Ag Yield Training Materials

Below you will find links to two videos, PowerPoint presentations, and a survey information sheet for NASS's Ag Yield survey program

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Strategic Planning and Business Services Division
Strategic Planning Branch
Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section

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NASS Survey Training
Ag Yield Survey

May, June, and July

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section

NASS's Ag Yield Survey Program

- The Agricultural (Ag) Yield Surveys supply indications for crop yields and hay stocks used to establish monthly state and national production forecasts.
- The Ag Yield Survey is conducted monthly from May to November in all States, except Alaska and Hawaii. However, not all 48 states are active in all seven months of the Ag Yield Survey.

May, June, and July focuses on small grains

August collects final yields on small grains and begins yield forecasts for row crops

September, October, and November continues with row crops and hay/forage crops

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How is this data used?

The agricultural industry relies on current NASS yield and production estimates:

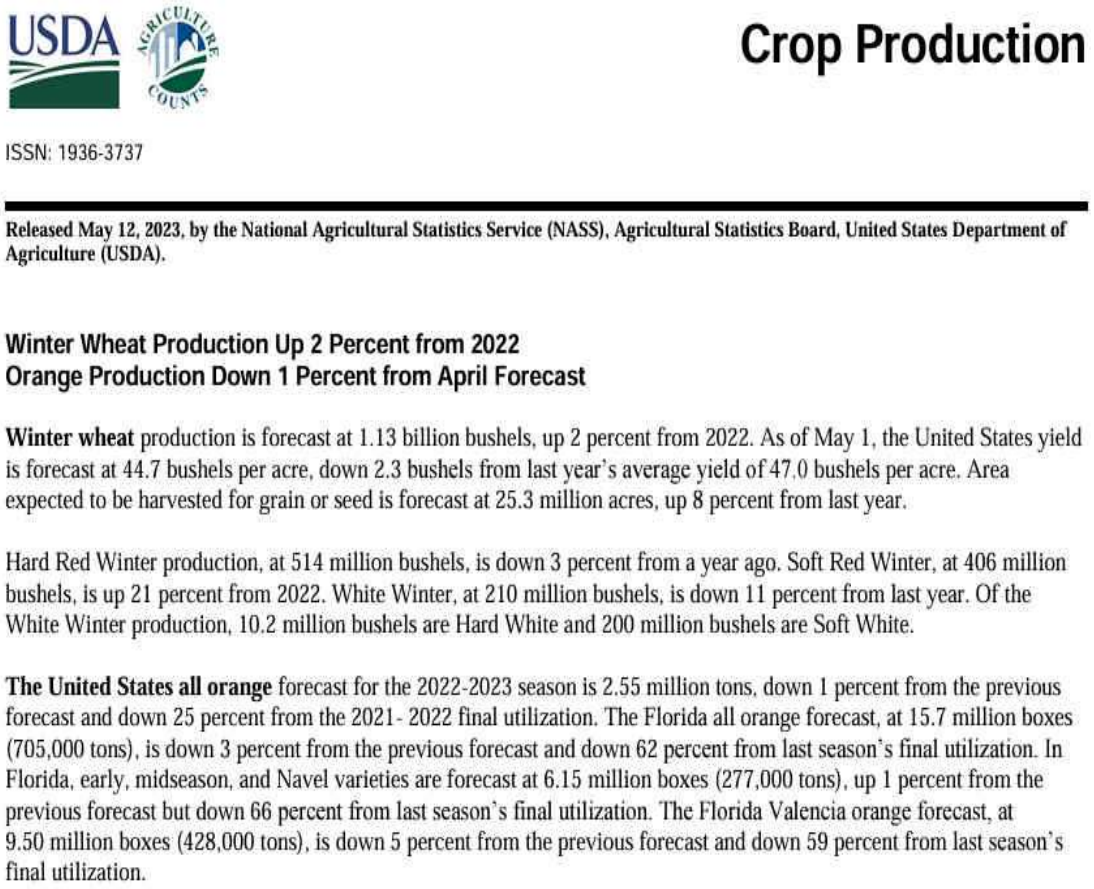
- Provides a real time “snapshot” of crop production
  - Allows the industry to track how crops are developing
- Helps producers develop marketing plans for their operations and determine how and when to sell what
  - Also gives livestock producers information on feed purchases

How is this data used?

