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National Agricultural Statistics Service



California Farm News

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USDA TO COLLECT FINAL 2008 CROP PRODUCTION NUMBERS

SACRAMENTO, November 12, 2008 – As the crop year ends, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is preparing to contact producers nationwide to gather final year end production numbers. Because this was a volatile growing season that included fires on the West coast, floods in the Midwest and hurricanes in the South, it is more important than ever for producers to respond to the 2008 December Agricultural Survey. Approximately 2,300 California farmers and ranchers will be included in a national sample of producers who will be contacted.

"The December Agricultural Survey is the largest and most important year-end survey conducted by NASS," said Vic Tolomeo, Director of the California Field Office. "It is the basis for the official USDA estimates of production and harvested acres of all major agricultural commodities in the United States."

During the first two weeks of December, representatives from the USDA-NASS California Field Office will contact selected California producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on field acreage and production, crop yield per acre, on-farm storage capacity and crop storage as of December 1.

"Data from the December Agricultural Survey will benefit farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical year-end business decisions and begin planning for the next growing season," Tolomeo added.

As with all NASS surveys, individual responses are kept strictly confidential and used only in combination with other responses to report California and U.S. estimates. "This," said Tolomeo, "assures that, regardless of size, no individual operation can be identified when the results of the study are reported."

Information will be compiled, analyzed and published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Crop Production Summary* and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on January 12, 2009. All completed NASS reports are available on the NASS web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications>.

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