



NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTH CAROLINA FIELD OFFICE

Cooperating with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USDA TO LOOK AT CROP ACREAGE ACROSS THE STATE

Raleigh, NC – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be interviewing farm operators during the June Agricultural Survey. As part of the nationwide survey, NASS representatives will be knocking on doors or phoning producers to collect information about their land uses and agricultural activities.

"The June Survey is one of the largest and most comprehensive surveys conducted each year by NASS," explained Herb Vanderberry, director of the NASS North Carolina Field Office. This survey will ask farmers to report their actual plantings for 2009. It provides the first clear indication of the supply of major commodities in North Carolina and the United States for this crop year."

"Understanding that the information we gather is only as good as the source it comes from, we are counting on the most reliable, frontline source of information for this survey – the producers themselves," added Vanderberry.

During the first two weeks of June, NASS representatives will visit sampled areas of land in North Carolina and conduct personal interviews with farm operators in these areas. NASS will collect information on farm numbers, crop acreage, genetically modified crop acreage, grain stocks, livestock inventory, cash rents and land values, and the value of sales. At the same time, a sample of producers will be contacted by mail or telephone to provide information on commodities planted for 2009 and current crop storage levels.

The information from these surveys will be compiled and analyzed, then published in a series of reports including the *Acreage* and *Grain Stocks* reports on June 30. The Hogs and Pigs report will be released June 26.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state-and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Vanderberry. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS North Carolina Field Office at (800) 437-8451.