Service***

NASS has embarked on an effort to modernize accessing NASS data and reports faster, friendlier, and easier. Join us at this session to learn about the latest updates.

#### **Session B**

#### ***Building Country Capacity with the Global Agricultural & Disaster Assessment System – Foreign Agricultural Service***

The Global Agricultural & Disaster Assessment System (GADAS) is an interactive web-based geospatial platform by the Foreign Agricultural Service. This online Geographic Information System (GIS) captures and shares near real-time weather and natural disaster data, combined with spatially explicit global agricultural information, enabling analysts and other private and public stakeholders to conduct data mining, perform comparative analysis, and create publication-ready maps, charts, or tables. GADAS provides authoritative satellite-derived Earth observation data to support collaboration in regional and field-based assessments of agricultural conditions.

# MEETING LINKS

## DAY 1 SESSION LINKS

### Main Session – October 13 & 14 - 12:00 pm ET

Register: [https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_QffPSZnwRYukyadCGTmTWw](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_QffPSZnwRYukyadCGTmTWw)

### Breakout 1 - 1:00 pm ET

#### Session A – AgTransport Platform

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603283641?pwd=cEJacUg1aEUrRkp2TjZiZVNNU3RoZz09>

#### Session B – Foreign Production, Trade, and Import/Export Data

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600413506?pwd=RjArUkdCQTQzK3BCeTFWWFc2cDA2Zz09>

### Breakout 2 - 2:05 pm ET

#### Session A – NASS Milk Production Program

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612040604?pwd=ZHRpRFNlVGFjQldJb1ZMUnU2aGYxUT09>

#### Session B – Showcasing ERS Data and New Initiatives

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1601121440?pwd=c2FMMVo2VWFzRXYrL1JnYUJzdDNtQT09>

## DAY 2 SESSION LINKS

### Breakout 3 - 1:30 pm ET

#### Session A – Data and Programs Assisting Our Nation’s Producers During the 2021 Western Drought

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608817446?pwd=SnVJZlpCR0hrZTRQSXBSOGdrdmhlUT09>

#### Session B – Market News Reports

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1607416034?pwd=VWRJZ1F0WmltSjJTRjZ5UkR0NWZXUT09>

### Breakout 4 - 2:20 pm ET

#### Session A – NASS Modernization

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1613399565?pwd=NmJsV25jM3FZRHMxcmJmSUFLdmlZUT09>

#### Session B – Building Country Capacity with the Global Agricultural & Disaster Assessment System

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605454915?pwd=RkY0akdoZWxkdnJ0dEhvNlBvenM4dz09>

## MEETING MATERIALS

Video Recordings, Slides, and Q&A Transcripts will be available at:

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education\\_and\\_Outreach/Meeting/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php)

# AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE



*The mission of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is to facilitate the competitive and efficient marketing of agricultural products.*

## USDA DATA USERS FALL MEETING 2021

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers programs that create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops. AMS also provides the agriculture industry with valuable services to ensure the quality and availability of wholesome food for consumers across the country.

Nearly 4,000 AMS professionals work every day to support the country's diverse agricultural operations, which range from individual farmers to international businesses and employ 1 in 12 people. AMS services and its millions of dollars in annual grant investments also create opportunities by supporting economic development in small towns and rural communities that stand as the backbone of American values.

Much of the agency's support for agriculture is provided through commodity-specific efforts, such as its Dairy; Specialty Crops; Livestock and Poultry; and Cotton and Tobacco Programs. AMS also oversees the National Organic Program; Science and Technology Program; and the Transportation and Marketing Program. AMS also provides regulatory oversight for over 20 research and promotion programs and enforces other Federal regulations such as the Packers and Stockyards Act, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) and the Seed Act.

## CURRENT ISSUES OF INTEREST

### **My Market News**

The Market Analysis & Reporting Services (MARS) and its public facing website, *My Market News* and related API continue to expand its offerings to data users in 2021.

Market information for feedstuffs, retail, national feeder cattle summary, bioenergy, international markets, poultry and byproducts and the Specialty Crops commodities of truck rates, national trends, terminal market, shipping point and movement will transition to *My Market News* over the next several months. It is anticipated that all currently available AMS Market News data sets will be moved to the new system within the next year.

Other updates that have been implemented on the site over the past year include the functionality that allows users to identify corrected data sets both by report and through the *My Market News* API and



Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) API. Another update coming later this year will allow users to automatically download specific archived report files through a web-based API.

The Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News (LPGMN) program will introduce a Market News Mobile App in 2021 that will run on both Android and IOS and offer the following features:

- Search reports by Commodity, Offices, Market Types and Report Names
- Filter Search Results by Report Name or Slug, Report Year, Report Start and Report End dates
- Favorite a Report
- The ability to share a report with others
- Subscribe to the Report to get notified when new report is available
- Find Previous Years' Reports
- Reports for offices nearest to user's current location.

### **Federal-State Cooperation**

AMS Market News has Federal-State Cooperative Agreements with 30 states for commodity market reporting activities. These cooperative working relationships enable resources at the Federal and State levels to be leveraged to expand the breadth, depth, and dissemination of market reporting to the benefit of the industry and information users. State reporters cover livestock auction and grain elevator markets, and other local reporting activities, such as farmers markets, that would otherwise be costly and more difficult to cover using Federal resources alone.

### **Organic Market Reporting**

AMS Market News currently reports over 240 organic commodities, and tracks and reports organic markets at three main levels – shipping point or point of entry (for imports), wholesale, and retail. Reporting of organic commodities at shipping point usually includes tracking the volume of movement, which consists of domestic shipments or crossings from Mexico/imports from other countries. Market News provides some comprehensive reports for the organic sector, such as the daily *National Specialty Crops Organic Summary*. AMS has a webpage showcasing Market News organic reports including a *Weekly Retail Organic Price Comparison Report* that shows the price differences between organic and conventional products to assist stakeholders in analysis of commodity sales and consumers' willingness to pay for organic products.

### **Market Information Organization of the Americas/International Collaboration**

AMS Market News serves as the chair of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), a cooperation network of institutions from 33 countries that operate like Market News. These institutions track and report major markets within their nations to ensure the availability of reliable information for their agro-industrial complex, relevant ministries, and government agencies. MIOA works to harmonize efforts, identify, and share best practices, and support trade and economic development through the availability of critical market data. MIOA supports the concept that timely and unbiased market information helps provide market transparency – a basic public good. MIOA and AMS Market News have partnered to create the *MIOA Toolbox*, a five-part series of modules available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. This series has provided hundreds of leading market information specialists, data analysts, and various strategic partners from the 33 member countries with key information on the strategies, new tools, and good practices to improve market reporting across the Americas. The five modules are titled:

- *Components of a Successful MIS*
- *Value of and Strategies for Accurate Market Information*
- *Market Reporter: Profile and Good Practices for Success*
- *Good Practices for MIS in Preparation for Emergencies*
- *Outreach, Education and Promotion for MIS*

AMS Market News, along with the other data agencies of USDA, is partnering with the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to deliver capacity building programs in the Dominican Republic and the State of Maharashtra, India. AMS is drawing upon the *MIOA Toolbox* for these training programs for market information specialists. Information specialists from other countries have sat in on these advanced training programs, greatly increasing the reach and impact of these programs.

### **Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Reporting**

Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News (LPGMN) continues to focus much of its efforts on improving our customers' experience by providing greater access to LPGMN data through more modern tools, including transitioning market data and reports to *My Market News*. LPGMN is also focused on conducting industry outreach to help stakeholders understand the opportunities and challenges presented as part of the reauthorization process of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) Act of 1999 which, at the time of publication of this document, was extended by Congress through December 3, 2021, as part of the 2022 Continuing Appropriations Act.

Data users are encouraged to access the *My Market News* API, the LMR API, and the legacy LMR Web Service to consume LPGMN data more effectively, efficiently, and on demand. Data users can also access LMR report data through the XML Format link at the bottom of each PDF report, and through the LMR API. The LMR API offers access to all LMR, Dairy Mandatory, and Federal Milk Marking Order reports and data.

Other recent LPGMN activities include:

- On June 8-10, 2021, the AMS Cattle and Carcass Training Center (CCTC) conducted a series of public webinars providing educational information about our LMR cattle and boxed beef reporting.
- On August 9, 2021, LPGMN issued the new Daily Cattle Formula Base report which enables stakeholders to see the correlation between the negotiated trade and reported formula base prices.
- On August 10, 2021, LPGMN issued the new Weekly Cattle Net Price Distribution report which shows at what levels (price and volume) trade occurred across the weekly weighted average price for each purchase type – negotiated, negotiated grid, formula and forward contract.

