



## County Agricultural Production Survey - CAPS Row Crops Training Materials



Below you will find links to a video, PowerPoint presentation, survey information sheet, and practice interviews for NASS's County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) for Row Crops. The practice interviews can be used to enter data in CAPI or Blaise to get familiar with those data collection instruments.

<b>Links</b>	<b>Length (slides/pages)</b>
<a href="#"><u>CAPS – Row Crops Training Video</u></a>	<u>21</u>
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# County Agricultural Production Survey: Row Crops



**United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service**

**Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section**



# How Will The Data Be Used?

- County yield data resulting from this survey will be used by USDA for various programs including those administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).



# General Survey Information

- Project Code: **190 - Cty Est Row Crops**
- Questionnaires:
  - Tier 1 states mail early October
  - Tier 2 states mail out mid November
  - Online reporting option available
- Releases:
  - State level estimates: January, *Crop Production-Annual*
  - County level estimates: Start in Mid-February



NASS website: [www.nass.usda.gov/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/)

# Introduction



- Questions used to determine:
  - Name and address verification
  - If the operation has any of the items of interest (crops, cropland, stocks, storage capacity, etc)
  - Operation structure

4. Are the day-to-day decisions for this operation made by one individual, a hired manager, or partners? (Check one)

- One individual - Go to Section 1 on Page 3
- A hired manager - Go to Section 1 on Page 3
- Partners - Continue

# Acres Operated



- Asks about:
  - Acres **owned**
  - Acres **rented from** others or used rent free (+)
    - Include land rented from others on a cash per acre, share crop, or free basis
  - Acres **rented 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
- **County** where the largest value of agriculture was raised or produced?



# Row Crops (varies by state)

Corn	Rice	Sudan and Sorghum Sudan Crosses
Dry Beans	Chickpeas	Alfalfa Hay
Sorghum	Sunflowers – Oil Variety	Other Hay
Soybeans	Dry Peas	Small Grain Hay
Upland Cotton	Pima Cotton	
Canola	Lentils	
Peanuts	Flaxseed	



# 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

- Corn acres harvested for **grain** and then corn acres harvested for **seed** in *separate questions*.
  - Acres **harvested and to be harvested**
    - Total **production OR yield** per acre
- Acres **cut for silage**
  - Total silage **production OR yield** per acre
- Acres for **all other purposes** (leave notes)
  - Includes grazed off, abandoned, or any other purpose
    - May have been acres that flooded out, were ruined by drought, etc.



**Be sure to account for all planted acres**



**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 yield to compensate for this. Be mindful of this because the farmer might try to report his “adjusted” or “payment” yield instead of the **actual** yield. Sometimes called “settlement account bushels”



- **Corn for silage** – Silage is made by chopping up the entire corn stalk, including the ears, packing in a silo or bunker and allowing to ferment. Silage is a popular forage for ruminant animals because it is high in energy and is easily digested.

Typically reported  
in tons/acre



# 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

# Other Tidbits to Know

- Yield for irrigated acres will typically be higher than for non-irrigated acres
  - If the operator cannot give you a combined yield for all his acres leave a note with the number of acres and yield of both irrigated and non-irrigated acres of each crop
- Non-irrigated crop acres may also be referred to as “dryland”
  - For example: non-irrigated corn may be called “dryland corn”

# Other Tidbits to Know

- 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 in this situation

# Other Tidbits to Know

- 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 verify if that means “soybeans” or “dry edible beans”



# Things to Watch Out For

- Large acreages
- Large number of acres not for grain or seed
  - Can be possible if cut for silage, abandoned, etc.
- Low/High yields
- Hay acres not included in cropland
- Harvested acres cannot be greater than planted

# Reluctant Respondents

- “Can’t you just get this from the 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
- “I lost my entire crop, so I have nothing to report.”
  - Given how weather conditions have affected crops this year, reporting your operation’s information is more important than ever.

# Reluctant Respondents

- “Why should I report my farm’s information?”
  - That’s a great question. By reporting information about your farm, you allow us to accurately estimate your county’s planted, harvested, and production levels, which are then used by a variety of people.



