



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Delta Regional Field Office
(servicing Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi)
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USDA to Conduct On-Farm Labor Survey

Little Rock, AR –The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is gearing up to conduct the Agricultural Labor Survey, which is conducted twice each year. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 375 Arkansas farmers and ranchers.

“Labor is obviously critical to farming operations and data about the use of hired workers helps administer farm labor programs,” said Becky Cross, Director of the NASS Delta Regional Field Office. “The data that farm operators provide through NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey helps leaders, associations, and farmers themselves make decisions based on accurate information.”

USDA and the U.S. Department of Labor will use statistics gathered in the Agricultural Labor Survey to establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

The survey asks participants to answer a variety of questions about hired farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, the average hours worked, and wage rates paid for the weeks of July 10-16, 2016, and October 9-15, 2016. For their convenience, survey participants have the option to respond online.

“By asking about two separate time periods in one survey, we are able to publish quarterly data and capture seasonal variation, while also reducing the number of surveys that respondents receive and the time they spend responding,” said Mrs. Cross.

NASS will publish survey results in the November 2016 *Farm Labor* report. All previous *Farm Labor* publications are available online at <http://bit.ly/FarmLabor>. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Delta Regional Office at (800) 327-2970.

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