

2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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AGENCY-WIDE**PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) was established by Secretary’s Memorandum No. 1446, Supplement 1, of April 3, 1961, under Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 and other authorities. The mission of the agency is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

The statistical data provided by NASS is essential to the public and private sectors for making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions on a wide range of agricultural commodities. Every 5 years the Census of Agriculture (COA) provides comprehensive national, State and county data as well as selected data for Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa Islands. NASS’ responsibilities are authorized under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 – 1627), and the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997, Public Law 105-113 (Title 7 U.S. Code 2204g).

Agricultural Estimates Programs (AEP)

In the AEP, NASS annually publishes approximately 450 agricultural statistical national reports and thousands of additional agricultural statistical State reports, covering more than 120 crops, 45 livestock items, and 12 major economic and environmental categories. These releases are complemented by State agricultural statistical releases. These basic and objective data are critical to maintain an orderly association between the consumption, supply, marketing, expenses, and income sectors of agriculture. NASS uses scientifically designed surveys to provide the basis for developing estimates of production, supply price, and other aspects of the agricultural economy. Officially USDA national, State, and county estimates and statistical reports are issued relating to the number of farms and land in farms; acreage, types, and production of farm crops; number of livestock on farms and of livestock products; stocks of agricultural commodities; value and utilization of farm products; prices received and paid by farmers; agricultural chemical use; and on other subjects as needed. The regional offices forward the estimates to NASS headquarters where they are combined and released at preannounced scheduled times to the press and public through the Agricultural Statistics Board. The statistical data provided by NASS enhances the competitiveness and sustainability of rural farm economics by leveling the playing field. All parties have equal access to official statistics. NASS regularly surveys thousands of operators of farms, ranches, and agribusiness who provide information on a confidential basis. The necessity of protecting respondent confidentiality and ensuring the impartiality of official agricultural statistics and universal accessibility at predetermined and publicized dates and times are addressed by having the Federal government produce these statistics.

Census of Agriculture Programs (COA)

The COA is taken every five years and provides comprehensive data on the agricultural economy, including data on the number of farms, land use, production expenses, value of land and buildings, farm size and characteristics of farm operators, market value of agricultural production sold, acreage of major crops; inventory of livestock and poultry, and farm irrigation practices. The COA data collection is conducted in close cooperation with the Nation’s agricultural user group and farmer organizations. The COA ensures that the list frame used for sampling records for surveys is current and is also utilized for the Agricultural Estimates program as well as the reimbursable survey program. Under the COA appropriation in 2015, NASS started publishing the Current Agricultural Industrial Reports (CAIR). Results of the 2017 COA were published in FY 2019. FY 2021 was a critical planning year for the 2022 COA.

Work Performed for Others

NASS lends technical expertise and conducts surveys for other Federal agencies, State governments, and private organizations on a reimbursable basis. Through the reimbursable program, NASS provides support and assistance with questionnaire and sample design, data collection and editing, analysis of survey results, and training. NASS also provides technical consultation, support and assistance for international programs under participating agency service agreements. The Census of Agriculture is essential to the reimbursable program and provides a current list frame to draw sampling records from which to do client work.

NASS maintains a central office in Washington, D.C., a National Operations Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and a network of 12 regional field offices that serve all 50 States operating through cooperative agreements with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) or universities. As of September 30, 2021, there were 843 permanent full-time employees, including 368 in the headquarters office and 475 in field offices.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTEs**Table NASS-1. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)**

Item	2020 Actual	FTE	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Estimated	FTE	2023 Budget	FTE
Salaries and Expenses:								
Discretionary Appropriations	\$180,294	714	\$183,921	715	\$183,921	744	\$217,474	784
Total Adjusted Appropriation	180,294	714	183,921	715	183,921	744	217,474	784
Balance Available, SOY	204	-	250	-	176	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	8,610	-	11,906	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	189,108	714	196,077	715	184,097	744	217,474	784
Balance Available, EOY	-250	-	-176	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	188,858	714	195,901	715	184,097	744	217,474	784
Other USDA:								
AMS, pesticide cert. and base month	98	3	1,605	6	1,605	8	1,605	8
ARS, Nutrient Data Laboratory	40	-	210	1	-	-	-	-
APHIS	768	3	510	-	521	-	521	-
ERS	7,794	39	8,992	39	5,842	41	5,842	41
FAS	703	5	261	-	511	-	511	-
FS	380	1	284	-	93	-	93	-
FSA	6,456	35	6,462	35	6,462	38	6,462	38
NRCS	225	-	3,412	6	3,000	6	3,000	6
OCIO	-	-	302	-	302	-	302	-
RMA	-	-	1,500	5	-	-	-	-
WAOB, Lock-up	17	-	11	-	11	-	11	-
Miscellaneous USDA Reimbursable	900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Other USDA	17,381	86	23,549	92	18,347	93	18,347	93
Total, Agriculture Available	206,489	800	219,626	807	202,444	837	235,821	877
Other Federal Funds:								
American Peanut Council	214	1	214	1	214	1	214	1
Census Bureau	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DOI, BLM grazing fees survey	76	-	79	-	79	-	79	-
DOL, Ag Labor	1,400	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health & Human Services	-	-	206	1	-	-	-	-
NASA	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Soybean Council	25	-	25	-	25	-	25	-
CNSTAT Core (DOT)	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
US International Trade Comm.	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
USGS (RDD)	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Other Federal	1,784	8	534	2	318	1	318	1
Non-Federal Funds:								
State Agencies - survey work	2,617	12	2,398	12	3,011	12	3,011	12
Total, Non-Federal	2,617	12	2,398	12	3,011	12	3,011	12
Total Available, NASS	210,890	820	222,558	821	205,773	850	239,150	890

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTEs*Table NASS-2. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs*

Item	2020 Actual			2021 Actual			2022 Estimated			2023 Budget		
	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES	9	1	10	9	1	10	9	1	10	9	1	10
SL	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-15	22	16	38	22	16	38	22	16	38	22	16	38
GS-14	56	61	117	61	61	122	61	61	122	61	61	122
GS-13	205	56	261	195	56	251	205	56	261	205	56	261
GS-12	27	191	218	30	191	221	30	191	221	30	191	221
GS-11	19	18	37	15	18	33	19	18	37	19	18	37
GS-10	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-9	18	27	45	15	35	50	18	35	53	18	35	53
GS-8	12	23	35	10	23	33	12	23	35	12	23	35
GS-7	5	43	48	5	43	48	5	43	48	5	43	48
GS-6	1	5	6	1	4	5	1	4	5	1	4	5
GS-5	3	1	4	3	16	19	3	16	19	3	16	19
GS-4	-	-	-	-	8	8	-	8	8	-	8	8
GS-3	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	3	3
Total Permanent	379	442	821	368	475	843	387	475	862	387	475	862
Unfilled, EOY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Perm. FT EOY	379	442	821	368	475	843	387	475	862	387	475	862
FTE	353	467	820	354	467	821	376	474	850	376	514	890

