



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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Issue No.:SR-102-10

For Immediate Release:
May 12, 2010

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USDA TO ESTIMATE 2010 CROP ACRES AND MID-YEAR LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

Austin, TX – During the upcoming June Area Survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be speaking with thousands of farmers and ranchers across Texas to gather important statistics for the official mid-year crop and livestock reports.

"The June Area Survey is one of the largest and most comprehensive surveys conducted each year by NASS," explained Doug Rundle, Director of the NASS Texas Field Office. It provides an important benchmark of planted acreage for the 2010 crops, and a look at mid-year livestock inventories including the first estimate of the 2010 calf, lamb and kid crops.

"Understanding that the information we gather is only as good as the source it comes from, we rely on the best source of information – the producers themselves," added Rundle.

During the first two weeks of June, NASS representatives will visit randomly selected tracts of land in Texas and interview the operators of the farm and ranch land. NASS will collect information on crop acreage, grain stocks, livestock inventories, cash rents, land values, and value of sales.

The information from the June Area Survey will be used to make official crop and livestock estimates which will be released in several key mid-year reports, including: the *June Hog and Pig* report, the *June Acreage* report, the *June Grain Stocks* report, the *July Cattle* report, and the *July Sheep and Goat* report.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level estimates, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Rundle. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Texas Field Office at 1-800-626-3142.