### **Cotton Market News Reporting**

During the 2021-2022 cotton crop year, Cotton Market News will be monitoring the quality of the crop and adding special reports to the to the Weekly Cotton Market Review as quality issues are identified. Cotton Quality Data files will be available in *My Market News*. The weekly cotton quality data file contains classification information for all bales classed in a given week. The file contains data for Upland and Pima cotton. The identification includes the Cotton Program's Classing Office number or the two-digit State Code in which the bale was ginned, depending on the file accessed. The data does not contain individual bale identification (gin and bale number). This data can be used to produce statistical reports for various combinations of cotton quality information. Cotton Price Excel and CSV files are available in *My Market News*. Historical files continue to be loaded and files will be available going back to at least

the 2014-2015 marketing year. Additional Cotton Price datasets are available by request. E-mail [CottonMN@usda.gov](mailto:CottonMN@usda.gov) or [Barbara.Meredith@usda.gov](mailto:Barbara.Meredith@usda.gov) if you are interested in Cotton Price datasets.

### **Dairy Market News Reporting**

Dairy Market News (DMN) continues to enhance My Market News, improving access to information and data for the dairy industry. CME Group daily pricing information for butter, cheese, nonfat dry milk, and dry whey is now available in My Market News, along with weekly, monthly, and yearly averages. Enhancements to APIs at the My Market News landing pages are available, with updates made regularly to meet customer needs. API documentation is displayed on the homepage of each Dairy Market News report in the My Market News system.

Reports of mandatory dairy product survey prices and Federal order statistics are published by the Dairy Market Information Branch (MIB) on the *My Market News* website, the AMS website, and Cornell's USDA Economics, Statistics and Market Information System (ESMIS). The underlying data for these reports are available in Datamart and the associated API, both part of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting system. Sample API workbooks are also available on the *My Market News* website.

### **Specialty Crops Market News Reporting**

Specialty Crops Market News (SCMN) added new packages, origins, and varieties to its market reports as they emerged in the marketplace, or in response to industry requests to report new products or enhance existing products. The *National Retail Report – Specialty Crops* has grown to be one of the mostly closed tracked reports published by Market News. SCMN tracks approximately 410 supermarket chains, with over 30,300 individual outlets. Overall, SCMN tracks over 785 unique specialty crop commodities at three market levels (retail, wholesale, and shipping point), plus the movement, which consists of domestic shipments, crossings from Mexico, and import volumes. To better meet specialized information needs, the *U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement Seasonal Perishable Products Weekly Update*, was created to highlight the seasonal market situation on several of the most widely imported specialty crops commodities, with additional commentary and market price and volume data visualizations.

SCMN gained access to the Automated Commercial Environment/International Trade Data System (ACE), implemented through the joint efforts of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Homeland Security, and the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). SCMN transitioned to using the ACE system as the primary source of import data, starting with the northern border on January 2, 2020. On January 3, 2021, SCMN continued the transition to ACE with the addition of the southern border, excluding Mexico Crossings through Nogales, Arizona. The ACE data using the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes is timelier, allowing SCMN to have daily reports for hundreds of commodities, and it reflects the more actual volumes, as it covers all ports and points of entry.

SCMN worked closely with industry leaders to request specific HTS from the International Trade Commission to increase the specificity of the ACE data and provide transparency for some minor commodities that have significant economic value in the marketplace. The most recent successful request, effective July 1, 2021, was for organic raspberries, blackberries, and strawberries, plus cilantro and tomatillos. The latest request from SCMN, to be effective January 1, 2022, includes cut flowers and ornamental greens, with the minor fruit and vegetable items held in abeyance for now.

## Agricultural Transportation Open Data Visualization Platform – AgTransport

The [AgTransport](#) platform offers farmers, commodity analysts, elevator operators, shippers, and other stakeholders access to USDA data that can help them make timely market decisions about moving agricultural products across the country and around the world. This free, open data platform contains numerous datasets and dashboards about the four modes—rail, truck, barge, and ocean vessel—used to transport agricultural products.

AgTransport facilitates easy analytics. Users can gain personalized insight through interactive charts, and they can generate and save their own unique visualizations and data views that will be updated automatically over time. If they wish, users also can share their visualizations with others in the tool’s open data community. AgTransport makes data available in many different, open formats and automatically generates and maintains an Application Programming Interface (API) for each dataset.

There have been many new features added to the platform with the latest expansion in July. One feature helps users visualize data about international transport costs to better understand international trade competitiveness. New interactive datasets have been added related to highway infrastructure from the report, [The Importance of Highways to U.S. Agriculture](#), released in December 2020. There is also an [online version](#) of the 2021 [Compendium of Agricultural Transportation Research](#), which offers insight on all major transport modes by highlighting the main findings and methods from recent research between 2015 and 2021.

Other features on the platform include:

- Grain Transportation Cost Indicators and Global Competitiveness Dashboard with data on Brazil, Mexico, and Japan
- Interactive Rail Dashboard with expanded Data, Maps, and Analysis, featuring 14 years of Surface Transportation Board Public Waybill data in an easy-to-use, accessible format
- Agricultural Rail Service Metrics Dashboard
- Barge Dashboard with additional rivers and locks added to the waterway Lock Performance Management Data
- Ocean Port Profiles Dashboard
- Bulk and Container Ocean Fleet Data
- Grain Trucking Indicators
- Refrigerated Truck Dashboard with Rates, Volumes, and Availability
- Dashboard for selected Grain Price and Basis Data
- Digitized Modal Share Analysis for Transportation of U.S. Grains
- Biofuels Dashboard, including Ethanol, Biodiesel, and DDGs

# ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE



Economic Research Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

---

**ERS' mission** is to anticipate trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America and to conduct high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making. ERS also provides a wide range of data products covering different commodity markets and the agricultural economy.



[www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)

Cover photo image from Getty Images.

Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by USDA.

To ensure the quality of its research reports and satisfy governmentwide standards, ERS requires that all research reports with substantively new material be reviewed by qualified technical research peers. This technical peer review process, coordinated by ERS' Peer Review Coordinating Council, allows experts who possess the technical background, perspective, and expertise to provide an objective and meaningful assessment of the output's substantive content and clarity of communication during the publication's review.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

---

# High-Quality, Objective Economic Research

ERS research programs provide timely, independent, and objective information about the U.S. agricultural economy, its resources, and its links to the general economy and food markets. Our research integrates market information and economic theory to inform decision makers in the Government, the U.S. Congress, agribusinesses, farm and industry groups, the media, and the general public.

Our research covers a range of economic and policy topics, including:

## **Commodity Markets & Outlook**

Timely, in-depth analyses and information important to understanding and anticipating developments in agricultural commodity markets. The Outlook program covers the major field crops (feedgrains, oilseeds, wheat, rice, cotton, and sugar), livestock and products, specialty crops (fruits, nuts, vegetables, and pulses), and agricultural trade.

## **Farm & Rural Economy**

Farm sector performance and farm households' well-being; farm size and concentration; investments in rural communities and drivers of rural economic performance; and demographic change and its impact on rural communities.

## **Global Markets & Trade**

Major markets and competitors; economic impacts of existing and potential exports and imports, trade barriers, and existing/potential trade agreements.

## **Resources & Environment**

Economic impacts of conservation programs, efficacy of policies designed to protect the environment, and the use of technology to enhance agricultural

## **Food & Nutrition**

Economic research and analysis on policy-relevant issues related to the food sector (food safety, food prices, and markets); consumer behavior related to food choices (food consumption, diet quality, and nutrition); and food and nutrition assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, National School Lunch Program).

---

# Timely Data on the Agricultural Economy and Commodity Markets

ERS creates over 60 data products covering the agricultural economy, commodities and food markets. ERS data products were accessed **3.5 million times** in 2020.

Our work on data products includes transforming survey data to make the information accessible and meaningful to users, as well as developing new datasets based on economic models or through the compilation of data from diverse sources.

ERS data products fall into four categories:

- **Survey data** such as the Agricultural Resource Management Survey, which is a primary source of information on the financial conditions, production practices, and resource use of U.S. farm businesses.
- **Model-based results**, including estimates from our economic models, such as the Food Dollar series, which measures annual expenditures by U.S. consumers on domestically produced food; and the Agricultural Trade Multipliers, which estimate the amount of economic activity and jobs generated by agricultural exports.
- **Economic indicators and summary statistics** compiled from an array of official sources. Examples include Farm Income estimates, Cost of Production estimates, and detailed data on commodity supply/use and U.S. agricultural trade.
- **Charts and visualizations**, including Charts of Note released daily, interactive data visualizations, and an extensive inventory of chart galleries that display key trends and relationships across market variables.