Vehicle Fleet

All passenger motor vehicles operated by NASS are located at various field offices and are assigned based on approved program needs and geographic region. NASS uses its fleet to conduct agricultural statistics programs through its 12 regional statistical offices and 33 statistical offices that serve all 50 States. The NASS fleet is comprised primarily of sport utility vehicles (SUVs) that allow passengers and equipment to travel easily to farms, ranches, fields and trade shows. Among the 12 regional offices and 33 State offices, there are 7 NASS owned vehicles and 42 vehicles leased from General Services Administration (GSA). While all 12 NASS regional offices and 33 State offices require the use of motor vehicles, it is often more cost-effective to acquire vehicles through existing cooperative agreements with the National State Departments of Agriculture, through leases from State motor pools, or via rental agreements. Field offices monitor and track vehicles’ use and costs. Where possible NASS uses short term rental and shared motor pools. The use of common carrier is not feasible. The ability to reach the nation’s farms, ranches, and fields is crucial to the NASS mission and for ensuring data are collected and reported accurately.

Changes to Motor Vehicle Fleet

At the end of 2021, NASS had 49 vehicles; 7 owned and 42 GSA leased vehicles.

Impediments to Managing the Motor Vehicle Fleet

There are no identified impediments to managing the motor vehicle fleet in the most cost-effective manners reported accurately.

Table NASS-3. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet

	Sedans and Station Wagons	Vans	SUVs	Light Trucks 4X2	Light Trucks 4X4	Medium Duty Vehicles	Buses	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs
2018 End of Year Operating Inventory	1	3	21	0	24	1	0	0	50	\$238,000
2020 End of Year Operating Inventory	1	3	20	0	24	1	0	0	49	253,810
2021 Planned Acquisitions	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	
2021 Planned Disposals	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	
2021 End of Year Operating Inventory	1	3	20	0	24	1	0	0	49	247,635
2022 Planned Acquisitions	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	
2022 Planned Disposals	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	
2022 End of Year Operating Inventory	1	3	20	0	24	1	0	0	49	264,587
2023 Planned Acquisitions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2023 Planned Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2023 End of Year Operating Inventory	1	3	20	0	24	1	0	0	49	309,443

Statement of Proposed Purchase of Passenger Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Additions	Total Acquisitions	Net Active Fleet, EOY
2020	49	-	-	-	-	49
2021	49	8	8	-	-	49
2022	49	-	-	-	-	49
2023	49	-	-	-	-	49

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS**Table NASS-4. Shared Funding Projects (dollars in thousands)**

Item	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Budget
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
Material Management Service.....	\$209	\$299	\$154	\$157
Mail and Reproduction Services.....	214	180	260	259
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	97	69	63	62
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems.....	8	9	11	11
Subtotal.....	529	557	488	489
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center.....	142	284	379	331
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center.....	234	231	215	216
Internal Control Support Services.....	54	55	60	46
Financial Management Support Services.....	645	960	931	966
Subtotal.....	933	1,246	1,206	1,229
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center.....	1,990	8,003	7,889	8,081
Department Administration Information Technology Office	10	-	1	1
Digital Infrastructure Services Center.....	982	7,541	3,010	3,128
Enterprise Network Services.....	3,032	3,332	2,992	2,560
Subtotal.....	6,014	18,876	13,892	13,770
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	3	4	5	5
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	7,622	20,966	15,970	15,825
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services.....	-	2	2	2
Agency Partnership Outreach.....	71	63	63	63
Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard.....	6	-	-	-
Medical Services.....	34	83	78	78
National Capital Region Interpreting Services.....	-	-	36	45
Office of Customer Experience.....	53	89	74	74
Personnel and Document Security Program.....	14	16	14	14
Physical Security.....	54	39	36	37
Security Detail.....	43	42	38	39
Security Operations Program.....	54	60	52	52
TARGET Center.....	10	11	11	11
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services.....	75	50	38	38
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs.....	414	456	442	452
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business.....	3	1	1	1
E-Rulemaking.....		3	9	9
Financial Management Line of Business.....	18	1	1	1
Geospatial Line of Business.....	13	13	13	13
Hiring Assessment Tool.....	-	-	2	2
Human Resources Line of Business.....	3	3	2	2
Integrated Acquisition Environment.....	15	-	-	-
Total, E-Gov.....	52	20	28	28
Agency Total.....	8,088	21,442	16,440	16,305

ACCOUNT 1: SALARIES AND EXPENSES**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

Salaries and Expenses

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, [~~\$183,921,000~~]\$217,474,000, of which up to [~~\$46,300,000~~]\$66,413,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture. *Provided*, that amounts made available for the Census of Agriculture may be used to conduct the Current Agricultural Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204g(d) and (f).

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Table NASS-5. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2022	\$183,921,000
Change in Appropriation	+ 33,553,000
Budget Estimate, 2023	<u>217,474,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENT

Table NASS-6. Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTE)

Item	2020 Actual	FTE	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Estimated	FTE	2023 Budget	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Agricultural Estimates.....	\$134,994	484	\$137,621	485	\$137,621	514	\$151,061	514	+\$13,440	-	(1)
Census of Agriculture.....	45,300	230	46,300	230	46,300	230	66,413	270	+20,113	+40	(2)
Subtotal.....	180,294	714	183,921	715	183,921	744	217,474	784	+33,553	+40	
Recoveries, Other	8,610	-	11,906	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY.....	204	-	250	-	176	-	-	-	-176	-	
Total Available.....	189,108	714	196,077	715	184,097	744	217,474	784	+33,377	+40	
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-250	-	-176	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Obligations.....	188,858	714	195,901	715	184,097	744	217,474	784	+33,377	+40	

