



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE  
4050 Crums Mill Rd., Suite 203 Harrisburg, PA 17112



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 6, 2016

Contact: Dianne Johnson  
(717) 787-3904

## USDA Survey to Focus on Farm Labor

Harrisburg, PA – During the second half of October, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual *Farm Labor Survey*. NASS will reach out to more than 1,400 producers to accurately measure hired labor on Northeastern farms.

“Farm labor is a key component of the entire agricultural economy,” said King Whetstone, director of the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office. “Farmers who respond to the survey provide timely, relevant data that farmers, associations, and leaders in the public and private sectors use to make all sorts of important policy and business decisions.”

USDA and the Department of Labor will use the statistics obtained from farmers to help establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

The survey asks participants to provide information about farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, hours worked, and wage rates paid for the weeks of October 9-15 and July 10-16, 2016. For their convenience, survey participants will have the option to respond online at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) or by mail. NASS will compile, analyze and publish survey results in the Farm Labor report, to be released on November 17, 2016.

“Participating in this survey is a convenient and effective way for farmers to guide potential labor and economic policies, locally in their very own communities, as well as at the national level. Policymakers use Farm Labor report data to inform their reasoning and decisions, so I encourage farmers to take advantage of this opportunity help provide them with accurate data,” said Whetstone.

All farm labor reports are available online at <http://bit.ly/FarmLabor>. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at 1-800-498-1518.

###

NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional 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, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).