



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE  
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## USDA to Measure Cash Rental Rates

**HARRISBURG, PA** – Beginning in February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will contact farmers and ranchers 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, ranchers and other landowners and will help shape negotiations for 2020 rental agreements.

“This brief survey is our only source of county level cash rental rates,” said King Whetstone, director of the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office. “By responding, producers help the farming community and ensure USDA bases its decisions on the most accurate data,” stated Whetstone. NASS will publish average cash rental rates at the national, state and county levels for non-irrigated cropland, irrigated cropland, and pastureland on August 28, 2020.

More than 15,000 farmers in the 11 state Northeastern Region of the U.S. will receive the survey forms. NASS offers the option of responding online via a secure Internet connection. Later in 2020, NASS representatives will begin calling and visiting landowners who have not yet responded.

“We guarantee the confidentiality of all individual information, regardless of the method of response participants choose, as required by federal law,” Whetstone 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 Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518. All NASS reports and data are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

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