



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **USDA to Conduct On-Farm Labor Survey in Hawaii and U.S.**

SACRAMENTO, CA, October 3, 2016 –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 477 Hawaii farmers and ranchers.

“Labor is obviously critical to farming operations in Hawaii, and data about the use of hired workers helps administer farm labor programs,” said Chris Messer, Director of the NASS Pacific Regional Office. “The data that farm operators provide through NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey helps Hawaii’s 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 and October 9-15. 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 respondents receive and the time they spend responding,” said Messer.

NASS will publish survey results in the November 17 *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 Pacific Regional Office at 1-800-851-1127.

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