



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## USDA SURVEY TO FOCUS ON FARM LABOR

**Jackson, MS** –Throughout October, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Farm Labor Survey. NASS will reach out to more than 200 Mississippi producers to accurately measure hired labor on Mississippi farms.

“Farm labor is a key component of the entire agricultural economy,” said Becky Cross, Director of the NASS Delta Regional Field Office. “Farmers who respond to the survey provide timely, relevant data that farmers, associations, and leaders in the public and private sectors use to make all sorts of important policy and business decisions.”

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

The survey asks participants to provide information about farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, hours worked, and wage rates paid for the reference weeks of July 12, 2015, and October 11, 2015. For their convenience, survey participants will have the option to respond online at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) or by mail.

NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results in the *Farm Labor* report, to be released on November 19. All farm labor reports are available online at <http://bit.ly/FarmLabor>. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Delta Regional Field Office at (800) 327-2970.

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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. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at [http://bit.ly/NASS\\_Subscriptions](http://bit.ly/NASS_Subscriptions) and look for the “NASS Data User Community.”*

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