



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture • Heartland Regional Field Office
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USDA NASS Surveying Local Floriculture Operations

[Springfield, Illinois] – Beginning in December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the 2016 Commercial Floriculture Survey in Illinois. The state is one of 15 major floriculture states across the nation included in the survey.

“The Commercial Floriculture Survey collects data on production area, product sales and the number of agricultural workers on an operation,” said Illinois State Statistician Mark Schleusener. “For specialty industries like floriculture, which are a vital part of our local agricultural economy, these data will provide a timely report that producers, researchers, and industry and government leaders can use to ensure policy decisions are based on facts provided by growers.”

NASS will ask producers to provide 2015 calendar year information for items including retail and wholesale quantity and value of sales for cut flowers, potted flowering plants, herbaceous perennials, annual bedding/garden plants, foliage plants, cut cultivated greens and propagative floriculture material. Information will also be gathered on area in production, gross value of sales and the peak number of hired workers for the operation.

Producers can fill out the survey online via a secure website, www.agcounts.usda.gov, or return their form by mail. NASS will contact growers who have not responded by January 19 to collect their information over the phone or in a face-to-face interview.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential, as required by federal law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

“NASS will publish the survey results on April 26, 2016 in the *Floriculture Crops Summary*, available at www.nass.usda.gov,” added Schleusener. “This report will help local growers make vital business decisions and evaluate the results of the recent growing season.”

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at 800-551-1014.

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NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

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