The agricultural industry relies on current NASS yield and production estimates:

- 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.

Survey Information



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Crop Production

ISSN: 1936-3737

Released May 12, 2023, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Winter Wheat Production Up 2 Percent from 2022
Orange Production Down 1 Percent from April Forecast

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.13 billion bushels, up 2 percent from 2022. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 44.7 bushels per acre, down 2.3 bushels from last year's average yield of 47.0 bushels per acre. Area expected to be harvested for grain or seed is forecast at 25.3 million acres, up 8 percent from last year.

Hard Red Winter production, at 514 million bushels, is down 3 percent from a year ago. Soft Red Winter, at 406 million bushels, is up 21 percent from 2022. White Winter, at 210 million bushels, is down 11 percent from last year. Of the White Winter production, 10.2 million bushels are Hard White and 200 million bushels are Soft White.

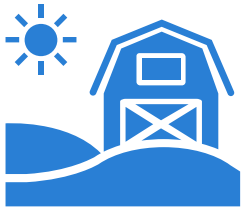
The United States all orange forecast for the 2022-2023 season is 2.55 million tons, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 25 percent from the 2021 - 2022 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 15.7 million boxes (705,000 tons), is down 3 percent from the previous forecast and down 62 percent from last season's final utilization. In Florida, early, midseason, and Navel varieties are forecast at 6.15 million boxes (277,000 tons), up 1 percent from the previous forecast but down 66 percent from last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 9.50 million boxes (428,000 tons), is down 5 percent from the previous forecast and down 59 percent from last season's final utilization.

- Project Code: 128 – monthly Ag Yield Survey
- Questionnaires: Mailed between the 20th and 23rd of each month.
- Reporting Options: Online reporting available.
- Release of survey data: Results released around the 12th of each month at 12 p.m. Eastern Time

Search for releases under the "Publication" tab on the NASS website. "Crop Production"

NASS website: www.nass.usda.gov/

Crops in **May** Ag Yield **will vary by state**



Focus Crops:

Winter Wheat: Surveyed in all states **except** New England,

AZ, MN, NV, and WV.

Durum Wheat: Only surveyed in **AZ and CA**.

Additional Data:

Hay Production: Assessed for the **previous year** in all states.

Hay Stocks:

Evaluates **remaining hay stores** in all states.

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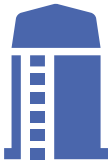
Crops in **June** Ag Yield **will vary by state**

Winter Wheat:

Surveyed in all states **except** New England, AZ, MN, N V, and WV.



Additional Coverage:

Durum Wheat: Only surveyed in **AZ and CA**.

June Data:

Reflects **expected harvested acres** and **planting progress**.

Crops in **July** Ag Yield **will vary by state**

Winter Wheat	Durum Wheat	Other Spring Wheat
Barley	Oats	Flue Cured Tobacco

Winter Wheat Questions

Winter Wheat

- Acres Planted for all purposes (**May** only)
  - Generally planted the previous fall for the current crop year
- Acres Harvested and to be Harvested for either grain or seed
  - States will have different harvest start dates
- Expected Yield for Grain and/or Seed (**May, June, and July**)
- Is Harvest Complete (**June and July**)

Winter Wheat Life Cycle

Durum Wheat & Other Spring Wheat

Durum Wheat:

May: Acres planted for all purposes.