Item	2020 Actual	FTE	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Estimated	FTE	2023 Budget	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Agricultural Estimates.....	\$134,994	484	\$137,621	485	\$137,621	514	\$151,061	514	+\$13,440	-
Census of Agriculture.....	53,864	230	58,280	230	46,476	230	66,413	270	+19,937	+40
Subtotal Disc oblig.....	188,858	714	195,901	715	184,097	744	217,474	784	+33,377	+40
Total Obligations.....	188,858	714	195,901	715	184,097	744	217,474	784	+33,377	+40
Balances Available, EOY:										
Census of Agriculture.....	250	-	176	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY.....	250	-	176	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available.....	189,108	714	196,077	715	184,097	744	217,474	784	+33,377	+40
Recoveries, Other	-8,610	-	-11,906	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY.....	-204	-	-250	-	-176	-	-	-	+176	-
Total Appropriation.....	180,294	714	183,921	715	183,921	744	217,474	784	+33,553	+40

Agricultural Estimates Program

Base funding for AEP provides objective data essential to both the public and private sectors of the agriculture industry. AEP base funding will be used to continue collecting integrated surveys and estimates used for approximately 450 agricultural statistical reports that:

- Directly impact the market,
- Directly contribute to the Federal Principle Economic Indicators of the United States,
- Provide data for which NASS reports are the only publicly available objective sources of information,
- Support USDA program delivery, and
- Have specific legislative requirements for release.

Providing market information was one of the USDA key missions when it was created in 1862. Critical market-sensitive data are used by the commodity and agricultural markets to operate efficiently, providing a fair and equitable environment for price discovery in the marketplace. Without a federal provision of objective data available for the U.S. and world markets, key market information would be in the hands of a few. Individual producers and ranchers would be at a disadvantage compared to those who have resources to pay for information, and markets could be exposed to manipulation.

Funds will be used for salaries and benefits, travel and transportation, rental payments, communications and utilities, printing and reproduction, goods and services from non-federal and federal sources, research and development, equipment, operation and maintenance of equipment, and supplies and materials.

The NASS AEP is an integrated program; most report costs cannot be itemized as separate costs for a single report. For example, the June Area, Crops, and Objective Yield surveys provide direct estimates or are a component of data collection and estimation for the following publications: June Acreage; Cattle Inventory; Small Grains Summary; Crop Production Summary; Hogs & Pigs Inventory; Sheep Inventory; Farm Production Expenses; Agricultural Land Values; Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations.

As with base funding, the increases and decreases shown below support the mission, vision, and goals of the agency. The funding changes are requested for the following items:

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

- (1) An increase of \$13,440,000 (of which \$50,000 is IT related) - (\$137,621,000 available in 2022 annualized CR).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$1,312,000 which includes \$611,200 for pay inflation and \$700,800 for FERS for 2022 Pay and FERS. The increase supports the pay increase which went into effect January 1, 2022 of a 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increases for civilian employees, and a 1.1 percent increase to cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS. This also includes a decrease in NASS funding to support the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS).

- B) An increase of \$2,414,000 for 2023 Pay.

This increase will support the annualization of the 2022 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase.

This amount will enable NASS to maintain staffing levels that are critical to achieving the agency's principal goal to assist rural communities in creating prosperity, so they are self-sustaining, repopulating and economically thriving. Approximately 64 percent of NASS' budget is in support of personnel compensation.

- C) An increase of \$8,000,000 to support climate science activities to meet the President's climate goals.

This amount will support enhancements to our existing geospatial program. NASS is creating dynamic, high-performance computing capabilities within USDA's cloud and analytics platform which allows NASS to both leverage and automate the flow of data from a wide variety of sources, including administrative, geospatial, and economic data to improve the timeliness and quality of planted acreage estimates. The timeliness of these estimates is critical to supporting USDA's response to extreme weather events.

D) An increase of \$1,714,000 in the Agricultural Estimates Programs.

This amount is for inflationary cost for the Agricultural Estimates program.

(2) An increase of \$20,113,000 (of which \$50,000 is IT related) and 40 FTE (\$46,300,000 and 230 FTE available in 2022 annualized CR).A) An increase of \$328,200 which includes \$153,000 for pay inflation and \$175,200 for FERS for 2022 Pay and FER. The increase supports the pay increase which went into effect January 1, 2022, of a 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increases for civilian employees, and a 1.1 percent increase to cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. This also includes decrease in funding to support the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS).B) An increase of \$1,609,000 for 2023 Pay.

This increase will support the annualization of the 2022 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase.

This amount will enable NASS to maintain staffing levels that are critical to achieving the agency’s principal goal to assist rural communities in creating prosperity, so they are self-sustaining, repopulating and economically thriving. Approximately 64 percent of NASS’ budget is in support of personnel compensation.

C) An increase of \$18,175,800 (of which \$1,000,000 is IT related) for the Census of Agriculture (\$46,300,000 available in the 2022 annualized CR).

Fiscal Year 2023 marks the fourth year in the five-year funding cycle for conducting the 2022 Census of Agriculture. The largest portion of the funding will be used for outsourcing all necessary functions associated with mailing and processing the Census of Agriculture. Due to the approximately 3 million forms mailed and processed only once every five years, NASS contracts with NPC in Jeffersonville, Indiana, the same center responsible for the Census Bureau’s handling of the Decennial Census. NPC has the specialized equipment and capacity to handle the questionnaire volume associated with the Census of Agriculture. Outsourcing this function saves significant money for NASS during the four non-production years of the five-year Census of Agriculture cycle.

Included in the funding increase request are expenses for outgoing and return postage for the approximately 3 million potential farmers and ranchers on the CML. In order to achieve desired response rates while holding down costs, NASS conducts three separate mailings.

In order to achieve an acceptable level of response for every county, or county equivalent, in the United States, NASS will conduct extensive phone follow-up to mail and web non-respondents. Additionally, NASS will conduct personal interviews for a small group of farmers and ranchers. NASS limits these more expensive personal enumeration efforts to operations that are critical because of their size or type of specialized agriculture production. As part of the data collection efforts, NASS will use field enumeration to collect information from minority and disadvantaged populations such as American Indians, including Reservation level data, and Hispanic producers as those historically these producers have been hard to reach and under-represented in the census results. NASS will expand partnership building with community-based organizations in a grass roots effort to promote the importance of being represented by the COA. This funding is necessary to continue the progress going back to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, when NASS produced key data products regarding race, ethnicity, and gender of farm operators.

