



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## USDA, FFA RELEASE NEW LESSON PLANS JUST IN TIME FOR SCHOOL

**Portland, OR.** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the National FFA Organization have developed a new series of K-12 online learning tools and outreach kits to increase statistical literacy in the classroom through the exploration and use of current census of agriculture data.

“These lesson plans contain relevant information to give students a realistic view of statistical processes used to track our nation’s current and future food supply” explained Chris Mertz, director of the NASS Oregon Field Office. “The students will have a chance to focus on a variety of concepts including discovering new trends in population subsets and evaluating diversity among farmers.”

The classroom-ready resources, which include lesson plans and supporting materials, are aligned with Oregon and national curriculum standards for science, math and social studies. The materials use current Census of Agriculture data to teach a variety of concepts including discovering new trends in population subsets and evaluating diversity among farmers.

The materials are available online via the NASS website ([http://www.nass.usda.gov/Education\\_and\\_Outreach/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/index.asp)) and the FFA Learning Center (<http://ffa.learn.com>).

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