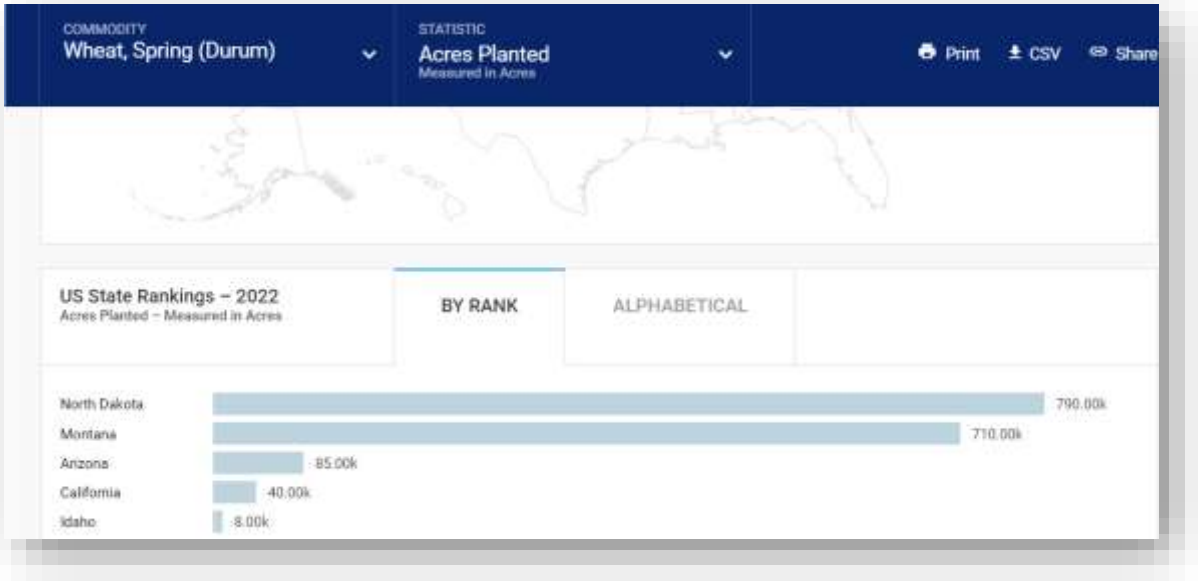
May, June, July: Acres harvested and expected yield per acre.

June: Is harvest complete?

Other Spring Wheat:

July: Acres harvested and expected yield per acre.

Idaho asks to break expected yields out by irrigated and non-irrigated acres.



Barley & Flue Cured Tobacco

Barley

May and July: Acres harvested and expected yield

Flue Cured Tobacco

July: Acres harvested and expected yield

Things to Watch Out For!

- Wheat acreage in March but none in later months
- Large difference in acreage from March until when Ag Yield interview is conducted
- Low harvested to planted (H/P) ratio
  - Example: Planted 300 acres but only harvested 50 due to winter kill.
- High/low yields
- Hay production but no stocks or vice versa

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AGRICULTURE COUNTS

Reluctant Response Scenario 1

Uncertainty and Inaccuracy

Typical Response: "It's too early to tell," "Can't report accurately.“

Our Approach:

- Acknowledge uncertainty: "We understand. At this point, we're just looking for an estimate of expected yields compared to last year."
- Offer a reference point: "What was your yield last year?"

Reluctant Responses Scenario 2

Timing Mismatch

Typical Response: "Planting isn't finished, so I can't estimate yields yet.“

Our Approach:

- Explain the scope: "We're currently collecting data on winter wheat and hay in storage. Can you share that information?"
- Offer alternative options: "If you have an early estimate for planted crops, we'd appreciate it, even if it's tentative."

Reluctant Response Scenario 3

Existing Reporting Channels

Typical Response: "I already report this to the FSA office.“

Our Approach:

- Acknowledge shared information: "We understand you report some data to the FSA. However,"
- Highlight unique data points: "Our survey collects additional information like expected wheat yield, last year's hay production, and hay stored, which aren't reported to the FSA."

Key Takeaways

Spot unusual trends? Share your insights! Notes or comments on anything unexpected can be incredibly helpful.

