



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

MARCH/APRIL, 2021

CROPS, LIVESTOCK, ECONOMICS

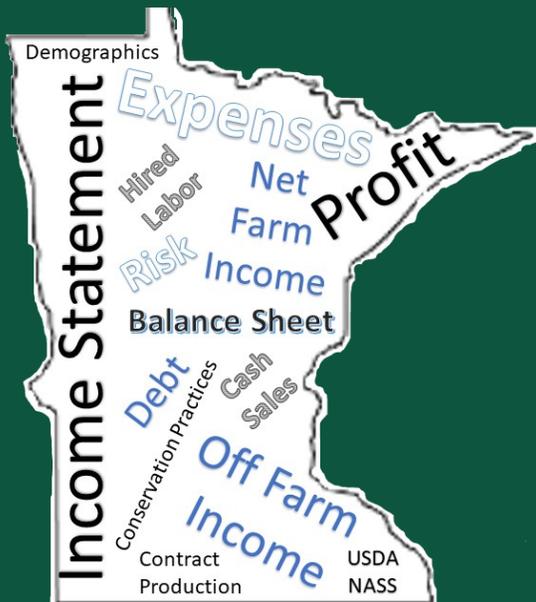


Dan Lofthus
MN State Statistician, NASS

I participated in the USDA's 97th Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum on February 18-19. As you might expect, the forum included a number of discussions, forecasts and opinions on the state of the agricultural economy, commodity demand, commodity price potential and the impact of recent events on those aspects of the industry.

You might have agreed with a presenter's conclusion or maybe not. But one common thread throughout was farmer input into those conclusions. Now, it's unlikely they called you to ask your opinion or fact check their conclusions but woven into those slides was your input, and the input of thousands of other Minnesota farmers in the form of data.

You are being asked for your input, just maybe not in the way you might think. The USDA NASS is asking you to include your real-life experience and farming facts in every discussion. That's what it really means when you get another NASS questionnaire in the mail or phone call in the evening during your favorite show. Facts about agriculture are being requested.



Researchers, community leaders, lending institutions, national, state and local representatives, and commodity group leaders, represent your interests in one way or another. They all need a way to include thousands of unique independent farming and ranching situations into something that can be understood. Something that makes sense to the general public or those who are not experts in production agriculture like you are.

I'm not talking about opinions, there are many ways you can get your opinion included in a discussion. Town hall meetings, Twitter, blogs, emails are just a few modern day examples. Another important way is through the commodity groups that represent you. They work hard to summarize your opinions in the form of policy initiatives adopted at their annual meetings and work toward those goals all year long.

USDA NASS is in the business of collecting agricultural facts like acres, bushels, animals, and dollars. That is our way of summarizing thousands of unique and independent farming and ranching situations into something that can be understood as an industry.

In March and April, 2021, I am asking for your help with these important projects. Please take the opportunity to add your unique farming or ranching situation into the mix. The more individual situations included the better Minnesota agriculture will be understood.

If you've ever thought, "People just don't know what it's like out here! They just don't have a clue." This is one way to explain it to them.

Dan Lofthus, State Statistician
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Minnesota

Better Response = Better Data = Better Decisions

Agricultural Resource Management Study (ARMS)

February 1 - April 12, 2021

Purpose:

- Explain farmer costs of producing agricultural products.
- Describe how those costs relate to sales, income, profit or loss, debt and the financial wellbeing of farms and ranches.

MN Farms Sampled: 1 farm out of every 43 farms.

Reporting Options: Mail, Phone, On-line.

March Ag Production Survey (APS)

February 27- March 17, 2021

Purpose:

- Update 2021 supply data used in the major crop supply and demand balance sheets.
- Provide the first look at intended acres of major crops in 2021, allowing farmers the option to adjust crop acreage based on market factors.

MN Farms Sampled: 1 farm out of every 23 farms.

Reporting Options: Mail, Phone, On-line.

April Milk Production Survey

March 31- April 8, 2021

Purpose:

- Update monthly milk cow estimates and monthly milk produced on farms.
- Update 2021 milk supply data used in the supply and demand balance sheet.

MN Farms Sampled: 1 out of every 4 dairies.

Reporting Options: Mail, Phone, On-line.

Upcoming Report Release Dates

Milk Production - March 18, 2021

Honey - March 18

Cattle On Feed - March 19

Hogs and Pigs Inventory - March 25

Grain Stocks - March 31

Prospective Plantings - March 31

Weekly Crop Progress Begins - April 5