



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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USDA TO MEASURE SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION

CHARLESTON, W.V. – 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 2016 production and supply of small grains, which includes winter wheat for West Virginia.

“We will contact 410 producers in West Virginia to accurately measure 2016 acreage, yield, and production for winter wheat,” said Charmaine Wilson, West Virginia state statistician. “The data collected from this survey will also help set acreage and production estimates at the county level.”

County yield estimates resulting from this survey are used by the USDA’s Farm Service and Risk Management Agencies.

FSA Programs:

- Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC)
- Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
- County Loan Rates
- Loan Repayment Rates
- Assist in disaster assistance program calculations

RMA Programs:

- Area Risk Protection Insurance Plan
- Establish transitional yields
- Determines when to make crop loss insurance payments

“The data is always important to farmers and the agriculture industry, but when drought or flooding impact crop production, like the historic flooding here earlier this summer, these data are crucial to the industry,” Wilson said.

NASS will contact West Virginia survey participants to gather information on their 2016 production and the quantities of winter wheat stored on-farm. 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 Sept. 30. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS West Virginia Field Office at 1-800-535-7088.

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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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