

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**  
Agricultural Survey – December 1, 2022

The “day to day decisions” question and partner information is very important. Correct information here is key to accurately summarizing the data

Just like the CAPS survey, principal county information ensures that the data is allocated to wherever the bulk of the value of production occurs. We use the information on the December APS for both state and county level estimates

Collecting crop data on:

Acres planted (for all purposes)

Acres harvested

Production OR yield per acre

Acres for all other purposes

For a wide variety of row crops. Commodities asked varies by state

For hay/forage crops we are looking for:

Acres harvested

Production OR yield per acre

Across several different types of hay/forage crops, which again varies by state

You *may* encounter growers with none of the survey commodities—that’s OK. A “zero” is still a valid report and useful information

Make sure to capture all of the acres that were actually planted. We need to know the “starting” number in order to accurately measure what actually happened over the growing season

If production/yield is unknown, probe to get as much information as possible and record in a note: how big of a bin did it fill; was it better/worse/the same as last year; etc.

If ‘harvested for silage’ is asked separately from ‘harvested for grain’ be sure to record correctly

Capture any other acres planted but not harvested (flooded, droughted out, planted but then replanted to another crop, etc). Record the acres planted and then the acres for all other purposes. If a crop was harvested for silage and silage information is not asked separately for that crop, record those acres in the all other purposes category. Include a note stating what the “other purpose” of the crop was, i.e. silage, grazed off, abandoned, etc.

Watch out for “beans” and make sure you know whether they are soybeans, green beans, or dry edible beans and that the information is recorded correctly.

For many states, we are collecting information on dry hay *and* haylage in the hay/forage questions. Record acres only once regardless of number of times harvested. Record production/yield for all cuttings of both dry hay and haylage (if applicable). Don’t confuse small grain hay with straw

If dry hay yields seem very high, verify that the producer is reporting dry hay only and not some combination of dry hay and haylage.

Small grain seedings refer to crops planted *this* fall. Make sure to include any cover crops, crops that will be grazed, etc. in the small grains seedings

Exclude any storage capacity/grain stored in rented or leased space in commercial elevators. Make sure to include *only* whole grains or oilseeds (exclude any storage used for ground or cracked corn, corn silage, or roasted soybeans)

*All* whole grains or oilseeds stored on the operation (regardless of crop year, end use, etc) should be reported on the survey

If the producer tells he has stocks for a commodity but refuses or doesn't know the amount, make sure to leave a note. Knowing the presence of that commodity on the operation is useful information

Farmers may report grain storage structure sizes in dimensions, rather than bushels. Make a note of the dimensions so that volume can be estimated

If stocks are reported in tons (where the typical unit of measure is bushels or pounds) verify that it is not silage or something other than whole grain in storage.

Statisticians value any extra information you can provide. Make sure to leave notes for any high or low yields; large portion of acres planted not harvested/used for other purposes; odd situations; large changes; etc.

## RFO Notes

**Northeast:** It is common for respondents to report corn for silage in Northeastern States. Please keep this in mind when asking grain-specific questions such as corn production, storage capacity and corn stocks.

Portions of the Northeast experienced drought during the summer and early fall, with the New England region being particularly pronounced.

**Southern:** Any issues operators may currently be facing (regulatory, marketing, disease, weather, etc)

- **Alabama:** According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of October 27, 22.35 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 70.28 percent 3 months ago. The entire state received some rain the past week, with the southwestern region of the state receiving the most. However, the rainfall was not significant enough in most of the state to improve continuing drought conditions. Temperatures were noted to be warmer than usual this time of the year.
- **Florida:** As of October 3, Hurricane Ian caused significant damage to much of the state and its agriculture, with the worst damage along a line from Sarasota to Daytona Beach. Some areas received over 20 inches of rain, causing field flooding, crop, livestock, and structural damage. In preparation for the hurricane, many operators harvested what

they could before the storm arrived which included peanuts digging and harvesting. Cotton bolls opening and harvest also continued to progress rapidly in areas not impacted by the hurricane.

- **Florida:** According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of October 27, 67.44 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 93.33 percent 3 months ago. Most of the state received very little rain the past week, with drought conditions continuing in the northern region of the state. Fruit and vegetable planting and harvest continued to progress after recovering from Hurricane Ian. The districts affected by Hurricane Ian were in Districts 50, mid Florida and District 80, south Florida. Areas in the pan handle was not as affected as the southwest to northeast Florida.
- **Georgia:** According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of October 27, 32.03 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 56.44 percent 3 months ago. Scattered showers helped alleviate dry conditions in some parts of the state, although many areas were still dealing with inadequate soil moisture levels. The dry conditions created ideal conditions for harvesting cotton, peanuts, soybeans, and pecans however it also made planting winter forages and grains very difficult.
- **South Carolina:** According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of October 27, 54.21 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 77.58 percent 3 months ago. Scattered showers helped alleviate dry conditions in some parts of the state, although many areas were still dealing with inadequate soil moisture levels. The dry conditions created ideal conditions for harvesting cotton, peanuts, soybeans, and pecans however it also made planting winter forages and grains very difficult.
- Any other items you want the enumerators to be aware of before contacting producers in your region.
  - Reminder that this is the end to year data collection, and we would like for the enumerators to make sure they don't leave yield and production unanswered. Much of what is going to be collected with be used for county estimates purposes and coverage on harvested and production is extremely important.
  - Be sensitive on phoning Florida areas affected by the hurricane districts.