



# 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  
March 20, 2018

Contact: Krishna Rizal  
(717) 657-6314  
[Krishna.Rizal@nass.usda.gov](mailto:Krishna.Rizal@nass.usda.gov)

## USDA to Conduct On-Farm Labor Survey

**HARRISBURG, PA** –The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Agricultural Labor Survey during the second half of April. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 1,600 Northeastern farmers and ranchers.

“The beginning of the year is the time when agricultural producers plan out the rest of their growing seasons and it is a great time to assess on-farm labor needs,” said King Whetstone, director of the NASS, Northeastern Regional Field Office. “The data that farm operators provide through NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey help federal policymakers base farm labor policies on accurate information.”

USDA and the U.S. Department of Labor use statistics gathered in the Agricultural Labor Survey to 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 average hours worked, base wage rate, and wage rates paid for the weeks of January 7-13 and April 8-14. For their convenience, survey participants have the option to respond online.

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

NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results in the May 17 *Farm Labor* report. All previous *Farm Labor* publications are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications). For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at 1-800-498-1518.

###

**2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**  
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

USDA AGRICULTURE COUNTS  
United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

**There’s Still Time to Be Counted.  
Respond Today!**

Respond Online. [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov)  
For assistance completing the census,  
call toll-free (888) 424-7828.  
[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

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://bit.ly/NASS\\_Subscriptions](http://bit.ly/NASS_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).