



NASS Programs

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

About the Survey

The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) survey collects information from farmers about farming and conservation practices on their cropland. The information collected through the CEAP survey is vital to help determine not only the effectiveness of existing conservation practices but also what resources farmers may need to further protect the soil, water and related resources to document on-farm conservation accomplishments.

Why participate in CEAP?

The survey captures producers' current farming and management practices, including conservation practices designed to help protect soil and water resources.

Response Confidentiality

All information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. The data will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

This information is used to maintain, modify and improve programs that assist farmers in planning and installing on-farm conservation practices. Changes made to these conservation programs have the potential to further reduce sediment and nutrient losses from cropland.

Maintaining conservation programs in the United States benefits producers by protecting the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend. The programs provide financial assistance such as rental payments and cost-sharing incentives to offset the cost of installing conservation practices.

How is CEAP conducted?

Nearly 12,000 operators nationwide will receive the survey. Local NASS representatives will begin by visiting farmers and agricultural landowners August through September of 2024 to determine if their operations and properties meet the criteria to be considered eligible candidates for the survey.

Eligible farmers and landowners will be contacted between November 2024 and March

2025 and asked to participate in the survey. Typical questions will include farm production practices; chemical, fertilizer, and manure applications; tillage; irrigation use; and installed conservation practices. NASS will provide the survey data to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the USDA agency tasked with publishing the CEAP survey findings.

NRCS will couple the survey results with modeling to report on trends in cropland conservation – and associated outcomes – from 2024 through 2026.

Do you want to know more?

For more information or questions about the CEAP survey, contact the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at 1-888-424-7828, or visit:

nass.usda.gov/go/ceap

nrcs.usda.gov/ceap/croplands

April 2024

