



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HEARTLAND REGION -- ILLINOIS FIELD OFFICE
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USDA TO SURVEY SOYBEAN, WHEAT, AND OATS GROWERS

SPRINGFIELD, IL – In October, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin contacting soybean, wheat, and oats growers to learn about their production practices during the 2015 growing season. NASS and USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) jointly conduct the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), which gathers data on farmers’ nutrient, or fertilizer use, and pest management practices for these crops.

“After a very wet spring, it is extremely important for us to see how the growers are coping with that challenge, and other issues,” said NASS Illinois State Statistician Mark Schleusener. “The results of this survey will help agricultural leaders and decision-makers better understand how producers cope with risks and make decisions about nutrient management, pest management, and other aspects of farming. Producers themselves can use the survey results to make production decisions on their farm.”

ARMS serves as the primary source of information on production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America’s farm operations and farm households. Beginning in October and continuing through mid-December, NASS representatives will conduct face-to-face interviews with more than 11,000 growers nationwide, including 550 in Illinois.

“Interviewers will ask all growers to provide information on their fertilizer or nutrient use and their pest management practices,” added Schleusener. “Early next year, we will follow up with some participants to obtain additional economic and cost of production data.”

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes data only in aggregate form, ensuring that no individual operation or grower can be identified.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, visit www.nass.usda.gov or call the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at 1-800-551-1014.

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