



# NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## USDA to gather data about farm labor

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Agricultural Labor Survey during in April. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 300 Louisiana farmers and ranchers. NASS will publish survey results May 25 in the Farm Labor report available on the NASS website.

In the survey, NASS asks producers to answer a variety of questions about hired farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, the total hours worked, and total wages paid for the weeks of Jan. 9-15 and April 10-16. Survey participants can respond online at [agcounts.usda.gov](http://agcounts.usda.gov) or by mail.

“Agricultural labor data are critical in helping producers when hiring workers and estimating expenses,” Kathy Broussard, State Statistician of the Louisiana Field Office. “The data that farm operators provide through NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey allow federal policymakers to base farm labor policies on accurate information.”

USDA and the U.S. Department of Labor use the results of this survey to estimate the demand for and availability of seasonal agricultural workers, establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

“By asking about two separate time periods each time we collect data during the year, we are able to publish biannual data and capture seasonal variation,” said Broussard. “This approach reduces the number of times we survey farm businesses, while ensuring that accurate and timely data are available.”

All previous Farm Labor publications are [available](#) on the NASS website at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Delta Field Office at (800) 327-2970. Participants can visit this [link](#) for further instructions on completing the survey.

Producers responding online will now use NASS’s new Respondent Portal. On the portal, producers can complete their surveys, see previously reported data, access data visualizations and reports of interest, link to other USDA agencies, get a local weather update and more.

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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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