# Other Notes:

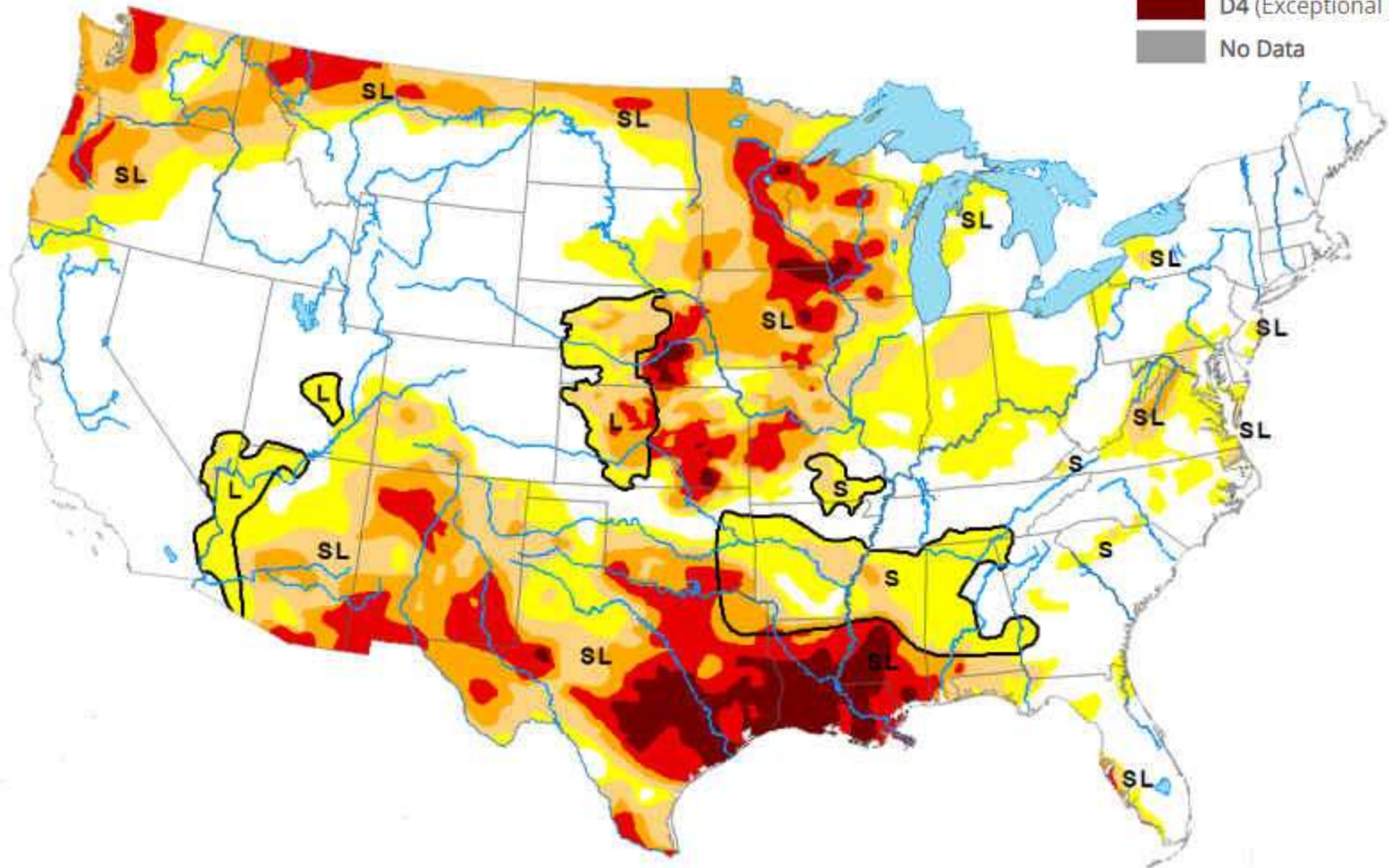
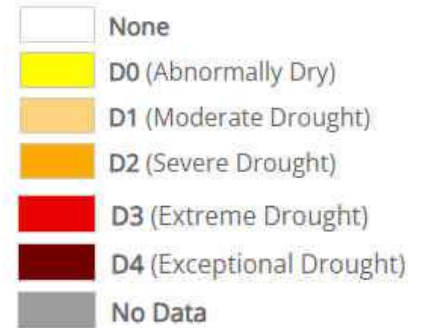
- If crops are abandoned in the field, they still need to be reported as planted.
  - The unharvested crops should then be reported as ‘all other purposes’.
  - Some operators might report having no crops when in reality crops were abandoned. Double check to confirm no row crops.

