



NASS Programs

Agricultural Yield Survey

About the Survey

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the monthly Agricultural Yield Survey to measure crop production throughout the growing season. The information collected captures changes in yield that occur due to weather, pests, disease, and other factors.

NASS publishes the findings each month, May through November, in the monthly *Crop Production* report. Final yield and production data are published the following January in the *Annual Crop Production* report.

All *Crop Production* reports are available online at:
www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/

Response Confidentiality

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

How NASS Collects Data?

At the beginning of each month, from May through November, NASS will mail the Agricultural Yield Survey to farmers in all States except Alaska and Hawaii.

The initial survey asks farmers how many acres of particular crops they planted, how many acres they intend to harvest, and their expected yield per acre. In subsequent months, NASS asks the same farmers to update their expected yield per acre.

Those who receive the survey may respond in either of the following ways:

- **Online** – Secure, online reporting is the most timely, cost-effective option. The cover letter includes instructions for this easy option.
- **By mail or fax** – Fill out the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided or via fax.

A NASS representative may contact anyone who does not respond to offer the option of a telephone or personal interview.

Who Uses The Information?

All sectors of the agricultural industry rely on NASS yield and production estimates to make sound business decisions. For example:

- Producers use the estimates to develop marketing plans for their operations and to determine what to produce and how and when to sell it.
- Agribusinesses that provide farmers and ranchers with inputs, equipment, and other goods and services use the estimates to develop future marketing strategies.
- Congress relies on current yield and production data in formulating farm legislation.
- USDA agencies use the crop yield data to determine crop insurance and disaster aid payments along with other program benefits.

February 2024