There is one IT investment related to this program. The investment is REE-NASS Data Center and Cloud Standard Investment (UII: 005-000003309. It is the NASS Data Collection System. The current NASS Data collection equipment is out of warranty and needs to be moved to the cloud environment to enable successful Census of Agriculture data. This will also help other data collection survey programs. If not implemented, NASS may experience delays with data collection. We will bring in contractors – so no staffing levels will change. Contractors will be released once system is deployed. Strategic Goal: 1. Ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, with integrity and a focus on customer service.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTE*Table NASS-7. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTE (thousands of dollars, FTE)*

State/Territory/Country	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE
Alabama	\$279	2	\$292	2	\$292	2	\$310	2
Alaska	194	1	203	1	203	1	220	1
Arizona	278	2	291	2	291	2	312	2
Arkansas	2,945	19	309	19	309	19	330	19
California	2,968	26	3,116	26	3,116	26	3,300	26
Colorado	3,989	33	4,188	33	4,188	33	4,545	33
District of Columbia	128,588	254	135,419	255	123,615	284	148,286	284
Florida	404	3	424	3	424	3	455	3
Georgia	2,751	21	2,888	21	2,888	21	3,050	21
Hawaii	333	2	349	2	349	2	380	2
Idaho	333	2	349	2	349	2	380	2
Illinois	320	2	336	2	336	2	360	2
Indiana	341	2	358	2	358	2	380	2
Iowa	2,985	27	3,134	27	3,134	27	3,331	27
Kansas	276	2	289	2	289	2	312	2
Kentucky	3,335	27	3,501	27	3,501	27	3,702	27
Louisiana	294	2	308	2	308	2	330	2
Maryland	153	1	161	1	161	1	180	1
Michigan	2,670	26	2,803	26	2,803	26	3,200	26
Minnesota	296	2	310	2	310	2	340	2
Mississippi	286	2	300	2	300	2	345	2
Missouri	15,757	87	16,544	87	16,544	87	22,000	127
Montana	540	5	567	5	567	5	612	5
Nebraska	3,536	31	3,712	31	3,712	31	3,902	31
Nevada	215	1	225	1	225	1	250	1
New Hampshire	345	3	362	3	362	3	390	3
New Jersey	335	2	351	2	351	2	380	2
New Mexico	295	2	309	2	309	2	344	2
New York	295	2	309	2	309	2	344	2
North Carolina	525	2	551	2	551	2	600	2
North Dakota	299	2	314	2	314	2	345	2
Ohio	258	2	271	2	271	2	295	2
Oklahoma	496	3	520	3	520	3	555	3
Oregon	320	2	336	2	336	2	370	2
Pennsylvania	3,212	34	3,372	34	3,372	34	3,577	34
South Carolina	330	2	346	2	346	2	380	2
South Dakota	275	2	289	2	289	2	315	2
Tennessee	255	2	267	2	267	2	310	2

State/Territory/Country	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE
Texas	3,247	32	3,409	32	3,409	32	3,605	32
Utah	315	2	331	2	331	2	355	2
Virginia	290	2	304	2	304	2	330	2
Washington	2,790	28	2,929	28	2,929	28	3,102	28
West Virginia	280	2	294	2	294	2	320	2
Wisconsin	305	2	320	2	320	2	355	2
Wyoming	325	4	341	4	341	4	390	4
Obligations	188,858	714	195,901	715	184,097	744	217,474	784
Bal. Available, EOY	250	-	176	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available	189,108	714	196,077	715	184,097	744	217,474	784

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Table NASS-8 Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

Item No.	Item	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated	2023 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.	\$43,900	\$44,779	\$45,688	\$47,559
	Personnel Compensation, Field	36,988	37,525	38,482	40,115
11	Total personnel compensation	80,888	82,304	84,170	87,674
12	Personal benefits	26,125	27,712	29,052	30,334
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	41	16	16	16
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	107,054	110,032	113,238	118,024
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	1,550	95	1,500	2,000
22.0	Transportation of things	1,199	1,145	1,000	1,600
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	6,580	6,472	6,820	7,000
23.2	Rental payments to others	3,357	2,261	2,457	4,000
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	4,059	5,039	5,000	6,000
24.0	Printing and reproduction	432	176	500	500
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	4,227	5,844	5,000	6,000
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	4,237	4,200	4,000	7,344
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	455	2,548	2,600	2,600
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	3,200	6,428	6,000	6,400
25.41	Other Services from non-Fed. Sources NASDA	37,500	40,000	21,176	40,000
25.5	Research and development contracts	9,000	9,000	11,000	11,000
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	3,300	930	1,000	1,500
26.0	Supplies and materials	662	500	800	1,500
31.0	Equipment	2,041	1,226	2,000	2,000
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	5	5	6	6
	Total, Other Objects	81,804	85,869	70,859	99,450
99.9	Total, new obligations	188,858	195,901	184,097	217,474
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)..	\$1,995	\$2,117	\$2,100	\$2,100
	Information Technology Investments.....				
	Major Investment 1.....				
	Related Mission Area PPA #1.....				
11	Internal Labor.....	13,830	10,494	10,500	11,300
	External Labor (Contractors).....	4,954	14,000	13,591	13,750
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting).....	-	-	890	959
	Total Major Investment 1.....	18,784	24,494	24,981	26,009
	Mission Area Non-Major Investment Totals.....	-	-	-	-
	Mission Area Standard Investment Totals.....	28,880	30,396	31,523	31,409
25.3	Mission Area WCF Transfers.....	6,015	15,304	14,423	14,487
	Total Non-Major Investment	34,895	45,700	45,946	45,896
	Total IT Investments.....	53,679	70,194	70,927	71,905
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	\$187,293	\$190,102	\$194,855	\$200,700
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$90,153	\$91,505	\$93,793	\$96,606
	Average Grade, GS Position	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5

ADVERTISING EXPENDITURES

There are no contracts for advertising expenses to report.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) mission is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. To achieve this, NASS administers USDA's program of collecting and publishing current national, state, and county agricultural statistics, which consists of the Agricultural Estimates and the Census of Agriculture programs. The NASS statistical data are essential to both the public and private sectors for making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions on a wide range of agricultural commodities. NASS conducts its survey work through 12 regional field offices (RFOs) and 33 State offices serving all 50 States.

Annually, NASS publishes approximately 450 national agricultural statistical reports, covering over 120 crops, 45 livestock items, and 12 major economic and environmental categories, complemented by additional State agricultural statistical releases. These basic and objective data are critical to maintain an orderly association between the consumption, supply, marketing, expenses, income, and input sectors of agriculture. These statistics promote a level playing field in production agriculture with impartial information available to everyone at a predetermined and publicized date and time.

