# NEWS RELEASE

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**

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## NASS Honors Three Former Employees in 2021 Hall of Fame Induction

**WASHINGTON, April 21, 2021** – USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) today inducted to its Hall of Fame three former employees whose impact continues to influence the agency and its staff. The NASS Hall of Fame honors individuals whose work has had a lasting impact on agricultural statistics and the service NASS provides.

"The 2021 Hall of Fame inductees all share a distinguished record of public service during which they helped to shape the agency's operations and improve the quality and reliability of our work," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "Beyond their talents in the field of statistics, our three honorees are also remembered by coworkers as superior leaders and supportive colleagues."

The 2021 inductees to the NASS Hall of Fame are:

- **Marshall L. Dantzler** began his career as a student trainee in the South Carolina field office in 1965 and, aside from a two-year stint in the Army, spent the remainder of his 45-year public service career with NASS, largely in service to Field Operations. During that time, he recruited and mentored countless NASS leaders, established the first NASS Regional Data Collection Center, and guided 46 state statistical offices through many changes.

- **Phillip S. Kott, PhD** developed statistical theory and practice to advance the quality and accuracy of NASS statistics. Considered a leader in the statistical community, Kott's contributions to the field helped bring recognition and credibility to NASS.

- **Jack Nealon** (*honored posthumously*) was the catalyst and leader for major reengineering efforts that helped significantly improve data management and survey capability within NASS. The positions he held ranged across all the functions of the agency and Nealon sought to improve and transform programs, products, and processes in every role.

NASS established the Hall of Fame to recognize former employees whose contributions to the agency and to agricultural statistics transcend time. Individuals honored in the Hall of Fame exemplify integrity, honesty, and commitment to public service.

To learn more about the NASS Hall of Fame, including information on how to submit a nomination, visit www.nass.usda.gov/About_NASS/Hall_of_Fame.

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