Got questions? No problem! Your supervisor is here to support you. Don't hesitate to reach out for any clarifications or assistance.

Thank you for your dedication!

Your hard work collecting data for the Monthly Ag Yield Survey is essential. We appreciate you!

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United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section

NASS's Ag Yield Survey Program

- ✓ Reminder, the **Agricultural (Ag) Yield Survey** takes place **monthly** from **May to November** in all states except Alaska and Hawaii.
- ✓ Not all **48 states** participate in the survey during all seven months.
- ✓ The **Ag Yield Surveys** provide data on **crop yields** and **hay stocks**. These indicators are crucial for establishing **monthly state and national production forecasts**.

Here's the focus for each month

May, June, and July:

Concentrate on **small grains**.

August:

Collect **final yields** for small grains and **initiate yield forecasts** for row crops.

September, October, and November:

Continue with **row crops** and **hay crops**.

Ag Yield Overview

The agricultural industry relies on current NASS yield and production estimates to:

Provide a real-time "snapshot" of crop production

Track how crops are developing

Help producers develop marketing plans

Inform livestock producers about feed purchases

Enable the industry to forecast transportation and storage requirements and evaluate export potential

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Monthly Agricultural Yield Survey Questionnaires

- Questionnaires are mailed out around the **20th – 23rd of each month** prior to the survey reference date.
- Online reporting is also available for convenience.

Release of Survey Data (Project Code: 128)

Crop Production

data is typically released around the **12th of each month** at **12 p.m. Eastern Time**.

NASS website: www.nass.usda.gov/

August AY: Small Grains
Crops Asked Will Vary By State

We are in the final month of collecting data for small grains.

- ✓ The specific grains we are focusing on include:
  - **Barley**
  - **Oats**
  - **Durum Wheat**
  - **Other Spring Wheat**
  - **Winter Wheat**
- ✓ Crops asked about will vary by state.

Harvest


Grain Sorghum/Milo


Sunflowers


Corn


Cotton


Dry Edible Beans


Soybeans

August - November

AY Row Crops and Hay

Flue Cured Tobacco	Fire Cured Tobacco	Burley Tobacco
Dark Air Cured Tobacco	Pennsylvania Seedleaf Tobacco	Southern Maryland Belt Tobacco
All Hay	Alfalfa Hay	Other Hay

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Dry Hay

Large Square Bales

Small Square Bales

Large Round Bales

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Basic Question Format for Row Crops and Hay

- ✓ Acres Planted for all Purposes (some crops)
- ✓ Acres Harvested and to be Harvested
  - Some crops broken out between Irrigated/Non-Irrigated
- ✓ Expected Yield
  - Units differ by crop – examples:
    - Bushels per acre
    - Pounds per acre
  - Make notes if unable to report in the available units
- ✓ Has harvest been completed? (some crops)

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Just a Reminder…

NASS concentrates its data collection efforts on crops harvested for **grain or seed only**. This ensures a clear picture of production specifically for these purposes.

Excluded Uses:

- Silage
- Haylage
- Cover crop
- Other (depending on the specific crop)

Data Quality Issues to Watch For…

Watch out for Inconsistent Units

Units reported (e.g., pounds, kilograms) **differ from what the questionnaire asks for**.

Sometimes, producers might report data using units that differ from what the NASS questionnaire asks for. For example, a farmer might report corn yield in tons per acre when the survey requests bushels per acre.

Watch for Yield Fluctuations

Large changes: Yield data shows significant month-to-month variations.

Large month-to-month yield changes can sometimes be reported. These might require further investigation to ensure accuracy.

Unusual values: Yield values fall outside the expected range (too high or too low).

Occasionally, unusually high or low yields might be reported. These outliers may require verification.

Things To Be Aware Of

The next slides highlight some key points to remember when reporting data for NASS surveys. By being aware of these factors, you can contribute to the accuracy and completeness of NASS estimates.

