



# NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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## NASS Invites Public to 25th Annual Morris Hansen Lecture

**Washington, Nov. 10, 2015** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) announced today that it will host the 25th Annual Morris Hansen Lecture on Tuesday, Nov. 17, in Washington, D.C. Among the topics explored will be innovative techniques, such as adaptive and network sampling, for surveying hard-to-reach populations in the fields of human health, environmental and natural resources studies, and agriculture

The Nov. 17 meeting will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Jefferson Auditorium. This event is free and open to the public, however advanced registration is required and can be made online by visiting: [www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/).

The Morris Hansen Lecture series is one of many public education and outreach activities in which the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service participates each year. The lecture series was established by the Washington Statistical Society to honor Morris Hansen and his pioneering contributions to survey sampling and related statistical methods during his long and distinguished career at the U.S. Census Bureau.

This year's keynote speaker, Steve Thompson, is the Shrum Chair in Science and Professor of Statistics at Simon Fraser University in Canada. Dr. Thompson will discuss sampling natural populations, including rare, clustered, and hard-to-detect populations of animals and plants, and sampling of hidden, hard-to-reach and marginalized human populations.

Additional speakers include Dr. Mark S. Handcock, Professor and Chair, Statistics Department, University of California, Los Angeles and Dr. Andrew Gelman, Professor of Statistics and Political Science and Director of the Applied Statistics Center, Columbia University.

The event is sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, the National Agricultural Statistics Service and Westat Inc.

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