

June Agricultural Survey Training Materials



Below you will find links to videos, PowerPoint presentations, survey extra information sheets, and practice interviews for NASS's June Agricultural Survey. The practice interviews can be used to enter data in Blaise or CAPI to get familiar with those data collection instruments.



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NASS Survey Training

June

Agricultural Production Survey (APS) Overview



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

A Presentation by the Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section



General Survey Information

- Project Code: **123 - June Crops/Stocks Survey**
- Questionnaires:
 - Mail out around May 20th
 - Web reporting instructions included
- Releases:
 - *Acreage*
 - *Grain Stocks*
 - *Typically released the last few days of June*
 - *On the NASS website: <https://www.nass.usda.gov/>*



Key Items

- The survey asks:
 - Small Grains: acres **planted** and acres to be **harvested**
 - Row Crops: acres **planted** and to be planted
 - Forage Crops: acres cut **for dry hay**
 - Genetically Modified/Genetically Engineered Seed Use
 - **Storage Capacity** and **Grain in Storage**
 - Value of Sales

Why is this important?

- NASS reports help to create a level playing field for everyone involved in agriculture
- Producers use the data to make crucial decisions for their operations
- Agribusinesses use the information to evaluate export potential
- Government agencies at various levels are important users of NASS statistics
- Universities, extension agents, private and government economists, the farm media and others use the data to identify and analyze emerging issues and trends such as the growth in biotech acres

Additional Survey Information: Interviewer's Manual

- Chapter 8
 - Completing the interview: screening questions; operation description; changes in operator
- Chapter 9
 - Acres operated; types of land (include/exclude); recording rules for crops; specific crop details
- Chapter 10
 - Grain and oilseeds in storage; hay stocks
- Chapter 17
 - Previously reported data
 - How to handle changes: screening questions; operation description; changes in operator

Out of Business

- If operation didn't have any agricultural production or land
 - Carefully go through the screening questions so we can accurately update our records
 - Leave good notes about the situation
 - What happened? New operator? Any other info?



Section 1-Acres Operated

- Asks about:
 - Acres **owned**
 - Acres **rented from** others or used rent free (+)
 - Acres **rented to** others (-)
- Total Acres (=)
- Acres used on a fee per-head or animal unit month (AUM) basis
- Of the total acres how much is **cropland**?

Section 2-Crops: Small Grains

(varies by State)

- You will be collecting information about:
 - Wheat (Winter, Durum, and/or Other Spring)
 - Barley
 - Oats
 - Rye



Section 2-Crops: Small Grains

- For each small grain crop, asking:
 - Acres **planted** for all purposes (includes grain or seed, cover crop, nurse crop, grazed off, cut for hay/haylage, abandoned)
 - Acres **left** to be planted (for selected crops)
 - **AND** acres to be **harvested for grain or seed**
 - Leave a note for any acres not harvested



Crops: Row Crops

(varies by State)

- **Corn**
- **Sorghum**
- **Soybeans**
- **Upland Cotton**
- **Pima Cotton**
- **Peanuts**



- **Rice:**
 - Long Grain
 - Medium Grain
 - Short Grain
- **Potatoes:**
 - Reds & Blues
 - Yellows
 - Whites
 - Russets & Others



Crops: Row Crops

(varies by State)

- **Dry Edible Beans:**
- **Chickpeas**
 - Small and large
- **Dry Edible Peas**
 - Includes Austrian winter peas and wrinkled seed peas
- **Lentils**
- **Sweet Potatoes**
- **Sunflowers:**
 - Oil varieties
 - Non-oil varieties
- **Canola** →
- **Flaxseed**



- **Tobacco:**
 - Burley
 - Dark Fire-Cured
 - Dark Air-Cured
 - Flue-Cured
 - Pennsylvania Type
 - Maryland Type
- **Safflower** →
- **Rapeseed**
- **Mustard Seed**
- **Proso Millet**
- **Sugarbeets** →
- **Sugarcane**





Crops: Row Crops



- Row crop questions for corn and sorghum:
 - **Planted** acres
 - **AND** acres to be **harvested** for either **grain or seed**
- For the remaining row crops, we ask only about **planted** acres
 - Any acres that were planted and then abandoned or destroyed should still be recorded as planted.

