



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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USDA TO INTERVIEW FARMERS AND RANCHERS FOR CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTS

WASHINGTON - May 22, 2013 - USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is gearing up to contact farmers and ranchers across the country to gather information about this season's crop production, supplies of grain in storage, and livestock inventory. During the first two weeks of June, NASS will gather information about U.S. crops and livestock through several surveys focusing on agricultural acreage, crops produced and stored, and hog inventory.

"Cool and wet soil conditions continue to impede planting progress and delay spring field work in some parts of the country while others are still dealing with the impact from last year's drought," said Bob Bass, Director of NASS's National Operations Center. "As we move into the crop production season there is still a sense of uncertainty about how it is shaping up across the country. Responses to the June surveys will help ensure that decisions affecting producers and their operations are based on the facts, straight from the source."

Depending on the survey, producers will receive a survey form to complete or be personally interviewed by a trained enumerator. Those who receive a survey can fill it out using NASS's easy and secure online system or mail it back. NASS representatives will contact farmers and ranchers who do not respond to the survey to help them provide responses over the telephone.

"The information from these surveys contributes to a stable economic climate, helps producers make marketing decisions, and reduces risk. It is critical for market information to be distributed widely in all levels of farming to ensure all participants are equally informed," added Bass. "This assures a competitive market structure far superior to one where no one or only a few are informed."

As with all NASS surveys, the information collected in the June surveys is kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. NASS will not publish any individual's information. NASS is committed to preserving a relationship of mutual respect and trust with those who supply and use the information collected and provided. For more information about these surveys, visit www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys.

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