



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE STATISTICS MEETING ANNOUNCED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 2006 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics (ACAS) will meet Feb. 14-15 in Washington. The 25-member committee, which represents a broad range of agricultural disciplines and interests, meets annually to advise USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) on issues pertaining to the scope, content and timing of the Census of Agriculture and USDA survey programs.

Items scheduled for discussion this year include improving USDA and NASS relationships with survey respondents and reducing the burden placed on those respondents. The committee will also discuss several topics related to the Census of Agriculture, including increasing participation by small and minority farmers in the 2007 census and the need for census follow-on surveys on issues such as irrigation, horticulture, aquaculture and fruit tree inventories.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns recently appointed nine new members to serve on the advisory committee: John Baugh, West Lafayette, Ind.; Brent Blauch, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; Peter Daniel, Raleigh, N.C.; Janice Gengenbach, Smithfield, Neb.; Barry Goodwin, Cary, N.C.; Frank Howell, Starkville, Miss.; Karen Klonsky, Winters, Calif.; Doris Mold, Cumberland, Wis.; and James Robb, Lakewood, Colo.

The ACAS meeting, which is open to the public, will be held from 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 14 and from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 15. An opportunity for public questions and comments is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 15. All committee proceedings will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Va. For more information on ACAS visit the NASS web site at www.nass.usda.gov.

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