Section 2-Crops: Row Crops

- Dry Edible Beans, Dry Edible Peas, and Lentils can be challenging to get into the correct categories



Crops: Tillage Questions

- **Tennessee only:**
 - Additional tillage questions for Winter Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, and Upland Cotton:
 - Of the planted acres of these crops how much was:
 - No till
 - Minimum tillage
 - Conventional tillage
 - **NOTE:** Planted acres *must* equal the sum of tillage method acres

Section 2-Crops: Dry Hay

- Forage questions ask about acres of **dry hay** to be harvested
 - Acres cut and to be cut for **dry hay**
 - *Exclude* acres which will only be cut for haylage, greenchop, or straw
- Dry hay crops broken out by:
 - Alfalfa Hay & Alfalfa Mixtures
 - Small Grain Hay
 - All Other Hay



“All Other Hay” Varieties

- Lespedeza [les-pa-dee-zuh]
- Sudan
- Sorghum-Sudan Crosses
- Sudan Crosses
- Birdsfoot Trefoil [tree-foil]
- Ryegrass
- Fescue
- Tall Fescue
- Bermuda
- Timothy
- Pasture Land Cut for Hay
- Orchard Grass
- Grass Hay
- Brome Grass
- Clover
- Clover and Clover Mixtures
- Clover and Grass Mixtures
- Red Clover and Clover Mixtures
- Other Tame and Wild Hays
- Peanut
- Meadows Cut for Hay

Section 2-Crops

- How many acres of new alfalfa or alfalfa mixtures have been or will be seeded this crop year?
- Acres that will be double cropped this cropping season



Section 2a-Genetically Modified/Genetically Engineered (GMO/GE) Seed Use

- To help the USDA and the agricultural industry measure and evaluate the use of biotechnology, NASS estimates corn, soybean and cotton acreage planted with biotech seed varieties

Section 2a-Genetically Modified/Genetically Engineered (GMO/GE) Seed Use

- Seed Traits:
 1. **Bt varieties** have insecticidal proteins which provides protection from damaging insects.
 2. **Herbicide resistant varieties** provide resistance to certain herbicides (such as glyphosate – the active ingredient in Round-Up) which would normally harm the plant.
 3. **Stacked varieties** have both Bt and herbicide resistance.

Modified/Genetically Engineered (GMO/GE) Seed Use

- Corn and/or Cotton acres planted/to be planted with:
 - Stacked gene varieties (combination)
 - Bt only varieties
 - Herbicide resistant only varieties
- Soybean acres planted/to be planted with:
 - Herbicide resistant only varieties
- **You cannot have more acreage reported in section 2a than you did in section 2.**

Section 3-Storage Capacity and Grains Stored

- Asks questions about any storage facilities normally used to store grain **on the operation**, and if they had any grain or oilseeds in storage **on the operation**
- Grain storage capacity usually remains fairly consistent
 - Leave notes if changes have been made
 - Examples: built more grain bins, quit renting a farm that had grain bins, etc.



Section 3-Storage Capacity and Grains Stored

- Grains/oilseeds stored will vary by state.
- The last question for some states will ask if any of the reported stocks were harvested during the current crop year.
 - These need to be excluded
 - Watch for any wheat that may have already been harvested
- Be sure respondent is reporting stocks in the units asked on the survey (bushels, CWT, barrels, etc.)



