



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

September Agricultural Survey



Overview:

Collecting final acres planted, acres harvested, and yield and production for the small grain crops. This survey also collects grain storage capacity and amount of grain stored on farms.

Purpose:

- The purpose of the September Agricultural Survey is to provide accurate estimates of planted acres, harvested acres, yield and production of small grains, and amount of grain in storage.
- Producers use the information when developing marketing plans for their operations.
- Enables the industry to forecast transportation and storage requirements and evaluate export potential.
- USDA agencies use the information to determine crop insurance and disaster aid payments along with other program benefits.
- Congress relies on current agricultural data in formulating farm legislation.

General Information:

Collecting crop data on:

- Acres planted
- Acres Harvested for grain or seed
- Grain and seed production OR yield per acre
- Acres for all other purposes

For Winter Wheat, Durum Wheat, Other Spring Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye (commodities vary by state)

You may encounter growers with none of the items of interest on this survey—that's OK. A "zero" is still a valid report and useful information

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.

Remember – all acres planted must be accounted for.

Don't record small grain hay, haylage or silage production in the grain and seed production question, this should go in as "Acres for all other purposes".

Some operations may have very large areas of small grains for a cover crop. These operations may not consider this a "crop". The planted acres and acres for all other purposes need to be recorded.

Make sure to record information for nurse crops and cover crops. For example:

1. Oats are planted as a nurse crop with alfalfa: record the acres planted and the acres harvested for grain or seed OR acres for all other purposes if harvested for silage

2. Barley is planted as a cover crop: record the acres planted and then the acres for all other purposes

If a crop is planted and then grazed off, record the acres planted and then acres for all other purposes. For example:

1. A grower plants winter wheat and grazes cattle on it. The wheat is grazed off and not harvested. Record the acres planted and then the acres for all other purposes

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. Please leave a note describing the situation.

Be sure to verify harvested acres in cases of extremely low yields where crop insurance is involved. Sometimes the farmer will not be required to harvest the entire crop and will only harvest a small portion (or test strips) to determine the yield. In this situation, only the acres that were actually harvested should be reported as acres harvested for grain or seed, and the rest of the acreage, not harvested, should be reported under acres for other purposes.

Typically, production and/or yields for acres harvested for grain or seed should be reported in "bushels". If tons are reported, please be sure to verify that the crop was harvested for grain or seed because the respondent could be reporting hay or silage.

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

Exclude any storage capacity/grain stored in rented or leased space in commercial elevators

Any current crop year corn, soybeans, sorghum, etc. harvested and put in storage (stocks) should not be recorded. Only previous year crops and earlier years should be reported for these crops

However, any small grains stored on the operation (regardless of crop year and when harvested) should be reported on the September 1 Agricultural Survey.

If the producer reveals 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.