Agricultural Estimates Program

NASS produced six of USDA's eight principal economic indicator reports: Agricultural Prices, Crop Production, Grain Stocks, Cattle on Feed, Hogs and Pigs, and Acreage. These are broadly used in agribusiness and market analyses, including for decision making by buyers and sellers of agricultural commodities.

Geospatial Program

Remote Sensing for Enhanced Crop Acreage Estimates

NASS uses remote sensing to enhance its crop acreage estimates as a major input in constructing the nation's area sampling frame – the statistical foundation for collecting agricultural estimates with complete coverage of U.S. agriculture. The Cropland Data Layer (CDL) is the agency's core remote sensing product; it provides crop-specific land cover information and serves as the basis of acreage estimates. The CDL shows the type and location of crops planted in a particular season using low-cost and free mid-resolution satellite imagery, such as Landsat 8, Indian Space Research Organization Resourcesat 2, and Copernicus Programme Sentinel 2a and 2b; high-quality ground reference data; and efficient and robust land cover classification software.

Remote Sensing for Disaster Assessments

Geospatial decision support products were derived and provided for rapid response to assess the impact on agricultural disaster areas and identify potential crop losses caused by early season flooding in the Mississippi Delta region, late season flooding from Hurricane Ida, and the prolonged Western drought and extreme heatwave event from early July through August 2021. The geospatial data products were derived from remotely sensed satellite and meteorological information obtained from the NASS Climate-Based Information System, the NASS Crop Condition and Soil Moisture Analytics (Crop-CASMA) Program, the PRISM Climate Group, and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Hurricane Center. The flooding products included wind speed and flood assessment reports with crop and pastureland inundated areas and percentages of impacted crops. Weekly drought assessments products included precipitation and temperature anomalies, heat stress maps, and sub-soil moisture assessments products to monitor the long-term extreme heat event and identify agricultural areas impacted by this event. The estimates of crop and pasture hay inundation and extreme heat and drought were provided to the NASS Agricultural Statistics Board for decision support. Cropland disaster assessments were shared with the USDA Operations Center Emergency Programs Division and the USDA Office of the Chief Economist to be included in their mapping efforts.

Research and Development

Integrated Modeling and Geospatial Estimation System (IMAGES)

NASS is increasingly identifying non-survey data, such as administrative, remotely-sensed, weather, soil, and economic data, that can be integrated with survey data to produce improved estimates and to update estimates rapidly in response to adverse weather events impacting agricultural production, such as floods, fires, and drought. Whereas this integration has largely been accomplished using expert opinion, the IMAGES project is focused on using machine learning and other advanced computational methods to create statistical models that integrate the survey and non-survey data, which are all geospatially referenced, providing estimates with valid measures of uncertainty. Another goal is to identify opportunities for using the non-survey data to reduce respondent burden. An example of early results from this multi-year project is the development of a Predictive Cropland Data Layer that was used during FY21 for June Area Survey imputation.

Census of Agriculture Program

The Census of Agriculture (COA) is conducted every 5 years and provides comprehensive data series at the national, state, and county level. It provides a snapshot of the agriculture economy including the number of farms, characteristics of farm producers, land use, production expenses, value of land and buildings, farm size, market value of agricultural production, acreage of hundreds of crops, inventory of livestock and poultry, and extensive farming practices including irrigation, marketing and utilization of government sponsored programs. The main results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture were published in fiscal year 2019. FY 2021 was a critical planning year for 2022 Census of Agriculture.

2017 Census of Agriculture

Typology. The final scheduled data product from the 2017 Census of Agriculture was released in January 2021. The Farm Typology report classifies all farms into unique groups. The data primarily focuses on the “family farm,” or any farm where the majority of the business is owned by the producer and individuals related to the producer, including relatives who do not live in the producer’s household.

COA Special Tabulations. As a compliment to the data provided from the Census of Agriculture, NASS receives requests from the public for a variety of reformulations of available data. In response to data user requests, NASS completed and made public over fifty special tabulations that included data on specialty crops, farm economics, farmer demographics, and geographic disbursements of livestock inventories.

2022 Census of Agriculture

2022 COA Preparations. NASS continues preparations for the 2022 Census of Agriculture. Planning and development for the 2022 Census of Agriculture was initiated with the formation of two teams: one responsible for the content (Content Team) and one responsible for development and testing of the forms and data collection (Data Collection Testing Team). The following highlights the planning activities in FY 2021.

- List Building for 2022 COA - Counting over 2.2 million farms takes a fully implemented and routinely performed list building effort. Beginning in reference year 2018, NASS began developing its Census Mail List. Over the course of four years, NASS will process millions of potential agriculture operation identification report forms through the National Agricultural Classification Survey instrument to determine if they should be included in the 2022 Census of Agriculture.
- During FY 2021, the Census Content Test was conducted. A sample of approximately 30,000 records received the modified Census of Agriculture report form. This content test serves as a dry-run for all the processing steps and systems utilized during the production phase. Tremendous efforts were put into enhancing the online version of the questionnaire in hopes of soliciting more web responses.
- During FY 2021, work continued to improve the Electronic Data Reporting (EDR) instrument used for capturing online responses. These efforts began in FY 2015 with the initiation of a new responsive web-design instrument. NASS successfully deployed the latest instrument during the 2020 Content Test. Based on results from this test, NASS will continue to focus on enhancements in preparation for its web-focused data collection strategy for the upcoming 2022 Census of Agriculture.
- NASS completed the forms design and development process in FY 2021 for the preparations of mail packets in FY 2022. This includes a long form, short form, and customized forms for American Indians and Puerto Rico. Additional mail materials were developed which included all correspondence letters and instructions to assist respondents in completing their questionnaire.

