

## NASS Survey Training

# Agricultural Survey: December 1, 2022 (CROPS APS)



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

November 2022



# Survey Overview

- Collecting data on:
  - Final acreage and yield/production
    - For row crops and hay/forage crops
  - Grain stocks
- This information:
  - Levels the playing field for farmers and ranchers, giving them access to the same information that is available to elevators, input suppliers, bankers and others with whom they do business
  - Provides global markets with information on the United States as a supplier of major commodities

# Survey Overview Cont.

- Additionally:
  - USDA agencies use the information to evaluate and administer vital farm credit, conservation, disaster, insurance, loan and commodity programs
  - Universities, Extension agents, private and government economist, the farm media and others depend on the data to help them analyze what's on the horizon
  - Farm organization use the information to form their policy positions

# Survey Information

- Project Code: **127 - Dec Crops/Stocks Survey**
- Questionnaires:
  - Mailed out around November 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Web reporting option available
- Releases: January 12, 2023 (12pm ET)
  - *Crop Production - Annual*
  - *Grain Stocks*

# Introduction

- Questions used to determine:
  - Name and address verification
  - If the operation has any of the items (crops, cropland, stocks, storage capacity, etc) of interest
    - *Any* agricultural activity? Out of business?
      - Complete the follow-up questions to determine the operation's status
      - Collect as much info as possible on the new operator
  - Operation structure
    - Individual, Partners, Hired Manager

# Acres Operated

- Asks about how many:
  - Acres **own**
  - Acres **rent or lease from** others or used rent free (+)
    - Include land rented from others on a cash per acre, share crop, or free basis
  - Acres **rent to** others (-)
    - Acres rented out to others on a cash per acre, share crop, or free basis
- Total Acres (=)
  - Be sure all land is accounted for – not just cropland

# Acres Operated

- How much is **cropland**?
  - Don't forget hay acres, CRP, summer fallow and cropland pasture
  - Noticed more records over last few quarters leaving this blank. Be sure to ask this and record properly.
- **County** where the largest value of agriculture was raised or produced?
  - If about the same in different counties, choose the county with the most acres, write notes
  - If about the same value and acres in different counties, does he/she live in one of these counties? If so, choose that county and write notes
  - If yields were vastly different between the counties they farm in, write notes

# Row Crops

## (varies by state)

- **Corn**
- **Sorghum**
- **Soybeans**
- **Upland Cotton**
- **Pima Cotton**
- **Potatoes**
- **Peanuts**
- **Rice**
  - Long, Medium, Short Grain
- **Dry Edible Beans**
- **Small Chickpeas**
- **Large Chickpeas**
- **Sunflower**
  - Oil/Non-Oil



# Row Crops, cont.

## (varies by state)

- **Dry Edible Peas**
- **Lentils**
- **Flaxseed**
- **Proso Millet**
- **Safflower**
- **Canola**
- **Mustard Seed**
- **Rapeseed**
- **Sudan & Sorghum-Sudan Crosses**

# Row Crops, cont. (varies by state)

- Flue Cured Tobacco
- Dark Fire Cured Tobacco
- Burley Tobacco
- Dark Air Cured Tobacco
- Pennsylvania Type Tobacco
- Maryland Type Tobacco
- Other Tobacco

# Survey Questions

- First crop asked: **Corn** (for most states)
- Can be several questions about corn.
- Acres **planted** for *all* purposes
  - Includes grain, seed, silage, grazed off, or abandoned

# Corn - continued

- **All states that ask about corn** will ask corn acres harvested for **grain** and acres harvested for **seed** in *separate questions*.
  - Acres **harvested**/to be harvested
    - Total **production** OR **yield** per acre
      - NY & PA ONLY: additional questions about high moisture shelled corn and ground high moisture ear corn
  - Acres **cut for silage**
    - Total silage **production** OR **yield** per acre
  - Acres for **all other purposes**
    - Includes grazed off, abandoned, or any other purpose

**Corn harvested for grain** – We are looking for *all* corn harvested other than for *seed* or *silage*. The end use does not matter. Can be used for livestock feed, corn starch, corn syrup, ethanol, pet food, etc.

