

USDA to collect crop acreage data in June

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USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will spend the first two weeks of June surveying thousands of farmers across Nebraska to get a clear indication of the acreage and supply of major commodities for 2012.

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 are in storage. This information will provide a comprehensive picture of how things are shaping up in 2012 for the U.S. agriculture industry.

The agriculture survey is done online, by mail or by phone, but for the area survey, NASS staff visits randomly selected tracts of land and interviews the operators of any farm or ranch on that land. Information is collected on crop acreage—including biotech crops—as well as grain stocks, livestock inventory, cash rents, land values and value of sales, said Dean Groskurth, director of the NASS Nebraska Field Office.

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 29, Groskurth said. Survey data also contribute to the USDA's world agricultural supply and demand estimates, Groskurth said.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state and national level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified, Groskurth said.