The South Dakota Field Office of USDA’s, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is proud to present this 68th edition of *South Dakota Agriculture*. This book contains current and historical information on national, state, and county levels of agricultural production. It continues to provide a valuable service to everyone involved in agriculture, South Dakota’s number one industry.

We are experiencing very unique times, with strong world-wide demand for agricultural products, resulting in higher commodity prices. In addition, farm input costs have increased at a dramatic rate. In order to survive in these conditions, the need for factual information to make sound business decisions is stronger than ever. We are glad to help by providing this type of information with the statistics contained in this bulletin.

We appreciate the cooperation and support of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, which provides funding for this publication. We especially thank the many ranchers and farmers who take the time to participate in our surveys and provide most of the information used in preparing South Dakota statistics. Thanks also go out to elevator managers, other agricultural businesses, county extension educators, and Farm Service Agency county directors, who provide additional information used in preparing these statistics.

In addition, we wish to thank our office staff and field and office enumerators for their dedication in providing our state with the highest quality agricultural statistics possible. Our staff is dedicated to serving the agricultural data needs of all users. Please contact us anytime with your questions, comments, and requests for information.

Sincerely,

*CARTER ANDERSON*

Director

*STEVE NOYES*

Deputy Director