**Corn harvested for seed** – Seed corn typically yields much less than regular field corn. Seed companies usually pay the farmers based on an adjusted production or yield to compensate for this. Be mindful of this because the farmer might try to report his “settlement account bushels” instead of his actual total production or his “payment” yield instead of the actual yield.

e. Acres harvested and to be harvested for seed corn?

Acres

398

f. Total seed corn production? (Report actual total production. Do not report the settlement account bushels.)

Bushels

399

or

g. Yield per acre harvested for seed corn? (Report the actual yield per acre. Do not report the payment yield.)

Bu/Ac

391



# Survey Questions, cont.

- Other Row Crops: Continue to ask the same basic questions for each crop:
  - Acres **planted** for *all purposes*
  - Acres **harvested** and to be harvested
  - Total **production** OR **yield** per acre
  - Acres for **all other purposes**
    - Select crops only

# More Things to Remember

- Extremely low yields:
  - Be sure to verify harvested acres
    - Could be a case where only a few acres were actually harvested to prove yields for insurance purposes.
      - In this situation you would only have a few “harvested acres” reported and then the rest would fall under “acres for all other purposes”
      - Please leave notes any time there are “acres for all other purposes”.
        - » What happened to them? Why were they not harvested? What were they used for?

# Still More Things to Remember

- Grain Sorghum is often referred to as “milo”
- Forage Sorghum may be called “cane”
  - Cane Hay is reported in both the Sorghum planted section and Other Hay harvested
- If a producer says they grow “beans”, be sure to specify if that means “soybeans” or “dry edible beans”



# Dry Edible Beans, Dry Edible Peas, and Lentils

- Dry Edible Beans, Dry Edible Peas, and Lentils can be challenging to get into the correct categories
  - If any of the above are reported please verify with the operator
  - There are several classes of Dry Edible Beans
    - Please leave a note as to which classes were planted if possible

# Major Classes of Dry Edible Beans

- Black (a.k.a. Turtle)
- Blackeye (a.k.a. Pinkeye or Cow)
- Chickpeas, All (Garbanzo)
  - Small Chickpeas (Garbanzo, smaller than 20/64 in)
  - Large Chickpeas (Garbanzo, larger than 20/64 in)
- Cranberry (a.k.a. October)
- Great Northern
- Dark Red Kidney
- Light Red Kidney
- Large Lima (CA only)
- Baby Lima (CA only)
- Navy (a.k.a. Pea)
- Pink
- Pinto
- Small Red
- Small White
- Other:
  - Adzuki
  - Anasazi
  - Fava
  - Jacobs Cattle Bean
  - Lupine
  - Myohte
  - Tebo
  - White Adzuki
  - White Kidney
  - Yellow Eye

# Hay/Forage Crops

- Depending on the state, either:
  - **Dry hay** harvested ONLY
  - OR **dry hay** AND **haylage** harvested
- For (varies by state):
  1. Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures
  2. Small Grain Hay/Forage
  3. All Other Hay/Forage
  4. Alfalfa for seed

# Hay/Forage Crops

- Remember:
  - Dry hay is dried (16-18% moisture) and baled
  - Haylage and/or baleage (hay for silage) is wet (50-70% moisture), chopped and fermented
  - Since haylage is wetter, yields are typically higher
    - For alfalfa: 5 - 13 tons/acre compared to 1.5 - 9 tons per acre for dry hay (approximately)
  - These acres can be cut multiple times
    - May harvest the same acres for dry hay AND haylage

# Hay/Forage Crops

- Acres **cut for dry hay**
- Dry hay **production OR yield**
  - TOTAL for all dry hay cuttings: tons, tons per acre, bales, bales per acre
    - Bale weight is VERY important
    - Bales per acre includes a decimal point now!
- Acres **cut for haylage/greenchop** (select states)
- Haylage/greenchop **production OR yield** (select states)
- **MT only:** Alfalfa harvested for Seed
  - Acres and Yield of clean Seed
  - Irrigated and Non-Irrigated
  - Usage of Leaf Cutter Bees for seed production

