



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# Talking About NASS



A guide to help partners and stakeholders of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) communicate more effectively about the NASS mission and the value of our important work to producers, the ag industry, local communities, and our nation.

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# Using this Guide

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*This guide was designed for NASS partners and stakeholders – those who educate and engage on our behalf – as a hands-on tool to support communications of all kinds.*

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It includes information on the NASS mission, plus a library of key statements and talking points you can use. Refer to this guide before you speak with local producers, draft a technical report, or give a presentation to community leaders. The content is designed to be flexible, mixed and matched, and to help you tell the NASS story.

*Below is direction on how to use each section of this guide:*

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## **UNDERSTANDING THE NASS MISSION AND MESSAGE**

Refer to this section for information on what NASS does and doesn't do, as well as what we want key audiences to understand about our work and how it affects them.



## **DESCRIBING THE VALUE OF NASS DATA TO ITS USERS IN 30 SECONDS**

Use these points to quickly and easily illustrate the value of NASS data to various target audiences.



## **TALKING TO DATA PROVIDERS**

It is critical that data providers readily understand not only what NASS does, but why our work matters to them. This section provides points you can make during your discussions with providers.



## **SHARING THE FACTS ABOUT NASS**

Turn to this section for clear and direct fact-based statements about what we do and how our data are used. You'll find messages organized in tables by specific questions and topics, including:

- ▶ What NASS is and what the agency does.
- ▶ Who uses NASS data?





# Understanding the NASS Mission and Message

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## OUR STEADFAST MISSION

*The NASS Mission is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.*

### Our Core Values:

- ▶ **Trust** – We maintain producer trust and protect the privacy and data of those who provide personal and agricultural information, as required by law.
- ▶ **Credibility** – We maintain credibility among data users by issuing complete and accurate information about agriculture.
- ▶ **Objectivity/Statistical Independence** – We produce and disseminate unbiased statistical information on an equitable, impartial, and transparent basis.
- ▶ **Policy Relevance** – We provide high-quality statistical data essential for making informed policy decisions.
- ▶ **Commitment** – We are committed as an agency and individually to these values and are proud to serve American farmers and ranchers, rural communities, and all who rely on the information we produce.

As we fulfill our mission and embrace our core values, it is important to note what we *do not* do.

### NASS does not. . .

- ▶ Set policy
- ▶ Regulate activities
- ▶ Permit influence
- ▶ Disclose individual reports
- ▶ Favor any group above others



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## OUR STRATEGY: WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO CONVEY?

We want to make sure you have the information you need to convey the importance of our work to individual producers, businesses, and stakeholders – and to do so in ways they care about.

Here are a few things we want you to know about NASS and share with others:

▶ **NASS is part of the USDA.**

We are:

- Service-oriented
- People-oriented
- Ag focused and dedicated
- An agency with a long history of service to the ag industry
- Experts with deep knowledge and access to data
- Stable government entities
- An official, credible voice for the ag industry

▶ **NASS data are “ingredients” for a host of products, services, decisions, and outcomes.**

- Farmers use NASS data to make informed business decisions.
- Legislators use the data to develop policy.
- Journalists use the data to tell stories.
- Students use the data for research.
- Insurance adjusters use the data for policies and claims.
- Commodity traders use the data to make market moves.
- USDA uses the data for program development, payments, and delivery.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses the data to evaluate regulations and requirements.
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) members use the data to support state and local ag programs.



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## TARGET AUDIENCES: WHO ARE WE SPEAKING TO?

As a NASS partner or stakeholder, you communicate with a host of audiences. The two primary audiences are data providers and data users.

### ***Data Providers***

They include large ag businesses, small-to-medium sized family-owned operations, and niche farms and ranches, whether rural or urban. NASS relies on them to complete surveys. Without them, we can't do our jobs. But to inspire their participation, we need to give them good reason to take action.

Data providers are motivated by a mix of factors. They calculate whether or not it's worth their time and effort to participate – which is referred to as a “value equation.” The stronger that value equation is (the more substantive reasons NASS can give them), the more likely they'll be to participate. They will be motivated by practical aspects, such as the useful data and information that surveys yield and will also weigh factors that resonate deeply on a personal or emotional level (i.e., pride, loyalty, family, tradition, community). NASS relies on them to complete surveys.

### ***Data Users***

Those who use NASS data are individuals, businesses, and organizations. They include large and small ag-based businesses, equipment manufacturers, service providers, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders – as well as data providers themselves. They are interested in and use NASS data for many different reasons. From industry reports to research and analysis to product inspiration and decision-making, NASS data are a key ingredient in a range of efforts. As such, individuals, businesses, and organizations add rich meaning, potential, and purpose to NASS data.

