



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1659



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Contact: Herman Ellison
(804) 771-8560

USDA TO MEASURE SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION

RICHMOND, Va. – During the first two weeks of September, growers of small grains around the country will receive survey forms from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The agency is taking a comprehensive look into the 2018 production and supply of small grains, which include wheat, barley and rye for Virginia.

“We will contact over 1,000 producers in Virginia to accurately measure 2018 acreage, yield, and production for small grains,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. “The data collected from this survey will also help set small grain acreage and production estimates at the county level.”

NASS will contact Virginia survey participants to gather information on their 2018 production and the quantities of corn, soybeans, winter wheat and barley stored on-farm.

“The county yield estimates we establish from this survey are used by other USDA agencies, such as Farm Service and Risk Management Agencies,” Ellison said. “FSA’s Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and other program calculations all integrate the data from this survey. RMA uses the information for its Area Risk Protection Insurance Plan and establishment of transitional yields. Particularly when severe weather, drought or flooding impact crop production, these data are crucial to the agriculture industry.”

As an alternative to mailing the survey back and to help save both time and money, growers will have the option to respond to the survey securely online. Farmers who have not responded by Aug. 30, may receive a phone call from a NASS representative who will help them fill out the survey form.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

Survey results will be published in several reports, including the annual *Small Grains Summary* and the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on September 28. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at 1-800-772-0670.

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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://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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