

Why Corn and Grain Producers Should Respond to National Agricultural Statistics Service Surveys



As a statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys each year. These questionnaires ask farmers, ranchers, and others in the agricultural industry for a variety of data. Every five years, NASS also conducts the Census of Agriculture, a complete accounting of producers, farms, ranches, and agricultural production in the country. The results of these surveys provide many benefits to farmers and ranchers. Some of the data are Principal Federal Economic Indicators.

- Farmers, ranchers, policymakers, community planners, agribusinesses, researchers, USDA, and other federal and state government agencies use aggregated NASS data from farmers and ranchers for planning, market assessment, decision making, research, and many other purposes.
- High-quality statistical information is essential for the smooth operation of federal farm programs as well as for planning and administering federal and state programs in areas such as consumer protection, conservation and environmental quality, trade, education, and recreation.
- NASS information contributes to a stable economic climate and reduces the uncertainties and risks in producing, marketing, and distributing commodities. **Objective, timely, and equally available to all users, NASS data help level the playing field.**

Here are just a few of the ways USDA uses NASS data to serve farmers and ranchers directly:

NASS provides the Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency with important statistics that they use to serve farmers and ranchers. **Individual responses to NASS surveys are kept confidential. Data are provided in aggregate form so that no individual operation or operator can be identified.**

Farm Programs Depend on Farmer-Reported NASS State and County Data

- County loan rates for wheat, feed grains, and oilseeds
- Regional loan rates for pulses
- Loan repayment rates
- Program parameters for Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PRC)
- Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)
- Livestock disaster assistance programs
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- County committee elections
- Beginning farmer ownership loan eligibility
- Guaranteed loan limit adjustments
- Production loss calculations
- Funding targets and allocations
- Farm business planning
- Farm appraisals

Risk Management Programs Depend on Farmer-Reported NASS Data

The Risk Management Agency uses NASS data to provide federal crop insurance to America's farmers and ranchers. These data are used to establish yields and to aid in the establishment of price elections for various crops.

- Actual Revenue History (ARH) Pilot Program
- Establishment of transitional yields
- Establishment of price elections on non-program crops

For more information

For help filling out a survey, call NASS Customer Service: 888-424-7828

For more about the APS survey program, see www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Crops_Stocks/index.php



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

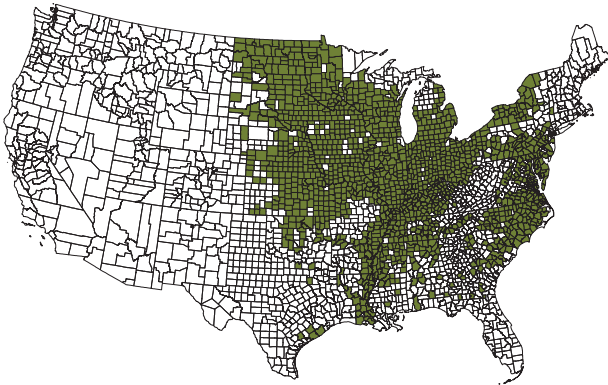
www.nass.usda.gov

"Performing industry analysis without NASS would be like navigating a dark road without headlights."

— Kevin Scott, President, American Soybean Association, soy grower from South Dakota

Soybeans 2020

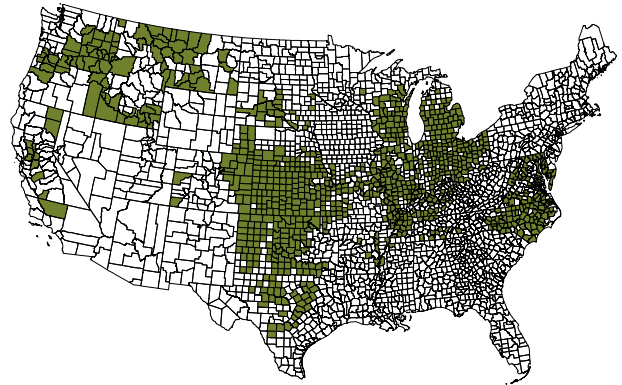
Counties with Published Yield per Harvested Acre



U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Winter Wheat 2020

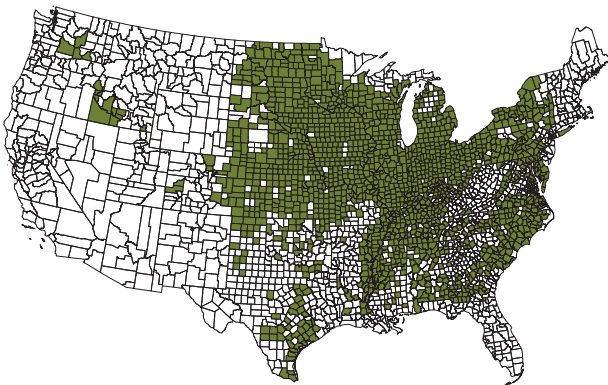
Counties with Published Yield per Harvested Acre



U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Corn for Grain 2020

Counties with Published Yield per Harvested Acre



U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Green—The green color in these maps shows counties with USDA NASS-published yield-per-harvested-acre data.

White—The white color shows counties with no published yield-per-harvested-acre data.

There are three primary reasons for a lack of published data:

- Areas not included in the NASS county estimating program for a particular state
- No production
- Exclusion to maintain confidentiality/nondisclosure of individual identifying information.

When enough producers do not respond to surveys, NASS is unable to publish data. Without data, agencies such as USDA's Risk Management Agency and Farm Service Agency do not have information on which to base the programs that serve those same producers. Producers lose out when there is no data to determine accurate rates for loans, disaster payments, crop insurance price elections and more.

Confidentiality

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018, Title III of Pub. L. No. 115-435, codified in 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35 and other applicable Federal laws, your responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents. By law, every National Agricultural Statistics Service employee as well as every agent has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you.



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