



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Southern Plains News Release

Southern Plains Regional Field Office · Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-626-3142 · www.nass.usda.gov
Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry

For Immediate Release
August 10, 2015

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USDA to Survey Cotton, Oat & Wheat Producers

Oklahoma City, OK – In September, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin contacting winter wheat growers to learn about their production practices during the 2015 growing season for the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). NASS and USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) jointly conduct this three-phase survey, the second phase of which gathers data on farmers' chemical use, pest management and irrigation practices for these crops.

"In recent years there have been major changes in the wheat industry," said Wilbert Hundl, State Statistician of the NASS Oklahoma Field Office. "Producers benefit from providing this information because it is used to re-register pesticide products they need and use. The results of this survey will update information on these major sectors of agricultural production and will ensure that agricultural leaders, legislators, and producers themselves can base their decisions on accurate data that comes from directly from the growers."

ARMS, which is conducted in three separate phases during the growing season, serves as the primary source of information on production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America's farm operations and farm households. During the second phase of ARMS, NASS will collect information only through personal interviewing. Trained representatives will conduct face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,100 growers nationwide, including 150 in Oklahoma beginning in September and continuing through November.

"Interviewers will ask all growers to provide information on their fertilizer or nutrient use and biocontrol or pesticide use, and their pest management practices," added Hundl.

"Early next year, we will follow up with some participants to obtain additional economic and cost of production data."

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes data only in aggregate form, ensuring that no individual operation or grower can be identified.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Southern Plains Regional Field Office at 1-800-626-3142.

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