---

# Modernization of Data Delivery

To expand the reach of our data products, ERS is continuously innovating to develop data dissemination tools and channels that meet the changing needs and expectations of our users. Ongoing efforts include:

**1** **Developing structured and automated databases**  
to facilitate open and centralized access to a broad range of data.

**2** **Expanding use of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)**  
to allow users and developers to design new ways to access and present data.

**3** **Developing a new data dissemination web platform**  
that will serve as a one-stop shop for our most used data, including commodity market data.

**4** **Leveraging data visualization software and tools**  
to present data in a modern and user-friendly format.

# Recent Publications by the Economic Research Service

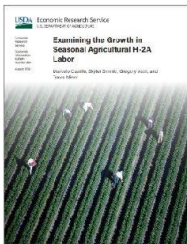
ERS releases periodic Outlook reports covering developments in commodity markets, including seven monthly releases on field crops and livestock/dairy/poultry, two biannual reports covering specialty crops, and quarterly U.S. Agricultural Trade Outlook reports.

Other Outlook and Economic Research Reports and Economic Informational Bulletins released by ERS include:



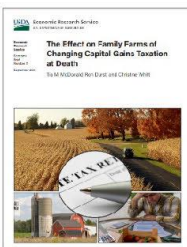
## Household Food Security in the United States in 2020

In 2020, 10.5 percent (13.8 million U.S. households) were food insecure, meaning they had difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members because of a lack of resources.



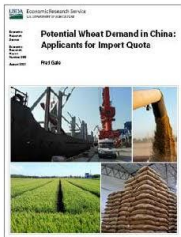
## Examining the Growth in Seasonal Agricultural H-2A Labor

The H-2A Agricultural Guest Worker program allows U.S. agricultural employers to hire foreign workers on a temporary or seasonal basis. The program rapidly expanded over the last decade, with certified H-2A positions increasing by more than 200 percent from 2010-19. This report explores how H-2A usage levels differ by agricultural sector, geography, and by the type of firm requesting workers.



## The Effect on Family Farms of Changing Capital Gains Taxation at Death

ERS researchers present a framework for evaluating the effects of changes in capital gains taxation on inherited assets. This report provides an analysis of potential impacts on family farm estates' capital gains tax liability under the proposed American Families Plan (AFP).



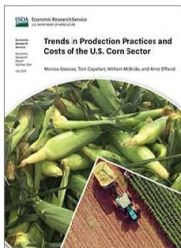
### Potential Wheat Demand in China: Applicants for Import Quota

This report examines lists of applicants for wheat tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for the years 2015 to 2021 to characterize the potential demand for imported wheat in China. More than 900 companies in China applied for quota from 2015 to 2021, and 171 applied 7 years in a row.



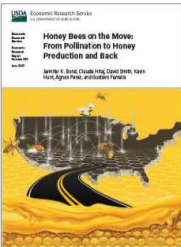
### America's Diverse Family Farms: 2020 Edition

This report provides the latest statistics on U.S. farms, including production, financial performance, and farm household characteristics by farm size. Among the findings, 98 percent of U.S. farms are family farms and they accounted for 88 percent of farm production in 2019. Most (90 percent) farms are small, (gross cash farm income less than \$350,000) and they accounted for 22 percent of production.



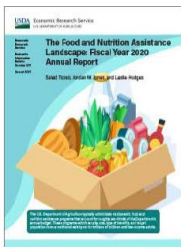
### Trends in Production Practices and Costs of the U.S. Corn Sector

Corn for grain is a major field crop in the United States, with wide-ranging uses including animal feed, ethanol, food, beverages, industrial products, and exports. This report describes the technological and structural changes in U.S. corn production over 1996-2018, and describes how these changes have affected farm expenditures, net returns, productivity, yields, and production costs.



### Honey Bees on the Move: From Pollination to Honey Production and Back

As U.S. growers expand their cultivation of pollinator-dependent crops, including fruits and nuts, an increasing number of honey bee hives are transported around the country to provide pollination services. This report quantifies the seasonal flow of hives around the country and provides evidence of varying levels of intensity of reliance on pollination services by crop and by region.



### The Food and Nutrition Assistance Landscape: Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report

This report uses preliminary data from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and Agricultural Marketing Service to examine program trends in the largest U.S. food and nutrition assistance programs through fiscal year 2020 (October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020) and documents the many policy changes that came into effect since March 2020.

# Examples of Data Products by the Economic Research Service

## Primary—survey data

- ARMS Farm Financial and Crop Production Practices, which are developed jointly with USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

## Model results estimates

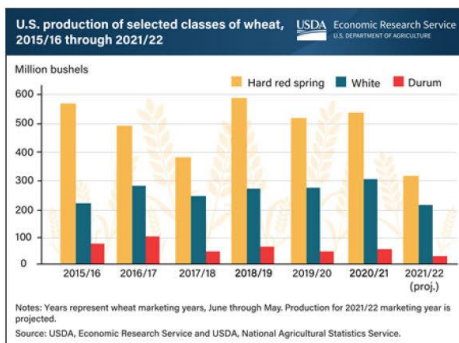
- Food Dollar
- Agricultural Trade Multipliers
- International Baseline Data
- Season-Average Price Forecasts

## Summary statistics

- Foreign Agricultural Trade of the U.S.
- U.S. Bioenergy Statistics
- Feed Grains Database
- Livestock & Meat Domestic Data

## Charts and Visualizations

- Charts of Note
- Cross-Commodity Visualization



**World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates at a Glance**  
September 2021

This visualization is prepared by the Economic Research Service.  
The visualization is based on the latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE). The WASDE is prepared by USDA's Interagency Commodity Estimates Committee, which are chaired by the World Agricultural Outlook Board and include representatives from the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Economic Research Service (ERS), Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is a primary source of production data.  
Get the latest WASDE report at <https://www.usda.gov/oc/commodity/wasde/> for more information.  
This visualization is updated monthly.

		2019/20	2020/21 estimates	Aug. projections for 2021/22	Sep. projections for 2021/22	Change from last month's projections at midpoint
Cotton	Cotton	¢/lb	59.00	65.50	60.00	34.00
	Barley	\$/bu	4.56	4.75	5.75	5.45
	Corn	\$/bu	2.90	4.45	5.15	5.45
	Feed grains & wheat	\$/bu	2.82	2.77	3.80	3.80
	Sorghum	\$/bu	1.34	2.00	2.15	2.05
	Wheat	\$/bu	4.58	5.05	6.70	6.00
Rice	Long	\$/cwt	12.00	12.00	12.00	13.00
	Medium and short	\$/cwt	11.20	11.70	10.50	10.10
	Heat	\$/BTU	299.50	295.00	285.00	285.00
Soybeans	Oil	\$/lb	0.30	0.31	0.35	0.35
	Distilled	\$/bu	8.57	10.00	13.70	12.00

\$/lb cents per pound      \$/bu dollars per bushel  
 \$/cwt dollars per hundredweight      \$/BTU dollars per hundredweight  
 \$/¢ cents per bushel

Average forecast U.S. price for all-milk (dollars per hundredweight)

	2020 Actual	2021 Aug. estimates	2021 Sep. estimates	2022 Aug. projections	2022 Sep. projections
All-milk price	15.24	17.85	18.15	17.85	18.40

# FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

## Update on Information and Data Products Available from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service October 2021

### Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN)

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) provides timely reports on foreign markets through the Global Agriculture Information Network (GAIN) database. The GAIN database houses reports from 98 offices covering 177 countries that include timely intelligence and analysis on global agriculture, agricultural markets, and foreign government policies affecting agricultural trade. In 2020, approximately 3,100 GAIN reports were submitted and published for web-based retrieval. This was an increase of 14.8% over the prior year and was largely attributed to reporting on the impacts of COVID-19 on the agricultural sector.

Commodity reporting requirements are reviewed annually to ensure that reporting aligns with changes and developments in global agricultural production and trade. Reporting on climate change and reports on the Farm to Fork Strategy are examples of new issues covered.

GAIN reports were downloaded through the GAIN system 2.59 million times throughout this calendar year alone. Users can access GAIN reports dating back to 1996 from the GAIN homepage: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/>.

For questions about the GAIN search engine please contact [1-GAINAppSupport@fas.usda.gov](mailto:1-GAINAppSupport@fas.usda.gov). To receive GAIN reports via email, register at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFAS/subscriber/new>

### FAS – U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook

The 2020 U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook was released on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The yearbook provides a statistical summary of U.S. agricultural commodity exports to the world and the United States' primary trading partners. The 2020 Yearbook can be found at <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/2020-agricultural-export-yearbook>.