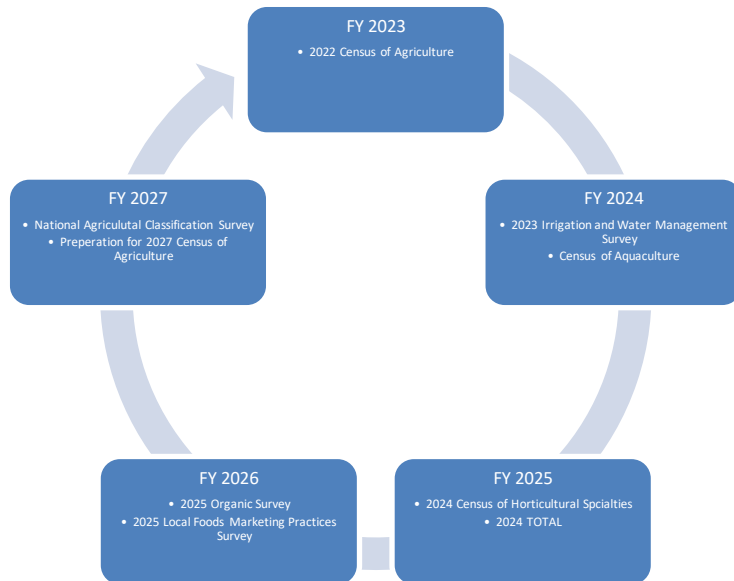
- NASS prepared for its marketing campaign which will encourage producers to be represented in the 2022 Census of Agriculture. As part of the overall strategy, NASS is focused on improving coverage of minority operations which includes partnering with Community Based Organizations.
- During FY 2021, critical IT programming and infrastructure were enhanced and tested to improve and streamline statistical activities that include data coordination, data collection, data processing, data editing, data analysis, imputation, summarization, and disclosure.
- During FY 2021, NASS compiled the maps generated from satellite imagery used to supplement area frame samples. These additional samples will be used by enumerators in all states to collect data designed to improve estimation of under-coverage, particularly for key demographic groups.

Census Follow-on Surveys

- ***Organic Survey*** – In October 2020, NASS released the results of the 2019 Organic Survey. This survey provides acreage, production, sales, price, expenses, and other data for various organic crop and livestock commodities at national, state, and commodity levels.
- ***Census of Horticultural Specialties*** – In December 2020, NASS released the results of the 2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties. This Census Special Study, conducted as a follow-on survey to the Census of Agriculture, is the leading source of detailed production and sales data for this specialized industry.
- ***Local Food Marketing Practices Survey*** – During fiscal year 2021, NASS collected data from the 2020 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey. This survey will provide updated metrics on the value of agriculture products sold by marketing practice and marketing channel, as well as the geographic location of production and the distance traveled to market directly to consumers. This Census Special Study, conducted as a follow-on survey to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, is the leading source of detailed data for these agricultural marketing practices.

Census Five Year Plans

Future Census Plans. The chart below shows the planned Census studies for FY 2024 through FY 2027. These follow the normal census rotation cycle but are subject to change based on funding and direction provided by policy makers.



ACTIVITIES COVERING BOTH AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES & THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Operational Transformations to Streamline Business Processes

NASS continues to implement its three Strategic Initiatives to better align the agencies resources and effectiveness. The three initiatives link to the Agency’s Strategic Plan.

1. Strategic Initiative 1: Customer Centric Data Interface focuses on creating an interface which will provide an opportunity to collect primary-sourced survey data as well as view other harmonized secondary sourced data, allowing respondents to make more informed enterprise-level decisions about their agricultural operation. We will deploy a portal for respondent access to survey information.
2. Strategic Initiative 2: Operation Model Re-Imagined focuses on improving the operating model with the goal of providing the same or more output with less inputs.
3. Strategic Initiative 3: Improving the Data User’s Experience. The goal and objective of this project is to modernize and improve the NASS agricultural data user experience by creating access to data which allows users to interact with data at their level of comfort. We create a NASS data dissemination process and repository for economics, field crops, livestock, and aquaculture in addition to the milk and dairy data migrated in FY21.

USDA Cybersecurity Performance

NASS continues to maintain a high level of security around its IT assets and data. The Agency maintains current Authority To Operate (ATO) on all its Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) systems. NASS manages risks in accordance with established Federal cybersecurity guidance. Weaknesses that cannot be mitigated within established timeframes are documented as Plans of Actions and Milestones (POA&M) and managed accordingly where none are delayed. NASS is in the process of enhancing its capabilities to ensure compliance with Executive Order 14028, “*Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity*”.

Stakeholder Engagement/Information Technology Projects

NASS Twitter Following

In FY 2021, NASS increased its Twitter following from 37,900 followers to 48,100 for a net gain of about 10,200 followers. The @usda_nass Twitter account team produced 656 tweets or replies on accurate, useful and timely topics, including 338 photos or data visualizations, 11 videos, and 106 links. NASS' tweets achieved over 3 million impressions and 35,454,800 engagements. NASS promoted programs through 8 paid advertisements on Twitter throughout the year. NASS continued its monthly #StatChat series on Twitter with 18 #StatChats during the year, inviting Twitter users to ask questions directly to NASS representatives following crop production, cattle, and hog report releases. The most popular topics during the year were from crop-related #StatChat Twitter discussions, the Crop-CASMA tool in March, June Ag/Area survey promotion, and launching the Hemp survey in October.

Using Email and Text Communications in Data Collection

As part of NASS' data collection modernization efforts, NASS is working on improving its communications with agricultural producers by incorporating electronic options, such as email and text, to provide survey reminders and notifications with links that will facilitate easier access to NASS adaptively-designed web surveys. The NASS Enterprise Messaging Outreach (NEMO) System is a role-based fully integrated system being developed to standardize and automate use of text and email services in NASS data collections. NASS conducted an initial email test with a small-scale survey in October and is currently implementing improvements based on the results of this test. NASS plans to conduct additional testing of its email service in December 2021 with two Regional Fields Offices and a larger-scale test for the Census of Agriculture Web Test in January 2022. In Spring 2022, NASS plans to expand its efforts to sending messages for nationally-administered surveys and its External Project Agreements. In conjunction with the email component, NASS is also working to build its database of producers who consent to texting and plans to use this service in the 2022 Census of Agriculture. During FY 2022, NASS will continue developing policy to manage both text and email services as well as collaborate with the Public Affairs Office to outline a marketing and awareness campaign. Ultimately, this work can help to improve the customer experience with one-click access to NASS web surveys and expanded options for producers who prefer electronic communications. Using electronic survey reminders also costs less than mailed reminders and promotes earlier responses, reducing the need for more expensive follow-up methods.

