



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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Media Contact: Juan Albelo, 1-800-851-1127 · August 16, 2011

USDA-NASS TO FOCUS ON 2011 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

SACRAMENTO – There was no shortage of challenges for U.S. farmers this year as historical weather patterns brought unpredictable growing conditions to many parts of the country. Now, with the California small grains harvest near or at completion for the 2011 growing season, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will measure growers' final production of those grains, including wheat, oats, barley and rye.

During the first two weeks of September, NASS representatives will contact more than 1,600 California producers by mail or telephone as part of the September Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey. The information gathered will provide the basis for official USDA estimates on 2011 acreage, yield and production for small grains.

"The September Agricultural Survey is one of the most important annual surveys conducted by NASS," explained Vic Tolomeo, Director of the USDA-NASS, California Field Office. "Not only will we be collecting final data on 2011 small grains production, but we will gather information about the quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on farms across the state."

"Data from the September Agricultural Survey will benefit farmers by providing timely, accurate and useful information to evaluate the outcome of the growing season and to help make critical year-end business decisions," added Tolomeo.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Tolomeo reminds producers. "Individual information is combined with other responses and published only as part of State, regional and national summaries. No individual person or operation can be identified."

Once compiled and analyzed, the information will be published in a series of USDA reports including the annual *Small Grains* summary and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on September 30 after 5:30 a.m. PDT.

Visit the NASS web site at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/ to see all completed NASS reports, as well as a comprehensive collection of other data on U.S. agriculture. Reports and additional information can also be obtained by calling the NASS Hotline at 1-800-727-9540.

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