All U.S. export data found within the Yearbook are collected and published by the U.S. Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Foreign country export data are sourced from the reporting countries' national statistical agencies as reported through Trade Data Monitor (TDM). The 2020 U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook consists of two sections: 1) commodity exports, and 2) country of destination exports. The Yearbook utilized FAS product groups as defined in FAS' Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) using the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) at the ten-digit level and aggregated into classifications that include the primary commodity and its derivatives. FAS has titled these product groups as "BICO (HS-10)." BICO is an FAS designation that stands for Bulk, Intermediate & Consumer Oriented goods.

The 13 Yearbook product groups or commodity aggregations are based on the United States' largest export categories. The country Yearbook pages include the United States' top fifteen export destinations. Each commodity and country page includes a list of drivers that influenced exports, market conditions affecting supply and demand, and policy and market access issues that impact the United States' ability to export.

## **Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS)**

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) includes U.S. agricultural, fishery, and forestry trade statistics dating from the inception of the Harmonized coding system in 1989 to present. The database is continuously updated. U.S. trade data are updated monthly according to the U.S. Census Bureau's reporting system. Users can access the GATS homepage at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx>.

Beginning with the release of the January 2021 monthly agricultural trade data on March 5, 2021, USDA adopted the World Trade Organization (WTO) definition of agriculture, which includes ethanol, distilled spirits, and manufactured tobacco products, three product groups which were not included in the previous USDA definition. Additionally, certain enzymes, lecithin and industrial acids, rubber and other miscellaneous fibers, and rennet were among some of the products removed from the definition of agriculture. The change harmonizes U.S. trade reporting practices with those of the international community and ensures that USDA numbers are aligned with those of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, which already uses the WTO agricultural definition when negotiating WTO binding trade agreements. USDA made this change in coordination with the U.S. Department of Commerce. Within GATS, the product groups (i.e., BICO, FAS, FATUS, and Processed Foods) have been updated to incorporate code changes. This includes concordance of historic codes under the revised aggregates to ensure consistent time-series data.

Users can find additional information at <https://www.fas.usda.gov/updated-agricultural-products-definition-trade-reporting>.

For questions, please contact Jason Carver ([Jason.Carver@usda.gov](mailto:Jason.Carver@usda.gov)) or Saquib Ahsan ([Saquib.Ahsan@usda.gov](mailto:Saquib.Ahsan@usda.gov)).

## **Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD) Online**

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) PSD Online contains data on production, supply, and distribution of agricultural commodities for the U.S. and key producing and consuming countries. Users can access PSD online at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/home>.

EU and UK Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD) Datasets and "Brexit":

Effective January 1, 2021, the separation of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU) was complete, including trade between both entities. Starting in May 2021 with the release of 2021/22 data, field crops PSDs reflect EU27 (shown in the PSD system as "European Union") and UK separately. Cotton PSDs have been and will continue to be maintained on an individual country-level basis, including the UK.

FAS will continue using the term "European Union" to mean the countries involved in the previous customs union, i.e., EU27+UK, from January 2021 through October 2021 for livestock and poultry PSDs and through December 2021 for dairy PSDs. Starting in October 2021 with the release of the 2022 data, livestock and poultry PSDs will reflect EU27 and UK separately. Starting in December 2021 with the release of the 2022 data, dairy PSDs will reflect EU27 and UK separately.

Horticultural Products (citrus, coffee, deciduous fruit, stone fruit, tree nuts): FAS will continue using the term "European Union" to mean the countries involved in the previous customs union, i.e., EU27+UK, for PSD data through 2020/21. Beginning with 2021/22, data will represent the European Union (not including the United Kingdom) and will exclude all intra-trade. Data sets remaining to be released for 2021/22 are fresh peaches and cherries (September); almonds and walnuts (October); apples, grapes, and

pears (December); grapefruit, lemons/limes, oranges, orange juice, and tangerines/mandarins (January 2022); and pistachios (February 2022).

Sugar: FAS will continue using the term “European Union” to mean the countries involved in the previous customs union, i.e., EU27+UK, for PSD data through 2020/21. Beginning with 2021/22, data represents the European Union (not including the United Kingdom) and excludes all intra-trade.

Beginning with the release of 2021/22 (or calendar year 2022) data for each commodity group (except cotton), historical data for both EU27 and the UK will be provided for 5 years (2016/17 through 2020/21; or calendar years 2017 through 2021).

For questions, please contact us at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/contact>.

### **Export Sales Reporting**

Authorized under Section 602 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, the Export Sales Reporting (ESR) Program requires exporters of reportable U.S. commodities to report each week all their export sales regardless of the quantity, to the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). There are 40 commodities currently covered under the program to include wheat, wheat products, barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, rye, soybeans, soybean cake and meal, soybean oil, flaxseed, linseed oil, cotton, sunflower seed oil, cottonseed, cottonseed cake and meal, cottonseed oil, rice, cattle hides and skins, wet blues, beef, and pork. Users can access the ESR System at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html>.

FAS knows how important the ESR program is to the U.S. marketplace and takes its responsibility for administering this vital program very seriously. FAS has completed stage one upgrades of the Export Sales Reporting and Maintenance System (ESRMS). Exporters are being randomly selected to participate in a series of user acceptance testing opportunities over the next several months. Included in the stage one upgrade is an improved ESR Query system. Upon completion of user acceptance testing, the stage one upgrade should be available to all users of ESRMS data. FAS hopes to have the upgraded system available by the second quarter of FY 2022. In addition to being available online through the ESR webpage and the ESR Query System, weekly and daily reports are now available through email via GovDelivery to all users who sign up. To receive ESR daily reports via email, register at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFAS/subscriber/new>

FAS is working to ensure all exporters of the commodities covered under the ESR program are registered in ESRMS. FAS has been working with the various commodity associations to identify new exporters and get them registered in ESRMS. In FY 2021, five new exporters have been registered.

For additional information, contact the Export Sales Reporting team at [esr@usda.gov](mailto:esr@usda.gov).

## **FAS Data Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)**

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) data API portal provides users the ability to obtain programmatic access to publicly available agricultural commodity data from the Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS), Production, Supply & Distribution (PSD), and Export Sales Report (ESR) databases.

The FAS Open Data Services can be found at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/opendataweb/home>.

For technical questions, please contact the FAS Web Admin Team at [FASWebAdminTeam@usda.gov](mailto:FASWebAdminTeam@usda.gov).

## **Agricultural Tariff Tracker**

To help exporters obtain information about tariff reductions resulting from free trade agreements (FTAs), FAS launched the Agricultural Tariff Tracker in 2013. The Ag Tariff Tracker has tariff, tariff rate quota (TRQ), and safeguard information for the United States' existing free trade agreements with 11 FTA partners. In 2019, terms of the U.S.– Japan Trade agreement were added to the Ag Tariff Tracker.

This tool is available at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/agtariifftracker/Home/Search> on the Trade Policy/Trade Agreements topic page of the FAS website: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-agreements>.

## **Production Estimates**

FAS maintains a website that is a dynamic global crop production portal with key information including World Agricultural Production (WAP) briefs, Commodity Intelligence Reports (CIR), geospatial applications, crop production maps, and crop calendars at a subnational level for the top-20 producing countries (Figure 1, <https://www.ipad.fas.usda.gov>).

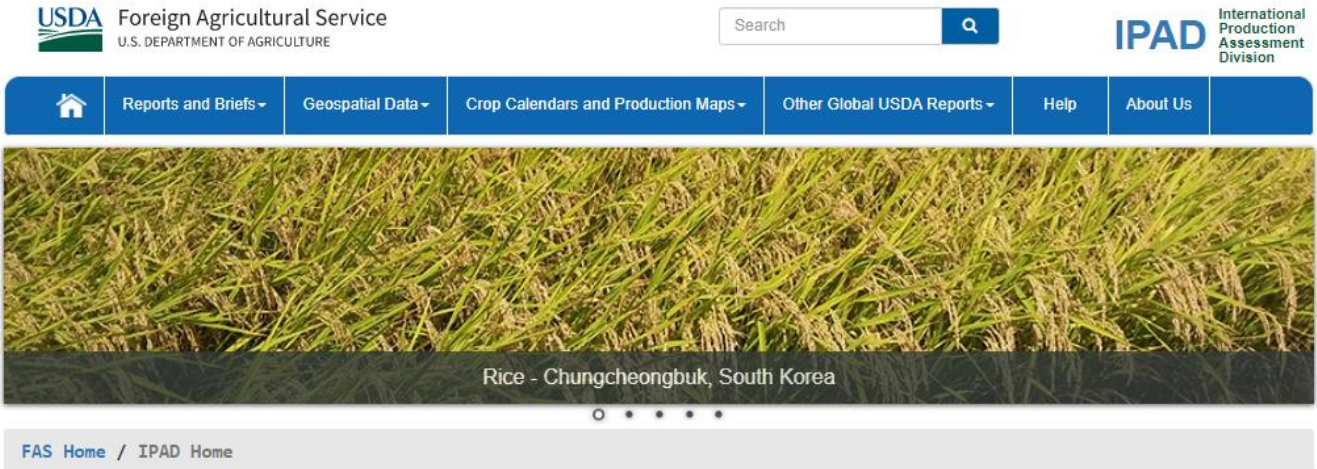
The FAS website for global crop production also hosts an application called Crop Explorer that displays global rainfall, average temperature, maximum/minimum temperature, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, precipitation, SPI (Standardized Precipitation Index) Drought Severity, NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) vegetation conditions, snow cover, production maps, etc. for 12 different crops: cotton, corn, barley, millet, rice, sorghum, wheat, soybeans, sunflower, rapeseed, peanuts, and palm oil. (<https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/>).