Section 3-Storage Capacity and Grains Stored (2)

- Sometimes respondents are hesitant to answer the stocks section or are unsure of the amounts stored.
- If a respondent won't/can't give you the amount stored:
 - See if they would be willing to just tell you what commodities are on hand.
 - Record “Don't know” for the commodities on hand and “Zero” for all others

Section 4-Value of Sales

- Question 1 asks respondents to give their previous year's total gross value of sales.
 - If “None” or “Less than \$1000” reported:
 - Routed into the point section
 - Collect information on all the ag activity on the operation
- Question 2 asks which category represents the largest portion of the gross income reported.
 - You can only choose one category

Things to Watch Out For

- Extremely large acreages
- Small portion of acreage harvested for grain or seed
- Double or triple counting GM varieties when they should only be reported under “Stacked Gene”
- Large changes in grain storage capacity
- Large amount of grain in storage



Reluctant Respondents

- “Prices go down every time one of these reports come out!”
 - You are right to be concerned about prices. And while prices can fluctuate, historically they tend to go up about as often as they go down after NASS reports are released. The information you and other producers provide actually helps stabilize markets and minimizes price volatility.



Reluctant Respondents (2)

- “Crop reports only help large companies.”
 - I understand why you might feel that way. If unbiased reports are not made by us, farmers would be at the mercy of large companies. These companies and private forecasters make their own estimates, but our reports help keep them honest. And, our reports are released to the media and other data users at the same time, so no one has advance access to the data.

Conclusion

- One of our most important surveys of the year
- Leave good notes
- Get familiar with the questions BEFORE interviewing!
- Contact your supervisor with any questions or concerns

Thanks for all of your hard work. Have a great June!

June Agricultural Survey Extra Information

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

Collecting crop data on:

- Acres planted (for all purposes)
- Acres left to be planted (only for selected crops)
- Acres to be harvested for grain or seed (*only* for small grains, corn, sorghum)
- Acres double cropped in the current year

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

For hay crops we are looking for:

Acres harvested for dry hay (not haylage or baleage)

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

New alfalfa seedings

GM/GE crop data on:

- Corn: stacked gene or herbicide resistant and/or BT only
- Soybean: herbicide resistant
- Cotton: stacked gene or herbicide resistant and/or BT only

Only report stacked gene if they report both herbicide resistant and BT variety combined.

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 planted or will be planted. We need to know the “starting” number in order to accurately measure what actually happens over the growing season

We are only collecting information on acres to be cut for dry hay. Record acres only once regardless of expected number of cuttings. Don’t confuse small grain hay with straw

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)

Whole grains or oilseeds from the 2022 crop and earlier stored on the operation should be reported on the June QAS. Anything harvested from the 2023 crop year must be excluded

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!



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June Agricultural Survey Practice Interviews

Practice interviews are based on the Missouri survey version. Most of the questions will apply to most other states. If not, omit/alter as needed.

Practice Exercise 1

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone number that I have for this 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: **Individual Operator**

On June, 1, how many acres did this operation own? **1500**

On June 1, how many acres did this operation rent or lease from others or use rent free? **200**

On June 1, how many acres did this operation rent to others? **50**

Then the total acres operated on June 1, was 1650. Is that correct? **Yes**

Do the 1650 acres include the farmstead, all cropland, woodland, pastureland, wasteland, and government program land? **Yes**

How many acres did this operation use on a fee per-head or animal unit month basis? **0**

Of the total 1650 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? **1550**



How many acres of winter wheat were planted for all purposes last fall or this spring for the 20XX crop year? **80**

How many acres of winter wheat were harvested or will be harvested for either grain or seed? **80**

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

How many acres of corn have been planted or will be planted for all purposes? **800**

How many acres of corn will be harvested for either grain or seed? **800**

How many acres of soybeans have been planted or will be planted for all purposes? **325**

How many acres of upland cotton have been planted or will be planted? **50**

Did you plant or will you plant any rice in 20XX? **No**

Will you cut any alfalfa, grain or other hay for dry hay in 20XX? **Yes**

How many acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures will be cut for dry hay? **125**

