

REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA TO COLLECT FINAL 2023 CROP PRODUCTION AND CROP STOCKS DATA

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – November 1, 2023 – During the next few weeks, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the December Agricultural Survey. The agency will contact nearly 6,700 producers across the Mountain Region states of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming to determine crop acreage, production, and stock levels as of December 1, 2023.

"Due to the widespread impact of its results, the December Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is one of the most significant surveys NASS conducts," explained Rodger Ott, Director, Mountain Regional Field Office. "Information growers provide serves as the first clear sign of row crop, hay and other late season crops production, and supply of major commodities in the United States for the 2023 crop year. Results from this survey are used by farmers and ranchers, USDA, businesses, exporters, researchers, economists, policymakers, and others who use the survey information in making a wide range of decisions that benefit the producer."

Also of note, other USDA agencies rely on this data to assist in determining crop insurance and disaster aid payments as well as other program benefits.

Growers can respond to the December Agricultural Survey online, by phone, or mail. They will be asked to provide information on planted and harvested acreage, production, and grain stocks.

"NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents by keeping all individual information confidential, and publishing the data in aggregate form, only to ensure that no operation or producer can be identified," said Ott. "We recognize that this is a hectic time for farmers, but the information they provide helps U.S. agriculture remain viable and capable. I urge them to respond to the December Agricultural Survey and I thank them for their cooperation."

NASS will analyze the survey information and publish the results in a series of USDA reports, including the annual and quarterly *Grain Stocks* reports, to be released January 12, 2024. The survey data also contribute to NASS' monthly and annual *Crop Production* reports and USDA's monthly *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*. These and all NASS reports are available online at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/.

For state specific questions, please contact your USDA NASS State Statistician at 1-800-392-3202:

Arizona – Dave DeWalt Colorado – Rodger Ott Montana – Eric Sommer New Mexico – Margie Whitcotton Utah – John Hilton Wyoming – Leslee Lohrenz

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