The Crop Explorer website was upgraded to monitor the latest crop conditions and seasonal rainfall received for specific crops grown within primary production states. The upgraded Crop Explorer monitors specific crops with related web apps called Corn Explorer, Soybean Explorer, Wheat Explorer, Cotton Explorer, etc. For example, the dashboard view for Corn Explorer shows corn production maps at sub-national (state) levels, cumulative rainfall, and NDVI crop conditions for all major corn producing countries and regions (Figure 2).

Crop Explorer also monitors SPI Drought Severity in 5-day time steps to quickly identify the severity of droughts that may reduce crop yields during the growing season. For more information, please contact Curt Reynolds at [curt.reynolds@usda.gov](mailto:curt.reynolds@usda.gov).



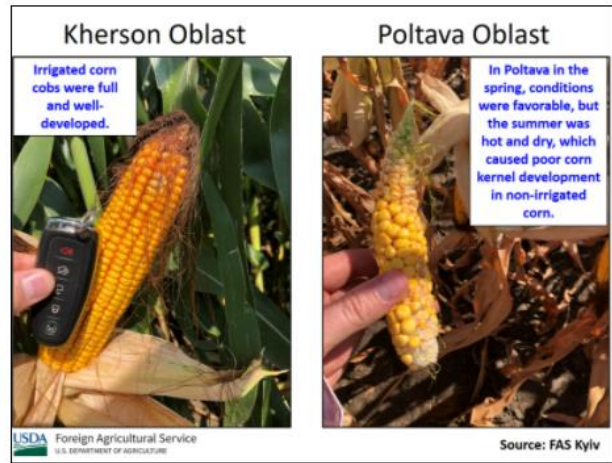
**Figure 1. FAS home page for global crop production (September 2021)**



World Agricultural Production (WAP) Circular

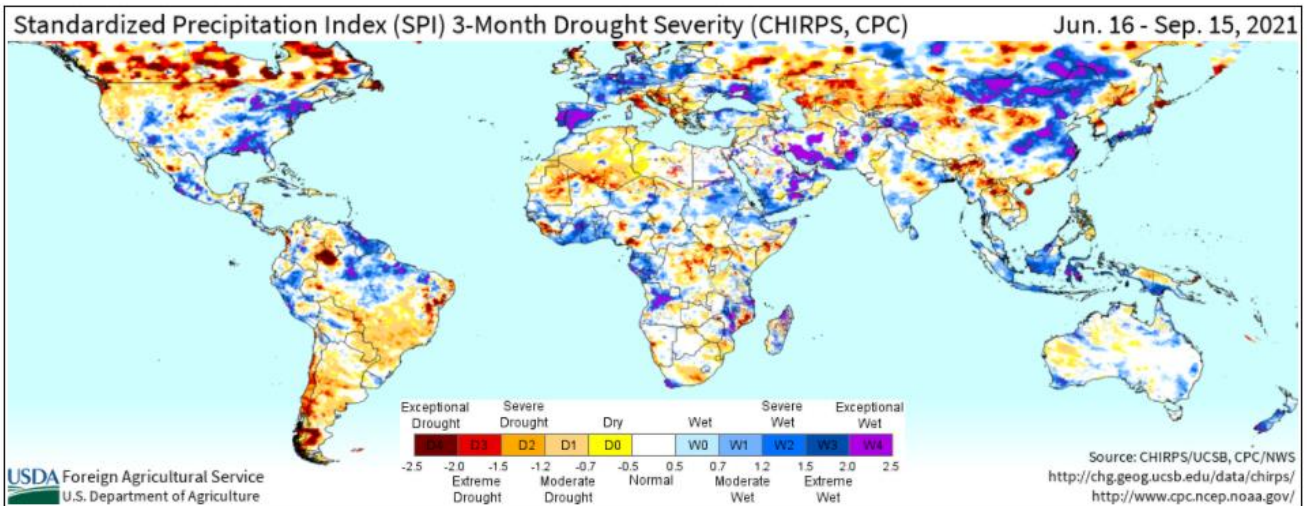
WAP Current Update (Sep 10, 2021)

- **Ukraine Corn: Crop Travel Informs Yield Analysis**  
Ukraine corn production for marketing year 2021/22 is estimated at 39.0 million metric tons, unchanged from last month but up 29 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 7.20 tons per hectare, unchanged from last month but 28 percent higher than last year. Harvested area is estimated at 5.4 million hectares, unchanged from last month but up less than 1 percent from last year. (For more information, please contact [Katie.McGaughey@usda.gov](mailto:Katie.McGaughey@usda.gov).)
- **Serbia Corn: Heat and Dryness Reduces Yield Further**
- **China Corn: Production Increased Due to Record Yield**
- **Argentina Wheat: Dry Conditions in West and North Lower Production Expectations**
- **Canada Wheat: Production and Yield Revised Down**
- **Australia Wheat: Production Revised Higher**
- **India Peanuts: Production Forecast Up**
- **Senegal Peanuts: Favorable August Rains Restore Production Prospects**
- **Canada Rapeseed: Production and Yield Revised Downward**
- **Egypt Rice: Stricter Enforcement of Area Limit Reduces Rice Crop**
- **Panama Rice: Rough Production Up Slightly**
- **Africa Franc Zone Cotton: Mali Plants Record Area for Near Record Production Prospects**

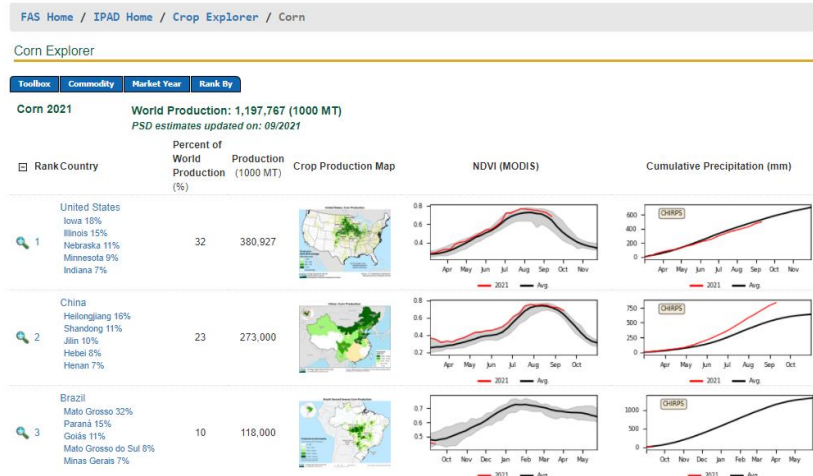


2021 WAP Release Dates (12:00pm ET)

Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, Apr. 9, May. 12, Jun. 10, Jul. 12, Aug. 12, Sep. 10, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, and Dec. 9



**Figure 2. Dashboard View of Corn Explorer (September 2021)**



**Global Agricultural and Disaster Assessment System (GADAS)**

GADAS is a state-of-the-art Geographic Information System (GIS) tool which integrates a vast array of highly detailed earth observation data streams, particularly targeted towards agricultural and disaster assessment analysis, into an easy-to-use, web-based environment. GADAS provides analysts with a wide variety of routine geospatial products (maps, charts, tables) they require for comprehensive situational investigations and recurring assessments. GADAS can be accessed directly at (<https://geo.fas.usda.gov/GADAS/index.html>) or through (<https://www.ipad.fas.usda.gov>).

