



News Release

NASS To Visit Area Farms To Gather Conservation Data

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be contacting farmers and ranchers in Michigan from mid-August to late September as part of a national survey of conservation practices.

During the first phase of the National Resources Inventory (NRI) – Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), NASS will contact approximately 500 farmers in Michigan to determine if their operations and properties meet eligibility criteria to participate in the survey. Farmers and ranchers deemed eligible may be contacted from October 2015 through February 2016 and asked to participate in the survey, part of a two-year project. The same survey process and schedule will be followed later in 2016 with a different set of producers.

“The survey gives farmers the power to provide a more complete and accurate picture of the conservation practices they choose to use on their land and in their operation,” said Ty Kalas, Acting Director of the Great Lakes Regional Office in East Lansing. “If contacted, I urge farmers to participate; their responses can help leaders focus on the conservation practices that most benefit both the farmer and the natural resources on which we all rely.”

CEAP's purpose is to measure the environmental benefits associated with implementation and installation of conservation practices on cultivated and non-cultivated agricultural land, according to USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the lead agency for the project. NASS conducts the survey for CEAP under a cooperative agreement with NRCS.

Data obtained from the project may help NRCS conservationists and partners determine the efficiency and effectiveness of current conservation techniques and help identify best practices. CEAP results may also help:

- Evaluate resources farmers and ranchers may need in the future to further protect soil, water, and habitat;
- Shed light on techniques farmers and ranchers use to conserve healthy agricultural systems and environments;
- Improve and strengthen technical and financial programs that help farmers and ranchers plan and install conservation measures on agricultural land; and
- Support conservation programs that can help farmers and ranchers' profits while also protecting natural resources.