However, many who use NASS data do so through secondary sources and may not even realize the data originates from NASS. Highlighting this link and asking for proper citation by those who are making NASS data available to others will increase awareness of the connection between NASS and the data.



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## THE NASS CORE MESSAGE IS CLEAR

**As the statistical agency for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, NASS provides useful agricultural data to help you in your work.**

But what do we mean exactly?

Let's break this concept down a bit.

- ▶ **“As the statistical agency for the U.S. Department of Agriculture...”** highlights the synergies between NASS and USDA and the official relationship.
- ▶ **“Provides useful agricultural data to help you” supports the ingredient brand strategy.** It describes and quantifies the type of data we provide. They aren't just statistics. They are useful. It also alludes to an element of partnership and a mutually beneficial relationship.
- ▶ **“You” speaks to all audiences, whether it's a data provider or data user.** It's flexible, pointed, and direct. There's no mistaking who might benefit. The answer is, *you* will.
- ▶ **“In your work” answers the question, “What's in it for me?”** Because NASS data are accurate, unbiased, and reliable, they can prove valuable for any ag-focused business; enabling them to be more competitive, locally and on a global stage. Plus, NASS data are available for free!

### ADDITIONAL MESSAGES: WHAT ELSE ARE WE SAYING?

Completing out the census online is more convenient than ever. Launched in 2022, the new Respondent Portal is where producers can complete their surveys, track upcoming surveys, access data visualizations and reports of interest, link to other USDA agencies, and more. Online reporting is fast and secure; time-saving features include pre-filled information from previously completed NASS surveys, drop menus, automatic calculations and the skipping of questions that do not apply to your operation. Respond online through the portal at [agcounts.usda.gov](https://agcounts.usda.gov).



# Describing the Value of NASS Data to its Users in 30 Seconds

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*With the core brand message clear, we can add details and examples to promote the value of NASS data and its impact on specific audiences or users. This is how we apply brand messaging in the real world to talk consistently about NASS. Use these examples as references for describing how different audiences can “put NASS data to work....”*

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## **HOW DO NASS DATA HELP FARMERS OR RANCHERS IN THEIR WORK?**

Farmers and ranchers are able to use NASS data in direct and indirect ways. They may consult the data themselves to make better business decisions or use ag-based products and services that rely on NASS data. As an example, NASS crop production forecasts can help both livestock and crop producers make forward contracting, feed purchase, and other marketing decisions. In these cases, producers use concrete facts and figures to make well-informed decisions, which helps to eliminate guesswork, reduce risk, and improve profitability. In another example, information on the concentration of certain agricultural products and related supplies can help a new farmer determine where to start or expand their operation. It can also enable a business such as a trucking company to determine new routes. Brokers, accountants, lenders, market and investment analysts, appraisers, and others also use the data to serve producers

## **HOW DO NASS DATA HELP OTHERS WITHIN USDA IN THEIR WORK?**

For other USDA agencies, such as the Farm Service Agency (FSA), turning to NASS data means that FSA staff can make solid market assessments, validate economic opportunities, and be better stewards of federal funds as they help hard-working farm families access billions of dollars in new credit, either directly or guaranteed through commercial lenders. Over the years, FSA assists more than 120,000 family farmers with loans in excess of \$25 billion.





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## **HOW ARE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL POLICYMAKERS ABLE TO PUT NASS DATA TO WORK?**

When policymakers use NASS data in their work, they have the facts and statistics they need to make well-informed policy decisions and to create budgets that will serve and benefit their agriculture constituents.

For example, one state used data to justify a governor's commission to support the poultry industry and separately to support counties developing right-to-farm legislation. In another state, local farm supporters used NASS data to successfully advocate for a snow removal budget that ensured producers in their area, such as dairy farmers, could count on cleared roads for daily product transportation services to keep their businesses running.

State departments of agriculture universally use NASS data on behalf of farmers and ranchers to market agricultural products, create "buy local" programs, and interest international markets in local products.

At the federal level, legislators use NASS data to determine service and infrastructure gaps. For instance, making the case for investment in broadband access and infrastructure requires an analysis of an area's population and economic activities. NASS data can provide critical details and insights for rural and ag-based regions and facilitate the legislators' analysis.

## **HOW ARE MANUFACTURERS ABLE TO PUT NASS DATA TO WORK?**

When manufacturers turn to NASS data, they are able to identify market opportunities for new products and services. They can also better predict demand for those products and meet the supply needs of growers and producers. By using hard data to make informed decisions, they are in a better position to increase sales and improve profits.