GADAS will help USDA/FAS remain a global leader in the use of location-based technologies for agricultural monitoring and global food security intelligence. The system combines daily climate, satellite imagery, other geospatial data, and custom-built applications that quickly support the visual comparison of agricultural production-related data. GADAS is also designed to provide hourly updates of natural disasters (cyclone tracking, drought evolution, flooding impacts) as well as tools for rapid pre- and post-disaster agricultural assessments. Web-based GIS improves collaboration between teams in FAS working around the world.

For questions, contact Robert Tetrault at [robert.tetrault@usda.gov](mailto:robert.tetrault@usda.gov).

**Figure 3. GADAS home page (September 2021)**



## **WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK BOARD**

---

Questions about World Agricultural Outlook Board programs may be directed to Mark Jekanowski, Chairman, WAOB, Mail Stop 3812, South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-3812; [Mark.Jekanowski@usda.gov](mailto:Mark.Jekanowski@usda.gov).

---

The World Agricultural Outlook Board's (WAOB) primary mission is to provide reliable and objective economic forecasts for farmers and other participants in the food and fiber system. Functions include coordinating USDA forecasts of domestic and international agriculture; providing economic analysis related to global commodity markets; monitoring markets and agricultural weather; and disseminating relevant information.

**Mark Jekanowski, WAOB Chairman**, oversees the creation of the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report and chairs the Program Committee for USDA's annual Agricultural Outlook Forum. Former positions include Deputy Director for the commodity outlook program at USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), Chief of the Crops Branch at ERS, and Senior Vice President at Informa Economics.

Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees (ICECs), chaired by WAOB senior economists, clear all USDA economic outlook reports to ensure consistency with official USDA estimates. The committees develop supply and demand estimates for the United States, over 100 individual countries, and global totals. Four USDA agencies are represented on the committees: Economic Research Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Farm Service Agency, and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

**Report Usage:** Each year, WAOB issues 12 monthly *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* reports; and publishes 52 weekly *Weather and Crop Bulletin* reports. On average, the WASDE is accessed by over 100,000 users worldwide each month. It's one of USDA's Principal Federal Economic Indicators and directly impacts commodity markets.

**Historic WASDE Data:** Ten years of consolidated historical WASDE data is now available on the World Agricultural Outlook Board website (<https://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity-markets/wasde/historical-wasde-report-data>). The data is available in CSV format and includes every data point from each monthly WASDE between April 2010 and December 2020. Monthly data in the same CSV format for the months of 2021 are available at this same website and can be combined with the historic data file. Current monthly data files are updated within two business days of each WASDE release.

**USDA Baseline:** WAOB oversees the annual publication of the inter-agency *USDA Agricultural Long-term Projections*. The Long-term Projections report provides a conditional long run scenario about what would be expected to happen to the global agricultural economy under a continuation of current farm legislation and other specific assumptions. These reports are an important source of strategic planning information used in formulating the President's budget and for decision-making by agricultural producers, agribusiness leaders, and policy officials.

**Mark Brusberg, Chief Meteorologist**, is a key contributor to, and main point of contact for, drought-related activities involving the Department and other Federal Partners, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Mr. Brusberg serves on the Executive Council of the NOAA-led National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and leads several projects related to the

work done by NIDIS and other drought-oriented groups on behalf of the Department. He currently serves in a leadership capacity on the National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP), an intergovernmental task force offering leadership in the coordination and administration of activities designed to help mitigate the impacts of drought on vulnerable segments of the Nation's economy. He is also a lead USDA representative to the Interagency Council for Advancing Meteorological Services (ICAMS).

Mr. Brusberg chairs USDA's Combined Drought and Water Management Team, a venue for other agencies within the Department to share information and coordinate responses on projects and programs involving drought and water resources. As the Departmental lead on Drought, he facilitates partnerships between USDA and other groups, including the NDRP, NIDIS, ICAMS, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC).

**Agricultural Weather Monitoring and Assessments:** WAOB's staff of meteorologists generate timely weather and crop assessments in support of the monthly *Crop Production and WASDE* reports issued by National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and WAOB, respectively. The meteorologists also provide weekly updates of crop weather to USDA Radio and often appear on local and national radio and television broadcasts. As recognized experts within the Department, they are sometimes tasked with attending Capitol Hill briefings and reviewing legislation and testimony, and occasionally contribute assessments and products to the USDA blog and other publications. Another key duty is to meet with foreign delegations and domestic groups regarding the process of using weather and climate products to produce operational agricultural assessments. WAOB meteorologists publish the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*, which provides the public with weekly assessments of global agricultural weather. Data and products are supplied to the *WWCB* by NASS and NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, through a formal agreement establishing the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility. The *WWCB* averaged over 10,000 downloads per week in FY21 from the USDA site, and additional downloads from the Cornell site. On a rotating basis, WAOB meteorologists prepared the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor and the monthly *North American Drought Monitor*. WAOB continues to engage our international counterparts whenever possible and currently lends support to activities led by the World Meteorological Organization and Global Water Partnership.

**Agricultural Outlook Forum:** The Agricultural Outlook Forum (AOF) is USDA's largest and premiere annual gathering. The breadth and timeliness of the AOF programs have consistently drawn a diverse group of participants including producers, processors, policymakers, government officials, and non-governmental organizations, to discuss current and emerging issues.

The 2021 Forum was held under the theme "Building on Innovation, a Pathway to Resilience." Due to COVID-19, it was conducted on virtual platform and registration was free, which allowed thousands of stakeholders from across the country and around the world to participate. Nearly 4,500 people from 50 States and over 100 countries attended Forum sessions. Forum sessions covered a range of topics relating to commodity market outlooks, supply chain resilience, agricultural technology and innovation, and U.S. trade, among others. All sessions are available for viewing for free until February 11, 2022 and can be accessed at Forum website (<https://www.usda.gov/oc/ag-outlook-forum>).

AOF 2022 will continue as a virtual event and will be held February 24-25, 2022. We expect to open registration for AOF 2022 by November 1.

**WAOB Staff changes:**

The WAOB is pleased to welcome Kevin Wittenberger as the Deputy Chair of the Food Grains Committee, working alongside ICEC Food Grains Chair Mark Simone.

**Kevin Wittenberger** joined the Board as a food grains economist in August 2021. Prior to his current position, he served for ten years as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. State Department with postings in the Agricultural Policy Office, the Visa Policy Office, the India Desk, Honduras, the Philippines, and Washington, DC. He also served as an economist with the Economic Research Service working as an oilseeds analyst and he was Peace Corps Volunteer in Bangladesh.

# U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
Washington, DC 20233-0001

The U.S. Census Bureau provides information that tells the story of our changing economy. The Economic Indicators, Economic Census and our quarterly and annual economic surveys give Federal, state, and local governments, policy makers, and business and community leaders the information needed to make informed decisions that shape our economy.

## Issues of Interest to Data Users

### 1. *Accessing Data from the U.S. Census Bureau*

- ***USA Trade Online***

USA Trade Online is a dynamic data tool that gives users access to current and cumulative U.S. export and import data. With multiple data sets and capabilities, USA Trade Online can assist different types of customers from a wide range of industries and fields. This tool offers data by Harmonized System, North America Industry Classification System (NAICS), and the Department of Agriculture code. This powerful software allows users to create customized reports and colorful charts detailing international trade data at different levels.

USA Trade Online is a dynamic data tool that gives users access to current and cumulative U.S. export and import data. With multiple data sets and capabilities, USA Trade Online can assist different types of customers from a wide range of industries and fields. This tool offers data by Harmonized System, North America Industry Classification System (NAICS), and the Department of Agriculture code. This powerful software allows users to create customized reports and colorful charts detailing international trade data at different levels.

<https://usatrade.census.gov/>

- ***Monthly Trade Data in the Census Data API***

The U.S. Census Bureau has detailed monthly international trade data in its [Application Programming Interface](#) (API). The Census Data API has international trade data from 2013 to present. The international trade statistics provide monthly and cumulative year-to-date export and import totals with multiple layers of detail. The statistics also include two datasets with U.S. exports and imports by Department of Agriculture code.

The Application Programming Interface provides researchers and developers free access to its demographic and economic data.

<https://census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/international-trade.html>

- ***Global Marker Finder (GMF)***

The Global Market Finder is an interactive data visualization tool that paints a picture of the export market for a particular commodity. The user just needs to select the Schedule B code they are interested in and the tool will display all the countries that the U.S. exports to, shows value by method of transportation, and unit price. Users can drill down to specific countries and download the data that they have pulled.

