



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

New England Field Office

53 Pleasant Street Room 2100 · Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-9639 · (603) 225-1434 (fax) · www.nass.usda.gov
Contact: Dianne Johnson 603-227-3134

USDA TO GATHER YEAR-END PRODUCTION NUMBERS

Concord, NH – It's that time of year again, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) prepares to contact producers nationwide to gather final year-end production numbers. Having experienced volatile growing conditions this season – such as the July tornado in New Hampshire, as well as variable weather conditions – it's more important than ever for producers to respond to the December Agricultural Survey.

“The December Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is the largest and most critical year-end survey conducted 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.

“With questions still remaining about the final impact of the remnants of tropical storm Hanna and Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, data from the December Agricultural Survey will benefit farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical year-end business decisions and begin planning for the next growing season,” added Keough.

During the first two weeks of December, 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 field corn, oats, barley, potatoes, hay stocks, and grains and oilseeds. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Crop Production* summary and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on January 12, 2009.

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 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.