Using Video Conferencing in Data Collection

The pandemic has presented many challenges to data collection, including the suspension of face-to-face interviewing to ensure the safety of our enumerators and potential respondents. With the types of video conferencing tools and their usage increasing over the past year, NASS wanted to leverage tools to improve communication by conducting interviews and outreach via video. In FY 2021, NASS conducted a pilot study in the Northeast Region to evaluate the implementation and impact of using video conferencing for interviewing. While there were multiple video conferencing tools available, the pilot study focused on using the Government-licensed Zoom product which has encryption and FedRamp certification. The pilot study showed that video conferencing could be a beneficial tool for enumerators to utilize to maintain rapport and a connection with operations during the pandemic and beyond. For example, video conferencing can be used to conduct interviews when producer requests a virtual meeting, for complex surveys that are difficult to administer over the phone, and for interviewing large operations who discourage visitors to prevent disease. Based on the pilot study results, NASS documented its policy on utilizing video conferencing methods for data collections. In FY 2022, NASS will implement this new policy across all its regional offices and track measures to evaluate the use of video conferencing as a data collection tool to inform future improvements or changes needed. While it is anticipated only a small proportion of data collection interviews would be conducted via video, NASS will be able to offer this option for producers who prefer it or when needed to help NASS meet its mission to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

Quality Management Program

Paradata Analysis for Web Data Collection

Collecting data via a self-administered web instrument poses unique design challenges not present in other interviewer-administered modes. Many factors must be carefully implemented to ensure web surveys are designed effectively to promote high quality data while minimizing burden. In FY 2021, NASS analyzed the web paradata (e.g., device type, help access, changing answers, where breakoffs occur, and where errors are triggered) for the Census of Agriculture Content Test. In FY 2022, NASS will conduct the Census of Agriculture Web Test and evaluate the corresponding web paradata. Evaluating the Census of Agriculture web instrument paradata will help NASS gain additional insight into the user experience across mobile and non-mobile device types, ensure an optimal user experience responding via web surveys, and identify any problematic areas. Issues found from the analysis of

the paradata for the Census Web Test instrument will be useful in informing changes needed for the 2022 Census of Agriculture web instrument. Ultimately, this work can help in improving the customer experience during web collection, reducing respondent burden, and increasing the number of responses collected via NASS web instruments for the Census of Agriculture as well as our survey programs.

Work Performed For Others – Reimbursable Program

Reimbursable Work for Federal, State, and Private Organizations

NASS conducts surveys for and lends technical expertise to other Federal agencies, State governments, and private organizations on a reimbursable basis. Statistics generated meet special needs not covered by the NASS programs. In addition, statistical consultation by NASS staff members contributes to improvements in the overall quality and consistency of statistical information produced for the needs of other organizations. NASS provides support and assistance in the areas of questionnaire and sample design, data collection and editing, analysis of survey results, and training. NASS also provides technical consultation, support, and assistance to foreign countries desiring to enhance their statistical programs.

External Project Agreements

NASS partners extensively with external State and Federal governmental organizations, universities, and agricultural commodity organizations to provide high-quality, rigorous, and standardized statistical consultation. NASS provides statistical services on a fee-for-service basis and fully recovers all costs. To date, NASS has worked on more than 1,225 projects since beginning this centralized process in 2012, which includes about 93 such projects in FY 2021. NASS relies on the discretion of cooperators to fund these projects; however, the number of projects in FY 2022 is anticipated to be similar to past years.

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Pesticide Data Program (PDP)

NASS will continue to provide sampling support to AMS and select AMS-PDP samples in FY-2022. The AMS-PDP Sampling Frame comprises terminal markets and large chain store food distribution centers. The Sampling and Frame Development Section (SFDS) in NASS' Methodology Division compiles the AMS-PDP sampling frame information supplied by State Department of Agriculture agencies prior to selecting the quarterly AMS-PDP samples using a probability-proportional-to-size technique.

The AMS-PDP uses samples selected by SFDS to collect data on pesticide residue on commodities most commonly consumed by infants and children. The Environmental Protection Agency relies on sample results to conduct dietary risk assessments and to ensure pesticides residues – if any – are at safe levels. USDA uses the data to ascertain the relationship of pesticide residues to agricultural practices, to enhance USDA's Integrated Pest Management objectives and to work with growers to improve agricultural practices.

Agricultural Resources Management Survey (ARMS)

ARMS is conducted annually in cooperation with the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). The survey provides data that enables NASS to publish chemical use statistics and provides ERS the ability to estimate farm income, conduct economic analysis relating to field crop chemical usage, estimate costs associated with producing agricultural commodities, and compile farm business and household financial data. Data collected support both agencies' estimation programs for farm production expenditures. ARMS Phase I target commodities for the 2022 crop year will be wheat (spring, durum, and winter). Phase II target commodities for the 2022 crop year are spring, durum, and winter wheat for the production practices, cost, and return data (PPCR) and potatoes for the production practices and return data (PPR). The 2023 ARMS Phase III, will focus on calendar year 2022 farm financial data for all types and sizes of farms.

County Cash Rents Survey

Through the 2018 Farm Bill, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rental rates are based on soil productivity and county average rental rates. USDA may use the NASS survey estimates relating to dryland cash rental rates when determining annual rental rates. NASS is required to conduct a survey no less than once a year on county average market dryland and irrigated cash rental rates. The 2022 County Cash Rents Survey is designed to collect statistically reliable county or state subdivision estimates of average market dry land and irrigated cash rental rates for cropland and pasture; and at least 20,000 acres cropland and pastureland per county. Data collected supports the Farm Service Agency's administration of payments for CRP.

Chemical Use Program

Chemical Use Data is Useful to Federal Agencies and State and Local Governments.

The NASS Chemical Use program provides chemical usage statistics to enable informed, science-based decisions. Through various programs and activities, NASS provides data that other Federal agencies, as well as State and local governments rely on to protect the U.S. food supply, agricultural production and water quality. NASS' agricultural chemical use database is USDA's official source of statistics about on-farm and post-harvest fertilizer and pesticide use and pest management practices. It encompasses surveys looking at chemical use by producers of fruits, vegetables, field crops, livestock, and other animals and crops. The database also includes post-harvest chemical use, obtained by surveying storage facilities, processors, packers and shippers.

- ***Chemical Use Database.*** To create the database, NASS surveys fruit and vegetable producers to determine use of fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides and other pesticides; each chemical produced is classified by its active ingredients. The data collected includes acreage of the targeted commodities grown during the year and treated with chemical applications; the name, amount and method of application of all chemical products applied; and the operation's pest management practices.
- ***Redesigned Chemical Use Program.*** In FY 2011, NASS redesigned the chemical and fertilizer use program to continue, but with a reduced frequency. Since 2014, funding was restored, and the chemical and fertilizer program returned to full frequency with the Fruit Chemical Use Survey and the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey being conducted in alternating years. In 2014, the Vegetable Chemical Use survey was conducted after last being conducted in 2010. Data from the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey was released in August 2015. The 2021 Fruit Chemical Use survey is currently being conducted with data collection continuing through January 2022. The Vegetable Chemical Use Survey was last conducted in 2020 and will be conducted again in 2022. Data from the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey was released in August 2021. The chemical and fertilizer use survey is also coordinated in conjunction with ARMS for row crops and other crops. The program added additional pesticide management questions to both Fruit and Vegetable Chemical Use survey since 2018 on behalf of the Office of the Chief Economist – Office of Pesticide Management Policy.