<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/export-markets.html>

- ***Census Business Builder***

The Census Business Builder (CBB) is a suite of services that provide selected demographic and economic data from the Census Bureau tailored to specific types of users in a simple to access and use format. The CBB includes:

- Demographic, socioeconomic, and housing data from the American Community Survey
- Business data from the County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, and Survey of Business Owners
- Trade data on total imports and exports, broken out by mode of transportation (Air & Vessel), for selected three- and four-digit agriculture, mining, and manufacturing NAICS codes at the national and state level.
- Building Permits data at the county and place level

In addition, it provides Agriculture data from the Census of Agriculture (USDA).

<https://www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html>

## ***2. Principal Economic Indicators***

The U.S. Census Bureau's Economic Indicators keep the world informed by providing the first official measures of the U.S. economy. Our Economic Indicator surveys provide monthly and quarterly data that are timely, reliable, and offer comprehensive measures of the U.S. economy. These surveys produce a variety of statistics covering construction, housing, international trade, retail trade, wholesale trade, services, and manufacturing. The survey data provide measures of economic activity that allow analysis of economic performance and inform business investment and policy decisions. The data can be accessed via the Economic Indicator Briefing Room and the Economic Indicator Database.

- **Economic Indicator Briefing Room**

The Economic Indicator Briefing Room web site provides access to the latest data, full release reports, historical data, and time series and trend charts. [census.gov/economic-indicators](https://www.census.gov/economic-indicators)

- **Economic Indicator Database**

Select an economic indicator and customize your data selection. Ability to download the data to a spreadsheet and create your own time series charts. [census.gov/econ/currentdata](https://www.census.gov/econ/currentdata)

- **For questions regarding Economic Indicators, please contact:**

Ms. Stephanie Studds, Chief  
Economic Indicators Division  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Room 7K154  
Washington, DC 20233-6010  
Phone: (301) 763-2633  
Email: [Stephanie.Lee.Studds@census.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Lee.Studds@census.gov)

### 3. *International Trade*

Each month, the U.S. Census Bureau releases the *U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services* (FT900) report, which is one of the principal economic indicators for the United States. This report can be found along with other information on our website [census.gov/trade](https://www.census.gov/trade)

Webinars are archived at: <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/outreach/index.html>

- 15 CFR PART 30 — Foreign Trade Regulations

For information on the FTR and filing requirements, please email [emd.askregs@census.gov](mailto:emd.askregs@census.gov) or use the International Trade Helpline number, 1-800-549-0595 and select option 3.

- Questionable data should be brought to our attention as soon as possible. Potential data errors caught early are easier to verify and improve the quality of data going forward. To request data verification, please contact Mr. Gregory Kondilas ([gregory.kondilas@census.gov](mailto:gregory.kondilas@census.gov)), Chief of our International Trade Indicator Micro Analysis Branch.

### 4. *Other Economic Data from the U.S. Census Bureau*

The Census Bureau produces economic data across the entire economy on a monthly, quarterly, yearly, and five-year basis, including industries related to agriculture. These industries can include:

- NAICS 113 Forestry and Logging
  - NAICS 114 Fishing, Hunting and Trapping
  - NAICS 115 Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry
  - NAICS 311 Food Manufacturing
  - NAICS 4244 Grocery and Related Product Merchant Wholesalers
  - NAICS 4245 Farm Product Raw Material Merchant Wholesalers
  - NAICS 445 Food and Beverage Stores
- 2017 Economic Census

#### **The last report from the 2017 Economic Census was released September 16, 2021**

Every five years, the U.S. Census Bureau collects extensive statistics about businesses that are essential to understanding the American economy. This official count, better known as the Economic Census, serves as the foundation for the measurement of U.S. businesses and their economic impact.

Throughout the year, several products were released including:

- Geographic Area Statistics
- Product Statistics by North American Product Classification System (NACPS)
- Establishment & Firm Size Summary Statistics by Revenue Size and Employment Size of Establishments
- For more information, see <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census.html>.
- Annual Business Survey (ABS)
- On January 28, 2021, Census released data on minority- and women-owned businesses from the ABS for 2018.



The 2017 Economic Census includes coverage in select industries down to the 6-digit NAICS level, which include NAICS 311 Food Manufacturing, NAICS 4244 Grocery and Related Product Merchant Wholesalers, NAICS 4245 Farm Product Raw Material Merchant Wholesalers, NAICS 445 Food and Beverage Stores

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census.html>

- Annual Business Survey (ABS)

**On January 28, 2021, Census released data on minority- and women-owned businesses from the ABS for 2018.**

The Annual Business Survey (ABS) is a new joint project between the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. The ABS provides data on business ownership by race, ethnicity, sex, and veteran status for employer businesses: by 2-digit NAICS (4-6 NAICS in Economic Census years) for the nation and state; and 2-digit NAICS by county, metro, and place levels. Data are available for NAICS Sector 11 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/abs.html>

- ACES

**The Annual Capital Expenditures: 2019 was released December 16, 2020.**

The Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES) is part of a comprehensive program designed to provide more detailed and timely information on capital investment in structures and equipment by nonfarm enterprises. The data are used to improve the quality of current economic indicators of business investments, as well as the quarterly estimates of gross domestic product. The data also provide facts about trends in capital expenditures useful for identifying business opportunities, product development, and business planning. Data are available for NAICS Sector 11 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aces.html>

- County Business Patterns (CBP)

**The 2019 County Business Pattern data were released on April 19, 2021.**

County Business Patterns provides annual information about establishments with paid employees by NAICS industry down to the county level. This series includes the number of establishments, employment during the week of March 12, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

- Nonemployer Statistics

**The 2018 Nonemployer Statistics data were released on May 21, 2020.**

Nonemployer Statistics provides subnational economic data for businesses that have no paid employees and are subject to federal income tax. This series includes the number of businesses and total receipts by industry.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html>

- Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM)

**The 2019 Annual Survey of Manufactures data were released on February 18, 2021.**

The Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM) provides sample estimates of statistics for all manufacturing establishments with one or more paid employee. The ASM provides statistics on employment, payroll, supplemental labor costs, cost of materials consumed, operating expenses,

value of shipments, value added by manufacturing, detailed capital expenditures, fuels and electric energy used, and inventories. Provides statistics on employment, payroll, supplemental labor costs, cost of materials consumed, operating expenses, value of shipments, value added by manufacturing, detailed capital expenditures, fuels and electric energy used, and inventories. ASM includes information on businesses in NAICS 31 Food Manufacturing down to the 3- and 4-digit NAICS level.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/asm.html>

- Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS)

**The 2019 Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS) data were released on January 28, 2021.**

The Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS) produces national estimates of total annual sales, e-commerce sales, sales taxes, end-of-year inventories, purchases, total operating expenses, gross margins, and end-of-year accounts receivable for retail businesses located in the United States. Data are presented at the 4-digit NAICS level. ARTS releases information on businesses including NAICS 445 – Food and Beverage Stores.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/arts.html>

- Annual Wholesale Trade Survey (ARTS)

**The 2019 Annual Wholesale Trade Survey (AWTS) data were released on January 21, 2021.**

The Annual Wholesale Trade Survey (AWTS) produces national estimates of total annual sales, e-commerce sales, end-of-year inventories, purchases, total operating expenses, gross margins, and commissions (for electronic markets, agents, and brokers) for wholesale businesses located in the United States. AWTS releases information on NAICS 4244 - Grocery and Related Product Merchant Wholesalers and NAICS 4245 - Farm Product Raw Material Merchant Wholesalers.

<https://www.census.gov/awts>

Information on all the U.S. Census Bureau's economic products can be found at

<https://www.census.gov/topics/business-economy.html>

## 5. Other Data

- Household Pulse Survey

The U.S. Census Bureau, in collaboration with multiple federal agencies, produces data on the social and economic effects of coronavirus on American households. The Household Pulse Survey is designed to deploy quickly and efficiently, collecting data to measure household experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. Data will be disseminated in near real-time to inform federal and state response and recovery planning. The Household Pulse Survey provides information on topics including education, housing, food sufficiency and food security, food scarcity, and food assistance for children.

<https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/household-pulse-survey.html>

<https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/hhp/#/> (interactive data tool)

- Small Business Pulse

The Small Business Pulse Survey (SBPS) measures the effect of changing business conditions during the Coronavirus pandemic on our nation's small businesses. SBPS data complements existing U.S. Census Bureau data collections by providing high-frequency, detailed information on the challenges small businesses are facing during the Coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/small-business-pulse-survey.html>

<https://portal.census.gov/pulse/data/> (interactive data tool)

- COVID-19 Data Hub

The U.S. Census Bureau's COVID-19 Hub contains demographic and economic data designed to help guide decision-making related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The interactive platform includes key demographic data from the American Community Survey and key data on businesses with one or more paid employees from the County Business Patterns program. In addition, the COVID-19 Data Hub brings together data from multiple Federal agencies including the USDA's Emergency Food Assistance Program and private sector organizations. The hub was built in collaboration with ESRI and leverages many features of the ArcGIS platform and solution templates.

