



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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USDA to gather data about farm labor

HARRISBURG, PA – September, 2021 – USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Agricultural Labor Survey during October. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 2,000 farmers and ranchers throughout the northeastern region of the United States. NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results Nov. 24 in the *Farm Labor* report on the NASS website.

“Agricultural labor data are critical in helping producers when hiring workers and estimate expenses,” said King Whetstone, director of the NASS, Northeastern 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 results of this survey to estimate the demand for, and availability of seasonal agricultural workers, establish minimum wage rates for agricultural 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, the total hours worked, and total gross wages paid for the weeks of July 11-17 and Oct. 10-16. Survey participants can respond online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail.

“By asking about two separate time periods each time we collect data during the year, we are able to publish quarterly data and capture seasonal variation,” Whetstone said. “This approach reduces the number of times we survey farms, 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, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518.

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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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