



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HEARTLAND REGION -- ILLINOIS FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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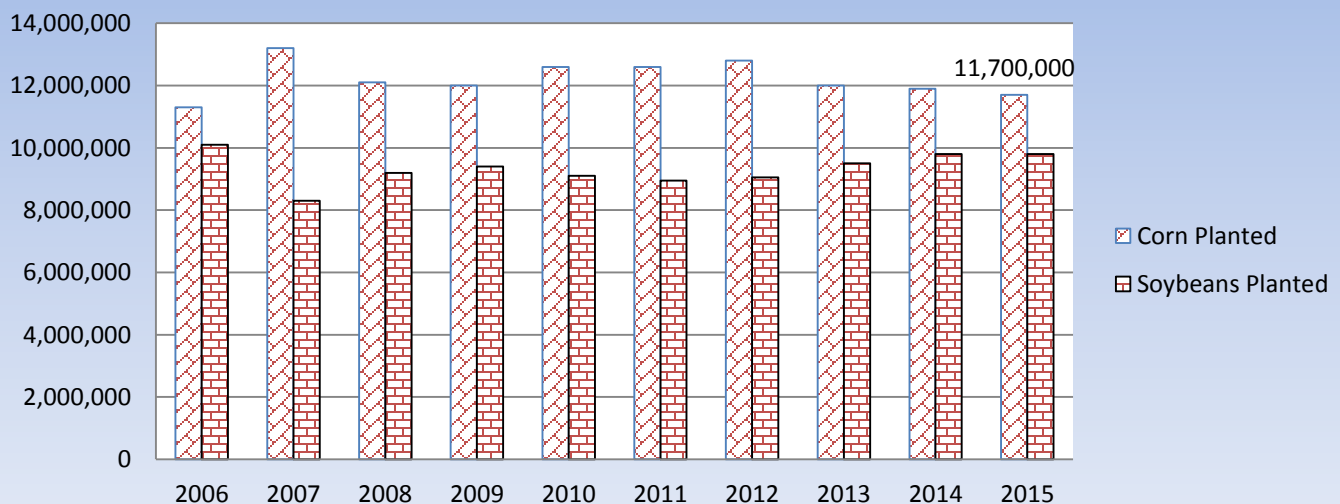
USDA TO SURVEY FARMERS' PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR 2016

Springfield, IL – What is on the horizon for U.S. farmers in 2016 as they finalize plans for planting this spring? The March Agricultural Survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey approximately 84,000 of the nation’s farmers to determine their plans for the upcoming growing season.

“Each year, the agriculture industry eagerly awaits USDA’s *Prospective Plantings* report, which provides the first survey-based estimates of U.S. farmers’ planting intentions for the year,” said NASS’ Illinois State Statistician Mark Schleusener. “The March Agricultural Survey provides the factual data that underpins these projections, making it one of the most important surveys we conduct each year.”

NASS will mail the survey questionnaire in February, asking producers to provide information about the types of crops they intend to plant in 2016, how many acres they intend to plant, and the amounts of grain and oilseed they store on their farms. NASS encourages producers to respond online or by mail. Those producers who do not respond by the deadline may be contacted for a telephone or personal interview.

Illinois Corn and Soybeans Acreage Planted
Source: USDA - NASS



NASS will compile and analyze the survey information and publish the results in the annual *Prospective Plantings* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on March 31, 2016.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential, as required by federal law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. These and all NASS reports are available online at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/>. For more information call the NASS Illinois Field Office at (800) 551-1014.

For more information, call the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at (800) 551-1014.

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