<https://covid19.census.gov/>

# NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

## STATISTICS DIVISION

### What's New and What's Changing?

#### NASS Mission Statement:

**To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. Agriculture**

#### Crops

NASS updated acreage estimates for corn, sorghum, soybeans, and sugarbeets in the September *Crop Production* report, one month earlier than normal. The necessary data, including survey data, satellite-based data, and the latest information from USDA's Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency, were sufficiently complete to support the review. This change was for 2021 only, however NASS will continue to consider whether or not to adjust the schedule in future years.

In September 2021, NASS published the first Methodology and Quality Measures reports for *Annual Crop Production* and *Small Grains Summary*. These reports contain details concerning the survey methodology as well as quality metrics that describe the performance data for all surveys contributing to the published harvested acreage, yield, and production estimates for corn, cotton, soybeans, and wheat. Plans are to publish these reports annually.

NASS is conducting the first hemp survey in fall 2021. The *Hemp Acreage and Production Survey* collects information on the acreage, yield, production, price, and value of hemp in the United States. The Domestic Hemp Production Program established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) allows for the cultivation of hemp under certain conditions. The Hemp Acreage and Production Survey will provide needed data about the hemp industry to assist producers, regulatory agencies, state governments, processors, and other key industry entities. The results will be published in February 2022.

Beginning in December 2021, the round white and long white potatoes will no longer be published separately but rather as a combined white total in the *Potato Stocks* reports. This change will make stocks estimates consistent with acreage estimates and is expected to allow more data to be published.

Beginning with the 2021 crop season, NASS will discontinue the December forecast of pecan production as well as the preliminary acreage, yield, production, and price estimates previously published in January for pecans. These estimates were funded through an external funding agreement which was not renewed by the funding entity.

NASS is currently finalizing a review of the annual Floriculture program. This review follows the 2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties and involves consideration of states included in the annual program as well as analysis of which crops to include. Once all changes are finalized and approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) all details will be published on the NASS website.

As part of our efforts to continually improve, NASS launched a thorough review of the *Grain Stocks* program last fall. For the past year a team of experts across the Agency has taken a close look at every

aspect of the program from data collection through publication. The team is currently in the process of finalizing their recommendations which will be reviewed and prioritized for action in the upcoming year.

## **Livestock**

Annual Methodology and Quality Measures reports for *Hogs and Pigs* (December 2020), *Cattle* (March 2021), *Cattle on Feed* (March 2021), and *Milk Production* (March 2021) continue to be published.

During this past year, NASS made improvements and standardization to the annual Methodology and Quality Measures reports for *Catfish*, *Honey*, *Mink*, *Sheep and Goats*, and *Trout*. These reports were released in 2021.

Beginning in June 2021, NASS hosts Stat Chat on Twitter after the releases of *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs* and *Cattle* reports. This provides an opportunity for the public to ask questions pertaining to the release.

Coming in 2021, Methodology and Quality Measures reports for the first time for *Chickens and Eggs* (published in July 2021), and *Honey Bee Colonies*.

## **Environmental, Economics and Demographics**

Recently, NASS released data visualization for the U.S. Congressional Districts based on the 2017 Census of Agriculture. The visualization includes gradient scaling of a US map with data such as rankings of gross value of sales and market value of agricultural products sold by category. The link is: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Data\\_Visualization/Census/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Data_Visualization/Census/index.php)

On January 22, 2021, NASS released *Typology*, the last data series from the 2017 Census of Agriculture. *Typology* focuses primarily on the family farm and classifies all farms into categories based on two criteria – who owns the operation and gross cash farm income (GCFI).

On May 26, 2021, NASS published the *Farm Labor* report. Beginning with this release, the coefficients of variation associated with model-based estimates were published.

On May 14, 2021, *Field Crop Chemical Usage* data was released. Originating in 1990, the NASS Chemical Use data series is USDA's official source of statistics about on-farm chemical use and pest management practices.

On July 21, 2021, *Vegetable Chemical Usage* data was released. This report is released every other year. Originating in 1990, the NASS Chemical Use data series is USDA's official source of statistics about on-farm chemical use and pest management practices.

On August 18, 2021, *Farm Computer Usage and Ownership* data was released. These data are published every other year and present data on farm computer usage including ownership, internet access and farm business use. For the first time, use of precision ag technology was published at the state and national level.

The *Cash Rents* county level data was published on August 27, 2021. NASS was directed through the "Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008" and amended by the "Agricultural Act of 2014" to collect cash rents data for use by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in program administration. For this year, cash rent district estimates were not published in order to publish more county level estimates. Beginning with

the 2021 estimate year, model-based county-level estimates were incorporated into the NASS estimation process for county-level rates. Bayesian small area models for county-level rented acre totals and rental rates were fit separately for each practice and processed in batches; common methodologies were applied nationwide. Rental rate models input current and previous year survey ratios and standard errors, previous official statistics, a National Commodity Crop Productivity Index variable, and the number of reports obtained.

On November 24, 2021, the *Farm Labor* data will be released. The sample size will be reduced for this survey as a result of discontinuing the collection of data for base wages and hours.

In Spring, 2022, NASS will conduct the *Conservation Practices Adoption Motivation Survey* (CPAM). CPAM is a two-year cooperative effort with NRCS to measure farmers' and ranchers' conservation practices adoption behaviors and adoption reasons on cropland, grazing land, forest land and concentrated livestock feeding operations.

## **Census of Agriculture Program**

Planning is in full swing for the 2022 Census of Agriculture. In January 2022, NASS will conduct a test of its online reporting instrument. The test is critical for determining the functionality of the web instrument and inform NASS on ways to make online reporting better for respondents while still gathering high quality data. For the first time this census of agriculture, NASS intends to provide online respondents with access to select data that they have previously reported in a recent NASS survey.

Throughout 2021, NASS continued to build the Census Mail List for the 2022 Census of Agriculture. For this cycle, NASS has screened over a million potential farmers and ranchers with another million set to be screened in 2022. There has been a lot of emphasis put on finding urban farming operations this census cycle along with expanding the coverage of minority operations. It is anticipated that the 2022 Census of Agriculture will be mailed to around 3 million farms and ranches in December 2022.

## **Modernization**

USDA NASS is committed to high standards of customer service and making interaction with us as easy as possible. We are modernizing our online systems to improve the customer experience reporting data to NASS and accessing NASS official federal agricultural data and reports. We are making accurate data available on schedule in ways that customers want. Our modernizing efforts will be extended to farmers and ranchers selected to respond more than 400 NASS annual surveys.

NASS has embarked on numerous efforts to modernize our customer interfaces to make responding to surveys and accessing NASS data and reports *faster, friendlier, and easier*. The modernizations are also intended to make NASS work more efficiently. Modernization will be focused in two areas.

**Data Collection** - NASS plans to release our new Respondent Portal in 2022. Our goal is to deliver exceptional customer experience and incorporate new data sources and data collection techniques to reduce respondent burden, while maintaining confidentiality and privacy.

- Streamlined authentication process to provide a convenient, central point to respond to NASS surveys, and customized dissemination products will improve our customers' experience and streamline our data collection processes.

- Provide a customized digital experience designed around the user's needs and behaviors. Farmers and ranchers will be able to build and save custom homepages to compare their data with other (national, state, county) data.
- Integration with USDA [Farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov) website, allowing farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses to expand their access to multiple USDA agencies' information to make decisions for their operation that are fact based and data driven.

**Data Dissemination** - In early 2022, the NASS Strategic Initiative 3, Data Dissemination System, is planned for roll-out. A new Dairy release landing page is planned to replace the current paper-based releases. The first topic areas going live will feature: Milk production, milk PDI, cattle, cold storage, dairy products, livestock slaughter, and non-Census organic data. Later in 2022, these items are scheduled for roll-out: Economics releases, field crops, more livestock commodities, and aquaculture. In 2023, horticulture, floriculture, demographics, poultry, and fruits, nuts and vegetables are planned for production. The data will be formatted for efficient query capabilities and presented in modern, dynamic pages.

NASS is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful agricultural data that help all data users in their work.

Visit the NASS website ([www.nass.usda.gov](https://www.nass.usda.gov)) and follow us on Twitter [@usda\\_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass) to stay up to date.