NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Delta Regional Field Office
(servicing Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi)
10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110, Little Rock, AR 72211

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Contact: Eugene Young
(800) 327-2970

USDA TO SURVEY PRODUCERS ABOUT ON-FARM LABOR

Baton Rouge, LA –During the second half of April, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Agricultural Labor Survey. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 200 of Louisiana farmers and ranchers.

"The beginning of the growing season is usually the perfect time to look at farm labor," said Becky Cross, Director of the NASS Delta Regional Field Office. "The data that farm operators provide through NASS's Agricultural Labor Survey allow Louisiana and federal policy-makers to establish labor policies based on accurate information and help ensure farmers can get sufficient hired labor for their operations."

USDA and the Department of Labor will use statistics gathered in the Agricultural Labor Survey to help establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

In the survey, NASS asks participants to answer a variety of questions about hired farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, the average hours worked, and wage rates paid for the weeks of January 11-17 and April 12-18. For their convenience, survey participants have the option to respond online.

"Due to seasonal variation and despite collecting farm labor data twice a year, we publish data on a quarterly basis," said Cross. "This approach helps us ensure that anyone using our data can perform more accurate analyses."

NASS will compile, analyze and publish survey results in the *Farm Labor* report, to be released on May 21. All information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. This and all other NASS reports are available online at *www.nass.usda.gov*. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Delta Regional Field Office at (800) 327-2970.

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