# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**
**NORTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICE**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 26, 2011

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## USDA SURVEYS TO PROVIDE INSIGHT ON 2011 AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK

FARGO, ND – With the 2011 growing season now in full swing, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will spend the first two weeks of June surveying approximately 3,600 farmers across North Dakota to get a clear indication of the production and supply of major commodities for the year. The information provided will be compiled into one publically accessible report and maintain confidentiality of individual farmer information.

"In March, North Dakota farmers reported that they intend to plant more acres of corn, spring wheat, and soybeans this crop season and fewer acres of barley and durum wheat. With the 2011 growing season just beginning, we can start to get a fuller picture of how things are shaping up for the agricultural sector," said Darin Jantzi, director of the NASS North Dakota Field Office.

Through two major mid-year surveys, the June Agricultural Survey and the June Area Survey, NASS will gather data on what crops have been planted and what commodities are in storage. This information will provide a comprehensive picture of how things are shaping up in 2011 for the U.S. agriculture industry.

"For the agricultural survey, we contact producers by mail, phone or personal visit. We ask them to provide information on their total acreage, acres planted to specific commodities – including biotech varieties, and quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm," said Jantzi.

"For the area survey, we visit randomly selected tracts of land and interview the operators of any farm or ranch on that land. We collect information on crop acreage – including biotech crops, as well as grain stocks, livestock inventory, cash rents, land values, and value of sales."

This information is a critical component of several key national reports, including the annual *Acreage* report and the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on June 30. Survey data also contribute to NASS's monthly and annual *Crop Production* reports and various other crop and livestock-related publications, including USDA's *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates.*

"Especially in these challenging economic times, farmers and the rest of the agricultural industry need timely, accurate data on the current state of U.S. agricultural production," Jantzi said. "The information collected through our mid-year surveys can help producers, suppliers, traders, buyers, export customers and others make sound and informed business decisions."

For more information, visit www.nass.usda.gov or call the NASS North Dakota Field Office toll free at 1-800-626-3134.

# June Area Survey

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May 2011

The June Area Survey is one of the largest and most comprehensive surveys conducted each year by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The survey provides an in-depth look at land uses and agricultural activities across the United States, and serves as the foundation for many of NASS's other data collection and reporting activities.

## *HOW ARE THE DATA COLLECTED?*

The June Area Survey is conducted annually in all states except Alaska and Hawaii. NASS will collect data from nearly 50,000 producers on approximately 11,000 selected segments of land. Each segment covers approximately one square mile.

For two weeks, beginning the end of May, NASS representatives will use aerial photographs and visit each segment to determine how the land is used. They will also conduct personal interviews with the operators of any farm or ranch within the selected segment. The survey is designed to account for every acre of land and all agricultural activities and land uses within that area.

Data gathered during the June Area Survey include:

- Crop acreage
- Biotech crop acreage
- Grain stocks
- Livestock and poultry inventory
- Farm numbers
- Cash rents
- Land values
- Value of sales

## *HOW IS THE INFORMATION USED?*

The data collected in this survey provide the most timely, accurate and useful information on the current state of U.S. agriculture. The June Area Survey provides direct data, and is a critical component of data collection and estimation, for numerous NASS reports, including:

- *Acreage* (published in June)
- *Land Values and Cash Rents* (published in August)
- *Small Grains* (published in September)
- *Sheep and Goats* (published in January)
- *Prospective Plantings* (published in March)
- *Cattle* (published in January and July)
- *Hogs and Pigs* (published in March, June, September and December)
- *Crop Production* (published monthly, with an annual summary in January)

The information provided by survey respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes data only in aggregate form, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

All reports are available through the NASS web site: ***www.nass.usda.gov***. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540.