# Additional Questions

- **Hay stocks** on December 1
- **Alfalfa seedings** in 2022
- **Small Grains** for 2023 crop year
  - *For any purpose*
    - Winter Wheat
    - Other Spring Wheat
    - Durum Wheat
    - Barley
    - Rye
  - Be sure the operator understands we are asking for plantings/seedings this fall for the **2023** crop year

# Storage Capacity/Crops Stored

- **Storage capacity** on the total acres operated
  - “On farm” ONLY
    - Exclude: storage capacity “in town” or “at the elevator”
- Whole grains or oilseeds **stored** *on the operation*
- Regardless of:
  - Crop year produced
  - Ownership, intended final use, or government program
    - ANY stocks *on the operation* must be collected
- If a respondent can't or won't give you the amount stored:
  - Try to determine at least what commodities are on hand
    - Record “Don't know” for the commodities on hand
    - And “Zero” for all others
- Be sure to *exclude* any grain stored off the operation

# Storage Capacity/Crops Stored

## Items vary by state

- Whole Grain Corn
- Soybeans
- Sorghum Grain (Milo)
- Wheat (all types)
- Winter Wheat
- Durum Wheat
- (Other) Spring Wheat
- Barley
- Oats
- Small Chickpeas
- Large Chickpeas
- Dry Edible Peas
- Lentils
- Rice
  - Long, Medium, Short grain



# Additional Questions

- Any unharvested crops on December 1?
  - For the 2022 crop year
  - That will be harvested
    - In Section 2, we ask “...harvested *and to be* harvested”
  - Acres and expected yield for (varies by state):
    - Corn
    - Soybean
    - Sorghum
  - Was this production included in the grain in storage?
    - Yes/No

# Things to watch out for:

- Large acreages
  - Rented, Total, Cropland, or a specific crop
- Change in acreage
  - Total, cropland, specific crops
- Large number of acres not for grain or seed
- High/Low yields
- Large number of acres for all other purposes
- Acres planted must equal:
  - Acres harvested + acres for other purposes
- Potential double cropping
- Change in grain storage capacity
- Large amount of a specific crop stored

# From the RFOs

- Notes about phone numbers being out of service need to state the actual number.

Example:

- “ph2 NIS” **BAD**
  - “123-456-7890 NIS” **GOOD**
- If the operator is deceased, this is a complete report NOT a refusal or inaccessible. Please try to find out who has taken over the operation.

# From the RFOs

- Hay – don't forget the new decimal point on hay bales/acre on all three types of hay. The trailing digit is important!
- Report bale shape/size/weight (4x5 round bale, etc.)

# From the RFOs

- Temporary Storage:
  - Not included in Storage Capacity question (Sect. 3 #1)
  - IS included in crops on hand/stored on operation (question #2)
  - If using temporary storage methods, operator might report having more grain stored than they have storage capacity. This is OK, but make a note about what kind of temporary storage used

# From the RFOs

- For grain stored and storage capacity, we only want to know about whole grains.
- For operations with livestock, it would be very helpful to confirm that the grain is actually whole (not rolled, cracked, sweetened, mixed with other grains, etc).
- Often, dairies will not store whole grains, only store processed grains for feed.

# Reluctant Responses

- “What’s in it for me? I don’t even use the USDA data—how will reporting this help *me*?”
  - By reporting, you allow us to accurately reflect your area’s planted, harvested, and production levels, which can then be used by a variety of people.
    - For example, other USDA agencies use NASS data to help administer their programs, local extension agents use it for crop recommendations, and local ag businesses use it for ordering supplies.

# Reluctant Respondants

- “Wait—I think I reported all this to my FSA Office”
  - We are actually asking different information than what FSA collects. This survey does ask about planted acres, but we will also be asking about your acres harvested, yields and grain in storage
- “It was a good year, everybody around here had excellent yields. What more do you need to know?”
  - Given how weather conditions have affected crops differently this year in different areas of the country, your operation’s information is more important than ever.



# In Conclusion:

- When in doubt, comment it out!
  - The “extra” information that you include is *key* to the accuracy of NASS estimates
  - Any acres for other purposes
- Be sure to work through a few practices on your iPad...before interviewing!
- Contact your supervisor/local office for any questions specific to your area