



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, Virginia 23218



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 19, 2016

Contact: Herman Ellison
(804) 771-2493

USDA to Measure Farmland Rental Rates

Richmond, Virginia – Beginning in February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service will contact Virginia farmers to gather land rental rate information for the *Cash Rents and Leases* survey. The results of this survey will serve as a valuable decision-making tool for farmers and other landowners and will help shape negotiations for 2017 rental agreements.

“This brief survey is our only source of county cash rental rates,” said NASS’ Virginia Field Office Director Herman Ellison. “By responding, producers help the farming community and ensure USDA bases its decisions on the most accurate data.” NASS will publish average cash rental rates at national, state and county levels for cropland and pastureland on September 9, 2016.

More than 6,000 of Virginia farmers will receive the survey forms. NASS offers the option of responding online via a secure Internet connection. In April, NASS representatives will begin calling and visiting landowners who have not yet responded.

“We guarantee confidentiality of all individual information, regardless of the respond method participants choose, as required by federal law,” Ellison said. “NASS will combine your responses with your fellow producers nationwide, providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of U.S. average rent and lease rates.”

For more information about the *Cash Rents and Leases* survey, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at 1-800-772-0670. All NASS reports and data are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

###

NASS provides accurate, timely, useful and objective statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. The agency invites you to express your thoughts and provide occasional feedback on our products and services by joining a data user community. To join, sign in at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for “NASS Data User Community.”

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).