# Drought Map

Map released: September 21, 2023

Data valid: September 19, 2023

## Intensity and Impacts



# Conclusion



- Write notes/comments
  - Encounter anything odd or unexpected
  - Low or high yields
  - Acres for other purposes
  - Any doubt, comment it out
    - This “extra information” is very important for the county level estimates
- Contact your Supervisor for any questions
- Practice before interviewing

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## EXTRA INFORMATION: County Agricultural Production Survey Row Crops

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

Principal county information ensures that the data is allocated to wherever the bulk of the value of production occurs

Collecting crop data on:

- Acres planted
- Acres harvested
- Production OR yield per acre
- Acres for all other purposes

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

Corn harvested for grain and corn harvested for seed are asked in two separate questions. Be sure yield for seed is given as actual yield and not a converted yield for payment purposes as yield for seed is typically much lower than the yield for grain.

For dry hay crops we are looking for:

- Acres harvested
- Production OR yield per acre

Across several different types of dry hay (not haylage, silage, or baleage), 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. This doesn't mean the operation is ‘out of business’.

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.

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”. **Please leave notes for “acres for all other purposes” as to what these acres were used for or why they were not harvested.**

If drought is prevalent, some operators might report having no crops when in reality crops were planted but then later abandoned. Double check to confirm no row crops.



We are *only* looking for dry hay in the hay questions (hay questions are only asked in a few states). Record acres only once regardless of number of times harvested. Record production/yield for all cuttings. Acres and production of haylage should be excluded (unless specifically asked in that state). Don't confuse small grain hay with straw. Straw should not be reported.

Make sure to leave notes for any high or low yields; large portion of acres planted not harvested/used for other purposes; etc.

The impact of mistakes is greater when making county-level estimates versus state or national level. Therefore, careful interviewing and recording of data are crucial to the success of the CAPS survey program. As are your comments!



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## County Agricultural Production Survey (CAPS) - Row Crops Practice Interviews

The crops listed in these practice exercises will not apply to all states, so you may need to substitute other crops as needed. Also, code a record as Out-of-business to get familiar with the screening questions.

### Practice Interview 1

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone number that I have for the operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**

For the total acres you operate, will you grow any crops or cut hay in 20XX? **Yes**

Are the day-to-day decisions for this operation made by: an individual operator, partners, or a hired manager? **Individual**

In 20XX, how many acres did this operation own? **200**

In 20XX, how many acres did this operation rent, lease (from others), or use rent free? **100**

In 20XX, how many acres did this operation rent to others? **0**

Then the total acres operated in 20XX, was 300. Is that correct? **Yes**

Do the 300 acres include the farmstead, all cropland, woodland, pastureland, wasteland, and government program land? **Yes**

Of the total 300 acres operated, how many acres are considered cropland, including land in hay, summer fallow, cropland idle, cropland used for pasture, and cropland in government programs? **275**



In what state is the largest value of your agricultural products raised or produced?

**Whatever State is listed or whatever state you are working in**

In what county was the largest value of your agricultural products raised or produced?

**Whatever County is listed or whatever county you are working in**

How many acres did you have in Whatever County? **300**

How many acres of corn were planted for all purposes? **50**

How many acres of corn were harvested or will be harvested for grain? **15**

What was the amount of corn produced for grain? **165 bu/ac**

How many acres of corn were harvested or will be harvested for seed? **0**

How many acres of corn were cut or will be cut for silage? **33**

What was the amount of corn silage produced? **561 tons**

How many acres of corn were for all other purposes, including abandonment? **2**

How many acres of soybeans were planted for all purposes? **45**

How many acres of soybeans were harvested or will be harvested for beans? **45**

What was the amount of soybeans produced? **46 bu/ac**

How many acres of upland cotton were planted? **35**

How many acres of upland cotton were harvested or will be harvested? **35**

What was the amount of upland cotton produced? **1 and a half bales per acre**

Did you grow any rice in 20XX on land you operate? **No**

Did you cut any alfalfa, grain, or other hay for dry hay? **Yes**

How many acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures were cut for dry hay? **65**

What was the amount of dry hay produced? **4200 bales**

What was the average weight of one bale in pounds? **65**

How many more bales of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures were harvested? **0**

How many acres of small grain hay were cut for dry hay? **0**

How many acres of all other hay were cut for dry hay? **60**

What was the amount of dry hay produced? **160 bales**

What was the average weight of one bale in pounds? **750**

How many more bales of other hay were harvested? **134 bales**

What was the average weight of one bale in pounds? **450**

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another operation? **No**

Would you like a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**



## Practice Interview 2

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone number that I have for the operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**

For the total acres you operate, will you grow any crops or cut hay in 20XX? **Yes**