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

How many acres of all other hay will be cut for dry hay? **0**

How many acres of alfalfa or alfalfa mixtures have been or will be seeded during 20XX? **10**



How many acres will be double cropped in 20XX? **75**

How many of the 800 acres of corn, were or will be planted with a genetically modified/engineered stacked gene variety? **400**

How many of the 800 acres of corn, were or will be planted with a genetically modified/engineered herbicide resistant only variety? **125**

How many of the 800 acres of corn, were or will be planted with a genetically modified/engineered Bt only variety? **125**

How many of the 325 acres of soybeans, were or will be planted with a genetically modified/engineered herbicide resistant only variety? **225**

How many of the 50 acres of upland cotton, were or will be planted with a genetically modified/engineered stacked gene variety? **0**

How many of the 50 acres of upland cotton, were or will be planted with a genetically modified/engineered herbicide resistant only variety? **50**

On June 1, what was the total storage capacity of all structures normally used to store whole grains or oilseeds on the total acres operated? **65,000 bushels**

On June 1, were any whole grain corn, soybeans, sorghum grain (milo), wheat, oats or rice on hand on the total acres operated? **Yes**

On June 1, how much whole grain corn, from 2018 and earlier crop years, was on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **12,000 bushels**



On June 1, how many soybeans from 20XX and earlier crop years, were on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **0**

On June 1, how many sorghum grain (milo) from 20XX and earlier crop years, was on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **0**

On June, 1, how much wheat, including all types, from 20XX and earlier crop years, was on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **1500 bushels**

On June 1, how many oats from 20XX and earlier crop years, were on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **0**

Was any rice on hand or stored on the total acres operated on June 1? **No**

Were any of the stocks on hand new crop from the 20XX harvest? **No**

What range represents the total gross value of sales for 20XX? **9 - \$250,000 to \$499,999**

Of the farm income reported, which of these categories represents the largest portion of the gross income from the operation? **Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas**

Do you make any day-to-day decisions for another farm or ranch? **No**

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



Practice Exercise 2

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone numbers that I have for this 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**

Now I would like to ask about the total acres operated under this arrangement. On June 1, how many acres did this operation own? **1,200**

On June 1, how many acres did this operation rent or lease from others or use rent free? **300**

On June 1, how many acres did this operation rent to others? **0**

Then the total acres operated on June 1, was 1,500. Is that correct? **Yes**

Do the 1,500 acres include the farmstead, all cropland, woodland, pastureland, wasteland, and government program land? **Yes**

How many acres did this operation use on a fee per-head or animal unit month (AUM) basis? **0**



The remaining questions in this survey refer to the total 1,500 total acres operated. Of the total 1,500 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? **1,450**

How many acres of winter wheat were planted for all purposes last fall or this spring for the 20XX crop year? **195**

How many acres of winter wheat were harvested or will be harvested for either grain or seed? **195**

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

How many acres of corn have been planted or will be planted for all purposes? **350**

How many acres of corn will be harvested for either grain or seed? **125**

How many acres of soybeans have been planted or will be planted for all purposes? **300**

How many acres of upland cotton have been or will be planted? **0**

Did you plant or will you plant any rice in 20XX? **No**

Will you cut any alfalfa, grain, or other hay for dry hay in 20XX? **Yes**

How many acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures will be cut for dry hay? **80**

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

How many acres of all other hay will be cut for dry hay? **0**

How many acres of new alfalfa or alfalfa mixtures have been or will be seeded during 20XX?
0

How many acres will be double cropped in 20XX? **0**

How many of the 350 acres of corn, were or will be planted with a genetically stacked gene variety? **200**

How many of the 350 acres of corn, were or will be planted with a genetically modified herbicide resistant only variety? **0**

How many of the 350 acres of corn, were or will be planted with a genetically modified Bt only variety? **80**

