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California Farm News

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COUNTY-LEVEL CASH RENT DATA TO BE RELEASED MAY 1

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The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will publish county-level data on cash rental rates for agricultural land on May 1 at 3:00 p.m. EDT.

The information will include average rental rates for non-irrigated cropland, irrigated cropland and pastureland during the 2008 calendar year. NASS is providing the county data in response to requests from customers as well as the new requirements of the 2008 Farm Bill.

Since 1997, NASS has published land value and rental rate data at the state level. The release on May 1 will mark the first time NASS is publishing the information at the county level.

The data will be based on information NASS gathered from 700,000 agricultural producers nationwide during the 2008 end-of-year surveys: the biannual cattle survey, the biannual sheep and goats survey, the quarterly crops/stocks survey, the annual acreage and production survey, and the first-ever county-level cash rents survey.

The county-level data on cash rental rates will be available online through Quick Stats, NASS's agricultural statistics database, at www.nass.usda.gov. Users will be able to access cash rental rates at the state, county or crop reporting district level.

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