NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ILLINOIS FIELD OFFICE
Cooperating with the Illinois Department of Agriculture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Schleusener
(217) 524-9606

USDA to Collect Data on Farmland Rental Rates

Springfield, IL – February 19, 2019 -- Beginning in the middle February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service will contact Illinois 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 can be used for 2020 rental agreement negotiations.

"This brief survey is our only source of county cash rental rates," said Illinois State Statistician Mark Schleusener. "By responding, producers help the farming community and ensure USDA bases its decisions on the most accurate data."

NASS will publish average cash rental rates at national, state and county levels for non-irrigated cropland, irrigated cropland, and pastureland on September 10, 2019.

More than 8,000 of Illinois' farmers will receive the survey forms. NASS offers the option of responding online via a secure internet connection. In April, NASS representatives will begin calling and visiting landowners who have not yet responded.

"NASS combines producer responses in each county in Illinois, providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of average Illinois county rent and lease rates," Schleusener added.

For more information about the *Cash Rents and Leases* survey, call the NASS Heartland Field Office at (800) 551-1014. All NASS reports and data are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

###