USDA to Gather Data about Farm Labor

September 30, 2021 – The USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Agricultural Labor Survey in October. The survey will collect information about hired labor from approximately 100 Nevada farmers and ranchers. NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results on November 24 in the Farm Labor report on the following NASS website: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

“Agricultural labor data are critical in helping producers when hiring workers and estimating expenses,” said NASS Nevada State Statistician Curt Stock. “The data that farm operators provide through the NASS 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 results of this survey to estimate the demand for, and availability of seasonal agricultural workers, establish minimum wage rates for these workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

In the survey, NASS asks participants 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 gross wages paid for the weeks of July 11-17 and October 10-16. Survey participants can respond online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail.

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

All previous Farm Labor publications are available online on the NASS website. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, please call (916) 396-5867.

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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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