



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HEARTLAND REGION -- MISSOURI FIELD OFFICE
601 Business Loop 70 West, Suite 213E
Columbia, Missouri 65203



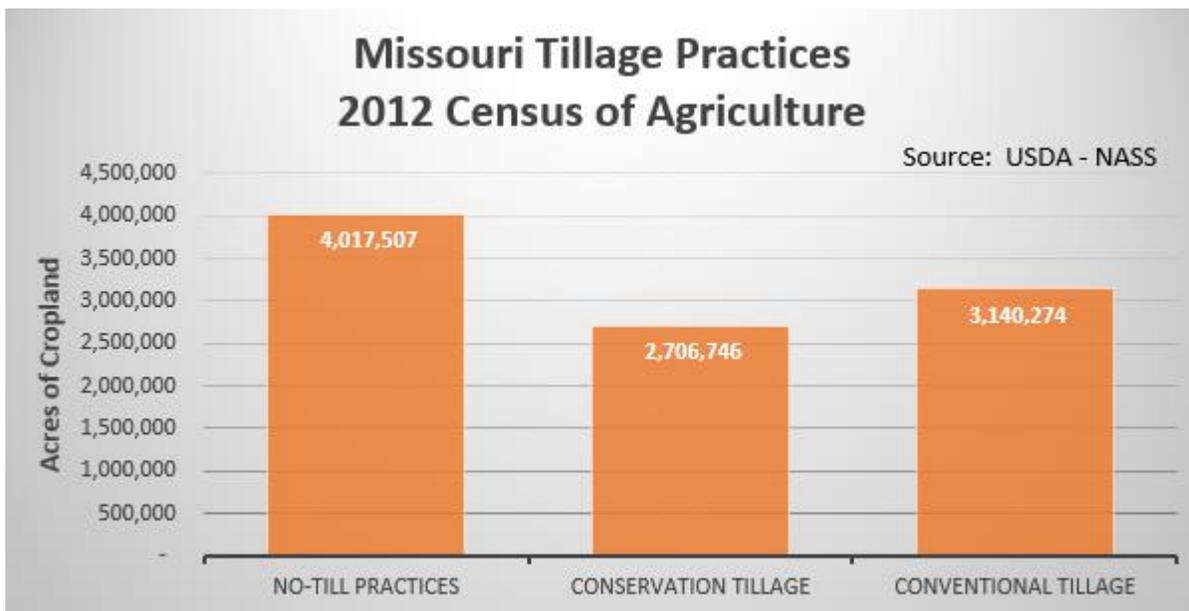
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2015

Contact: Robert Garino
(800) 551-1014

USDA NASS Measuring Conservation Practices in Missouri

Columbia, MO – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is contacting farmers and ranchers from now through February 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 contacted approximately 1,000 farmers and ranchers in Missouri to determine if their operations and properties were eligible to participate in the survey. In the second phase, producers are asked to provide details on the conservation practices they are currently using. Phase 2 will continue through February 2016.



“Missouri producers are using a wide variety of conservation practices including reduced tillage techniques, cover crops, grassed waterways, filter strips and buffers,” said Missouri State Statistician Bob Garino. “It’s important that everyone knows the ways that crop and livestock producers are conserving the natural resources of Missouri.”

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified, as required by Federal law. Participants' responses cannot be used for the purposes of taxation, investigation or regulation (Title 7, U.S. Code, and CIPSEA, Public Law 107-347).

CEAP's purpose is to measure the environmental benefits associated with implementation and installation of conservation practices on cultivated and non-cultivated agricultural lands, 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 to --

- 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.

###

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 feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).