

Q & A For New NASDA Field Enumerators

What is a NASDA enumerator?

A part time, intermittent employee hired by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) to collect data and perform other duties in the furtherance of the cooperative agreement between NASDA and the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Is a NASDA enumerator a state employee or federal employee?

No. Enumerators are not state or federal employees. NASDA is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization.

What does a NASDA field enumerator do?

A field enumerator interactively interviews farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses in person or by telephone to collect crop acreages, crop production, grain in storage, livestock inventories, farm labor, economic data, and other agriculture related information. Many times you will be required to drive to these operations to interview the respondents.

When are the busiest times of year with this job?

Some of the busiest times are the first two weeks of March, June, September, and December working on our quarterly acreage and production surveys. Other busy times will vary across the country depending on the surveys and type of agriculture in the area.

How many hours can I expect to work per week?

Work as an enumerator is part-time employment which is intermittent and does not offer regular hours. The number of hours worked per week can vary greatly depending on the surveys being conducted at the time, type of agriculture in your area, amount of work assigned to you, etc. Hours worked per week can range from 0 some weeks to 40 or more during other weeks. Enumerators are limited to a maximum of 375 hours per quarter that they can work.

Will I be required to be gone away from home over night?

On some occasions, it may be necessary for enumerators to be away from home overnight. This is usually true for most state training schools, which enumerators are required to attend. The schools are generally 2—4 days and may be held in another state. Hotel accommodations are paid for by NASS.

I am not familiar with some aspects of agriculture. How can I learn more about the types of agriculture we will be conducting surveys on?

A training workshop (that you will be required to attend) will be conducted for some of the major survey. The Regional Field Office will send you information/instructions for the other surveys you will work on. Training presentations and other materials are posted on the NASDA website at WWW.nasda.org for many of the surveys NASS conducts. Some general agricultural information can also be found on this website. You will also be given an Interviewer's Manual that contains a wealth of information about NASS surveys.