



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
New England FIELD OFFICE
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USDA TO SURVEY FARMERS' HARVESTED ACREAGE

Concord, New Hampshire – How many acres of oats and barley did farmers plant and harvest in Maine this season? What was the actual yield of those harvested acres? How much of these commodities do they have stored on-farm? These are just some of the critical questions the New England Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be asking more than 300 producers in Maine as part of the September Agricultural Survey.

“The September Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is one of the most important surveys conducted each year by NASS,” explained Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. “This survey is the basis for the official USDA estimates of production and harvested acres of all major agricultural commodities in the United States for the 2008 crop year.

“Data from the September Agricultural Survey benefits farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical year-end business decisions and evaluate the success of the growing season,” added Keough.

During the first two weeks of September, NASS will contact selected New England producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on their 2008 production and on-farm stocks of oats and barley. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Small Grains* summary and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on September 30.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. “NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified,” stated Keough.

All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS New England Field Office at 1-800-642-9571.

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