2022 Conservation Practice Adoption & Motivation Study

During FY 2022, NASS will support USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with a series of surveys to capture and measure the state of their programs. NASS will conduct this survey in 2022, information that has never been asked of U.S. producers before. The survey data will help NRCS and the US Agriculture sector understand conservation practice adoption and motivation to better examine key facts to help improve NRCS programs. NASS will survey producers with two versions (cropping practices and livestock practices) in 2022.

NRCS conservation programs seek to leverage long-term changes in the use of crop, livestock, pasture and forestry practices that conservation resources protect the environment by providing technical and financial assistance to producers/landlords who agree to adopt or install best conservation practices.

For structural practices (e.g., terraces, grassed waterways), NRCS provides technical and financial assistance that covers part of the cost of initial installation. Producers must maintain these practices over their useful life (usually 10-15 years).

For management practices (e.g., no-till, cover crops), NRCS provides technical and financial assistance that covers part of application cost. These practices typically have a one-year useful life. NRCS programs typically provide financial assistance over a period three-five years. Once the contract ends, the producer/landowners have no further obligation to continue applying these annual practices.

What has been difficult for NRCS to track are producers who may have already applied basic conservation practices that received financial assistance for an ongoing maintenance of existing practices. The plan is to measure the producers that are not using NRCS program technical and financial assistance to enhance the function of existing practices through the Conservation Stewardship Program. While NRCS seeks to leverage long-term changes for their programs in conservation behavior, farmers and landowners eventually decide whether to continue or expand adoption without financial assistance. NASS will present to NRCS a method of tracking and monitoring programs in a way that currently does not exist.

2022 National Animal Health Monitoring System Bison Study

In partnership with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – National Animal Health Monitoring System (APHIS-NAHMS), NASS will conduct a Bison Study in FY 2022. NASS will provide APHIS-NAHMS with a

special tabulation from its most current Sampling Frame, including updates from the 2017 Census of Agriculture. The tabulations will include numbers of operations with one or more bison owned.

This survey will use the following data collection modes: mail, paper-assisted self-interview (PASI) and computer-assisted self-interview (CASI), with a computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) follow-up.

2022 Feral Swine Survey

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Service is a multi-faceted agency with a broad mission area that includes protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health, regulating genetically engineered organisms, administering the Animal Welfare Act, and carrying out wildlife damage management activities. These efforts support the overall mission of USDA, which is to protect and promote food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues. Free-ranging populations of feral swine exist in 35 states, and nationwide estimated population is approximately 5 million animals. Feral swine damage pastures, agricultural crops, lawns, landscaping, and natural areas due to feeding, rooting, wallowing, grazing, and trampling activities. Feral swine are reservoirs of many diseases and act as a host of parasites that can negatively impact agricultural animals, especially swine. The goal of APHIS Wildlife Service is to manage the population of feral swine to minimize feral swine damage in U.S. agriculture. The agreement between NASS and APHIS Wildlife Service will help to evaluate alternatives for reducing damage and risk to human health and safety.

Over the past six years NASS has partnered with APHIS Wildlife Service to alternate the commodity rotation of crop and livestock operations for the Feral Swine Survey. In FY 2022, the Feral Swine Survey will target crop producers.

2022 Hemp Acreage and Production Survey

The authority of the agencies to enter into this agreement are described in the 2018 Farm Bill. Data described within are collected, kept confidential, and protected by the parties pursuant to section 1619 of the Food, Conservation, Farm Security and Energy Act of 2008, P.L. 110-246 (“Section 1619”); section 2004 of the Food, Conservation, Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, P.L. 107-171; the Privacy Act of 1974; and the E-Government Act of 2002. Section 11102 of the 2018 Farm Bill states this about hemp: “Data collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, whether published or unpublished, shall be provided in an aggregate form to the Corporation for the purpose of providing insurance under this subtitle; and kept confidential by the Corporation in the same manner and to the same extent as is required under – section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Title 7 U.S.C. 2276); and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (Title 44 U.S.C. 3501)”. Other authorities may also apply.

NASS developed and conducted the 2021 Hemp Acreage and Production Survey in FY 2021. The publication of the 2021 Hemp Acreage and Production report will be released on February 17, 2022.

Survey Marketing and Promotions

During FY 2021, the NASS Public Affairs Office supported collection of data and awareness of resulting data from dozens of surveys through strategic communications. The surveys and reports include ARMS; the quarterly agricultural and livestock surveys; the Local Food Marketing Practices Survey; the 2022 Census of Agriculture Content Test; and the National Agricultural Classification Survey. Preparation included distribution of national news releases, blogs, feature stories, talking points, e-mails, video, graphics, state templates and tweets. NASS created and distributed production story packages with interviews for local radio around the country. The NASS Public Affairs Office publicized electronic reporting as quicker, easier, more secure, and leading to less burden than responding by mail consistently across survey materials, all media and via an advertising campaign.

International Technical Assistance Provided

In FY 2021, NASS provided technical assistance and training virtually to improve agricultural statistics programs in five countries: Kenya, Dominican Republic, India, Georgia, and Tanzania. The technical assistance ranged from basic survey concepts and procedures to complete national Census of Agriculture support. Major accomplishments included country assessments for Kenya, Dominican Republic, and one for India’s State of Maharashtra; the creation of an economic survey in Georgia; and activities between NASS and the Department of Commerce’s Census Bureau to coordinate population and agriculture censuses in developing countries. NASS also planned and conducted virtual Cochran training programs for Brazil and Vietnam. These assistance and training activities promote better quality data and improved access to data from other countries, which allows U.S. analysts to better understand the world

supply and demand situation. Improved analysis supports trade and more efficient marketing of U.S. agricultural products.

The agricultural statistics programs in Kenya and India are funded and continuing. A new multi-year project is funded and beginning with Argentina. A new single year project is funded and underway with Indonesia. The programs in Dominican Republic and Georgia are expected to continue in FY 2022. Projects are dependent upon NASS receiving reimbursable funds.