Hay Production/Yield

Remember, hay production and yield should reflect the **entire season's harvest**, not just a single cutting.

Wheat Harvest Timing

If wheat harvest in your area is not typically completed by August, be sure to **make a note** on your NASS survey to explain the situation. This helps NASS account for any regional variations in harvest times.

Dry Bean Types

For dry beans, there are various types grown. **Double-check** to ensure you're reporting data for the specific type you're surveying.

Current Weather Conditions

Staying informed about current weather conditions in your area is crucial. Factors like drought, flooding, or wet field conditions at harvest time can significantly impact yields. **Report any relevant weather events** that might have affected production.

By keeping these points in mind, you can ensure your NASS survey responses are accurate and provide valuable insights into agricultural production!

Reluctant Response Scenario 1

Typical Response: “I report all this to my FSA office.”

Our Approach:

I understand. While we do ask about expected acres for harvest, we’re also asking about your expected yields and some crops you may not report with FSA.

Reluctant Response Scenario 2

Typical Response: “It’s too early to tell.” or “Can’t report accurately.”

Our Approach:

At this time, we are just looking for your best estimate of expected yields. Is it better or worse than last year’s crop? What was your yield last year?

Conclusion

- ✓ **The More Information You Share, the More Accurate the Data.**
- ✓ **Yield Observations: Share Your Insights!**
  - Are crops exceeding expectations this year? Let us know the reasons behind their success!
  - Are yields falling short? Help us understand the factors impacting their performance.
- ✓ **Acres Harvested: What's Going On?**
  - If fewer acres are being harvested than expected, please provide details about the situation. This will help us understand the context.
- ✓ **Questions? Reach Out to Your Supervisor!**
  - Don't hesitate to contact your supervisor if you have any questions or require clarification. We're here to support you!

We deeply appreciate your participation in the Monthly Ag Yield Survey. Your ongoing efforts throughout the growing season are invaluable to American agriculture!

Thank You for Your Contribution!

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Ag Yield Survey Information Sheet

Overview:
Collecting crop information: acres planted, acres to be harvested, expected yield, hay production, current stocks, irrigated/non-irrigated crops, single/double cropped, harvest complete. This information varies by month, commodity, and state. Survey is conducted in all states except for Alaska and Hawaii

Purpose:

- The purpose of our Ag Yield surveys is to provide accurate estimates on yield and production.
- 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 yield and production data in formulating farm legislation.

Crops Asked:

- Small Grains (May – August):
  - Winter wheat-planted early fall of the previous year
    - Acres planted for all purposes (previous year)
  - Durum Wheat, Other Spring Wheat (other than Durum), Barley, & Oats
- Hay Production & Stocks (May, August, & October):
  - May: Dry hay produced during the previous year and amount still on hand.
    - Regardless of when or where it was produced.
    - All Hay, Alfalfa, & Other Hay
  - August and October: Dry hay produced from all cuttings during the current year
    - Regardless of when or where it was produced.
    - All Hay, Alfalfa, & Other Hay
- Tobacco (July – October):
  - 6 types
- Row Crops (August – November):
- Corn, Pima & Upland Cotton, Dry Edible Beans, Peanuts, Rice, Soybeans, Sorghum, Sugarcane, Canola, & Sunflower (oil/non-oil)

Things to Remember:

- Small Grains/Row Crops: asking for acres harvested for grain or seed only
  - Exclude any other uses (silage, haylage, cover crop, etc.)
- Dry Hay: asking for dry hay ONLY
  - Exclude haylage and green chop
  - Looking for the *Total* expected yields for the entire year, not just what has been harvested to point in time.

Definitions:

- Cropland – land which can produce a crop for harvest.
- Irrigated – cropland that normally receives or has the potential to receive water by artificial means to supplement natural rainfall.
- Double Cropped – two (or more) different crops grown and harvested or to be harvested from the same area in one growing season.