How many of the 300 acres of soybeans, were or will be planted with a genetically modified herbicide resistant only variety? **300**

On June 1, what was the total storage capacity of all structures normally used to store whole grains or oilseeds on the total acres operated? **300,000 bushels**

On June 1, were any whole grain corn, soybeans, sorghum grain (milo), wheat, oats, or rice on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **Yes**

On June 1, how much whole grain corn, from 20XX and earlier years, was on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **10,000 bushels**

On June 1, how many soybeans, from 20XX and earlier years, were on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **2,000 bushels**



On June 1, how much sorghum grain (milo), from 20XX and earlier years, was on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **0**

On June 1, how much wheat, including all types (winter, durum, and spring), from 20XX and earlier years, was on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **0**

On June 1, how many oats, from 20XX and earlier years, were on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **0**

Was any rice on hand or stored on the total acres operated on June 1? **No**

Were any of the stocks on hand new crop from the 20XX harvest? **No**

Now I would like to classify this operation in terms of total gross value of sales:

What range represents the total gross value of sales for 20XX? **8 – 100,000-249,999**

Of the farm income reported, which of these categories represents the largest portion of the gross income from the operation? **Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas**

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

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



Practice Exercise 3

Who is responding? **Operator**

Let me verify the name, address, and phone numbers that I have for this 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**

Now I would like to ask about the total acres operated under this arrangement. On June 1, how many acres did this operation own? **625**

On June 1, how many acres did this operation rent or lease from others or use rent free? **0**

On June 1, how many acres did this operation rent to others? **0**

Then the total acres operated on June 1, was 625. Is that correct? **Yes**

Do the 625 acres include the farmstead, all cropland, woodland, pastureland, wasteland, and government program land? **Yes**

How many acres did this operation use on a fee per-head or animal unit month (AUM) basis? **0**

Of the total 625 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? **600**



How many acres of winter wheat were planted for all purposes last fall or this spring for the 20XX crop year? **0**

How many acres of oats were planted for all purposes? **105**

How many acres of oats were harvested or will be harvested for either grain or seed? **0**

I grow the oats for hay, not grain.

How many acres of corn have been planted or will be planted for all purposes? **0**

How many acres of sorghum have been planted or will be planted for all purposes? **0**

How many acres of soybeans have been planted or will be planted for all purposes? **75**

How many acres of upland cotton have been planted or will be planted? **55**

Did you plant or will you plant any rice in 20XX? **No**

Will you cut any alfalfa, grain, or other hay for dry hay in 20XX? **Yes**

How many acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures will be cut for dry hay? **50**

How many acres of small grain hay will be cut for dry hay? **105**

How many acres of all other hay will be cut for dry hay? **40 acres of clover timothy mix**

How many acres of new alfalfa or alfalfa mixtures have been or will be seeded during 20XX?
0

How many acres will be double cropped in 20XX? **0**



How many of the 75 acres of soybeans, were or will be planted with a genetically modified herbicide resistant only variety? **75**

How many of the 55 acres of upland cotton, were or will be planted with a genetically stacked gene variety? **40**

How many of the 55 acres of upland cotton, were or will be planted with a genetically modified herbicide resistant only variety? **0**

How many of the 55 acres of upland cotton, were or will be planted with a genetically modified Bt only variety? **0**

On June 1, what was the total storage capacity of all structures normally used to store whole grains or oilseeds on the total acres operated? **0**

Please account for any whole grain corn, soybeans, sorghum grain, wheat, oats, or rice stored on June 1 on this operation, whether for feed, seed, or sale.

On June 1, were any whole grain corn, soybeans, sorghum grain (milo), wheat, oats, or rice on hand or stored on the total acres operated? **No**

Now I would like to classify this operation in terms of total gross value of sales:

What range represents the total gross value of sales for 2014? **7 – 50,000-99,999**

Of the farm income reported, which of these categories represents the largest portion of the gross income from the operation? **Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas**

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

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