Are the day-to-day decisions for this operation made by: an individual operator, partners, or a hired manager? **Individual**

In 20XX, how many acres did this operation own? **3,100**

In 20XX, how many acres did this operation rent, lease (from others), or use rent free? **700**

In 20XX, how many acres did this operation rent to others? **0**

Then the total acres operated in 20XX, was 3,800. Is that correct? **Yes**

Do the 3,800 acres include the farmstead, all cropland, woodland, pastureland, wasteland, and government program land? **Yes**

Of the total 3,800 acres operated, how many acres are considered cropland, including land in hay, summer fallow, cropland idle, cropland used for pasture, and cropland in government programs? **3,600**

In what state is the largest value of your agricultural products raised or produced?

**Whatever State is listed or whatever state you are working in**

In what county was the largest value of your agricultural products raised or produced?

**Whatever County is listed or whatever county you are working in**

How many acres did you have in Whatever County? **2,700**

How many acres of corn were planted for all purposes? **1,750**

How many acres of corn were harvested or will be harvested for grain? **1,000**

What was the amount of corn produced for grain? **275 bu/ac**

**Leave a note (We had an exceptional year for corn. We got rains just when we needed them.)**

How many acres of corn were harvested or will be harvested for seed? **676**

What was the amount of corn produced for seed? **75 bu/ac**

How many acres of corn were cut or will be cut for silage? **0**

How many acres of corn were for all other purposes, including abandonment? **74**

**Leave a note (74 acres flooded out along the creek)**



How many acres of soybeans were planted for all purposes? **975**

How many acres of soybeans were harvested or will be harvested for beans? **975**

What was the amount of soybeans produced? **49,725 bushels**

How many acres of upland cotton were planted? **850**

How many acres of upland cotton were harvested or will be harvested? **825**

What was the amount of upland cotton produced? **1,650 bales**

Did you grow any rice in 20XX on land you operate? **No**

Did you cut any alfalfa, grain, or other hay for dry hay? **No**

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another operation? **No**

Would you like a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**



### Practice Interview 3

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone number that I have for the operation. Is this information correct? **Yes**

For the total acres you operate, will you grow any crops or cut hay in 20XX? **Yes**

Are the day-to-day decisions for this operation made by: an individual operator, partners, or a hired manager? **Individual**

In 20XX, how many acres did this operation own? **2,200**

In 20XX, how many acres did this operation rent, lease (from others), or use rent free?  
**0**

In 20XX, how many acres did this operation rent to others? **500**

Then the total acres operated in 20XX, was 1,700. Is that correct? **Yes**

Do the 1,700 acres include the farmstead, all cropland, woodland, pastureland, wasteland, and government program land? **Yes**

Of the total 1,700 acres operated, how many acres are considered cropland, including land in hay, summer fallow, cropland idle, cropland used for pasture, and cropland in government programs? **1,500**





In what state is the largest value of your agricultural products raised or produced?

**Whatever State is listed or whatever state you are working in**

In what county was the largest value of your agricultural products raised or produced?

**Whatever County is listed or whatever county you are working in**

How many acres did you have in Whatever County? **1,700**

How many acres of corn were planted for all purposes? **0**

How many acres of soybeans were planted for all purposes? **150**

How many acres of soybeans were harvested or will be harvested for beans? **100**

What was the amount of soybeans produced? **4,650 bushels**

How many acres soybeans were for all other purposes, including abandonment? **50**

**Leave a note explaining the “acres for all other purposes” – “Planted them after harvesting wheat, but due to dry July very few of the beans came up.”**

How many acres of upland cotton were planted? **0**



Did you grow any rice in 20XX on land you operate? **Yes**

How many acres of long grain rice were planted? **400**

How many acres of long grain rice were harvested or will be harvested? **400**

What was the amount of long grain rice produced (including second cutting)? **7,000 lbs/ac**

Was the 7,000 lbs/ac reported in green weight or dry weight? **Green**

How many acres of medium grain rice were planted? **400**

**Leave a note – Farmer stated he “upped the medium grain acreage this year, trying to fill a niche demand”**

How many acres of medium grain rice were harvested or will be harvested? **400**

What was the amount of medium grain rice produced (including second cutting)? **2,680,000 pounds**

Was the 2,680,000 pounds reported in green weight or dry weight? **Dry weight**

How many acres of short grain rice were planted? **0**

Did you cut any alfalfa, grain, or other hay for dry hay? **No**

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another operation? **No**

Would you like a brief summary emailed to you at a later date? **No**