Overview of NASS Operations

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National Agricultural Statistics Service

Headquarters in Washington D.C.

46 field offices
serving 50 states & Puerto Rico

1100 Federal employees
160 State employees
3500 contract employees

National Agricultural Statistics Service
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NASS Field Offices

The statistical survey agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

non-political, non-policy making independent-objective-unbiased appraisers of U.S. agriculture

Mission:

to provide timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture
Administer USDA’s domestic agricultural statistics program

Over 500 reports each year

- 120 crop items
- 45 livestock items

Over 9000 reports at the state level

Agricultural Census every 5 years

Responsibilities

- **Headquarters**
  - design survey
  - develop specifications (content & procedures)
  - design questionnaires
  - develop instructions
  - train field office statisticians
  - develop systems/programs

- **Field Offices**
  - maintain lists
  - train interviewers
  - collect data
  - process data
  - analyze data
  - recommend state estimates
Responsibilities

• **Headquarters**
  - combine data to national level
  - analyze data
  - receive state recommendations

• **Agricultural Statistics Board**
  - set regional & national estimates
  - review/reconcile state recommendations
  - publish final estimates

U.S. Farm Definition

*Farm:*

any place that produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold, $1,000 or more of agricultural products during the calendar year

~ currently about 2.2 million farms ~
Agricultural Census

All farms

- total area & land use
- irrigation
- land in government programs
- field & forage crops
- fruits, nuts & berries
- vegetables & melons
- horticultural specialties
- livestock & poultry
- animal specialties
- aquaculture
- production contracts
- gross value of sales
- direct sales to consumers
- government loans
- government program payments
- farm-related income
- grain storage capacity
- operator characteristics
- farm organization

20% of farms

- fertilizer & chemical use
- farm production expenses
- inventory & value of machinery & equipment
- market value of land & buildings
- farm labor

~ years ending in “2” & “7” ~

inventories as of December 31 ~ production, sales & other information for calendar year

Census Follow On

- Horticultural Census
  - Establishments selling more than $10,000 of horticultural specialties
- Aquaculture Census
  - Establishments selling more than $1,000 of aquaculture products
- Farm Ranch & Irrigation Survey
  - Sample of operations reporting irrigation
- Agricultural Economics & Land Ownership
  - Sample of farm operators and landlords