



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
HEARTLAND REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA to gather data about farm labor

Columbia, MO – March 2023 – USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Agricultural Labor Survey in April. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 800 Missouri farmers and ranchers. NASS will publish the results May 24 in the Farm Labor report available on the NASS website at nass.usda.gov/Publications. Survey recipients who do not respond by April 19 may be contacted by NASS to arrange an interview.

Average Yearly Wage Rates (\$/hr)		
CORN BELT II (IA, MO)	2021	2022
All Hired Workers	16.92	18.37
Livestock Workers	16.01	17.68
Field & Livestock Workers	16.19	17.54
Field Workers	16.36	17.43

In the survey, NASS asks producers to answer a variety of questions about hired farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, total hours worked, and total wages paid for the weeks of Jan. 8-14 and April 9-15, 2023. Survey recipients can respond online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail.

“Agricultural labor data are critical for producers when hiring workers and estimating expenses,” said Brad Summa, director of the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office. “The data that farm operators provide through NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey also allow federal policymakers to base farm labor policies on accurate information.”

USDA and the U.S. Department of Labor use the survey data to estimate the demand for and availability of seasonal agricultural workers, establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers and administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs.

“By asking about two separate time periods each time we collect these data during the year, we are able to publish biannual data and capture seasonal variation,” said Summa. “This approach reduces the number of times we survey Missouri farms, while ensuring that accurate and timely data are available.”

Producers are encouraged to visit youtu.be/6oWSOjGTQzU for further information on and assistance with completing this survey. All previous Farm Labor publications are available on the NASS website at nass.usda.gov/publications/publications. For more information, contact the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at (800) 551-1014 or nassrfohlr@usda.gov.

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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.

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