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## **HOW ARE “PRECISION AG” COMPANIES ABLE TO PUT NASS DATA TO WORK?**

Precision ag companies have developed a range of products, software, and apps that improve farm management capabilities. They also use NASS data to develop their own data models, which pinpoint trends, inspire solution ideas, and identify opportunities to serve the ag industry. Having access to accurate and timely statistics keeps these companies in tune with and responsive to what producers want and need.

## **HOW ARE AGRICULTURE TRADERS ABLE TO PUT NASS DATA TO WORK?**

Agriculture traders use NASS data to evaluate U.S. export potential, identify viable markets, analyze trends, and negotiate trades between buyers and sellers. Tapping reliable data strengthens their ability to provide important brokerage services and to become a valued business partner.

## **HOW ARE JOURNALISTS ABLE TO PUT NASS DATA TO WORK?**

When journalists turn to NASS data to review trends and patterns in their area, they can identify topics that will be of interest to their readers. They can also draft more compelling stories that include community-based data and statistics of significance. In this way, journalists are better able to serve their audience and enable their media vehicle – be it a newspaper, radio station, or podcast – to be more relevant. In the process, they can often promote local agriculture and raise awareness about the current state of farming and ranching among non-agricultural residents.

## **HOW ARE RESEARCHERS ABLE TO PUT NASS DATA TO WORK?**

A wide range of researchers, analysts, and other professionals use NASS data to answer challenging questions on such topics as crop management, chemical pesticides, land usage, and veterinary science. They refer to NASS data to identify and analyze emerging trends and issues, and assess their implications. They also use NASS data to align their work with industry needs, so they are able to advance their individual fields of study in meaningful ways. Many researchers also use NASS data to augment their own data collection efforts, to maximize their efforts, to apply for grants, and to establish education and extension programs that are appropriate for the needs and opportunities revealed by the data. Their research can result in producer benefits such as improved crop yields, new variations, and new technologies.



# Talking to Data Providers

*It is critical that data providers understand how NASS data can positively affect them. This section explains these important points and provides answers to other key questions they may have.*

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## **MAKE YOUR POINT!**

This column presents easy-to-digest main points.

**You can put NASS data to work in a variety of ways.**

## **ADD THE DETAILS.**

This column presents explanations to support the main points.

NASS is the primary statistical agency for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For more than 150 years, NASS has been known for its expertise, the quality of the data, its contributions to statistical science, and its commitment to publishing ag data that can be used in multiple ways by producers like you.

With NASS data, you will have accurate, free, unbiased, and reliable facts and figures to make well-informed decisions that eliminate guesswork, reduce risk, and improve profitability. For example, you may choose to incorporate NASS data into your decision-making by consulting survey or census data to:

- ▶ Determine crop and livestock productivity and yields in your area
- ▶ Track trends
- ▶ Set prices
- ▶ Improve operational efficiencies and reduce risk
- ▶ Negotiate cash rents
- ▶ Identify trends, best practices, and patterns that will enable you to be more competitive
- ▶ Analyze consumer demand for your ag-based products – be it foods that nourish a nation or wool that keeps us warm
- ▶ Make informed risk management decisions



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**MAKE YOUR POINT!**

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**NASS data affect every aspect of your business – even though you may not realize it.**

Agriculture statistics have a powerful and far-reaching impact, although you may not realize the many ways that NASS data are used to support your business.

You are under constant pressure to improve yield, provide safe food, ensure nutrition, contain costs, and more. Many products and services you rely on daily to meet these goals are offered by businesses that use NASS data to guide their products, services, inventory, and prices.

For example, ag-based businesses use NASS data to:

- ▶ Determine product inventory to meet demand
- ▶ Develop new equipment and tools, or improve existing models
- ▶ Develop software and apps to advance farm management capabilities
- ▶ Calculate risk levels for lending programs
- ▶ Design studies for agricultural experiments to increase crop productivity and yields
- ▶ Improve their own ability to serve your business



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**MAKE YOUR POINT!**

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**Other USDA agencies use NASS data to support farm and community programs, such as crop insurance, that you depend on.**

Other USDA agencies, such as the Risk Management Agency (RMA), use NASS data to provide services and support to farm and community programs in your region.

*As one example, RMA consults NASS data to develop and evaluate many crop insurance programs. In fact, NASS conducts surveys for RMA to help develop new insurance products. Without NASS data, their risk calculations would not accurately reflect your community's needs. That might result in insurance premiums being too high (where you pay too much for insurance) or too low (where insurance claim totals don't equal your true crop or production losses). Relying on credible and trustworthy NASS data means RMA is better equipped to develop risk management programs designed to more adequately protect you.*

*In another example, USDA uses NASS data to identify opportunities to strengthen the future of agriculture. When data showed 31% of American farmers are women who make a \$12.9 billion impact on the economy, the agency established a Women in Ag mentoring network. Its goal is to help women in the U.S. connect with other women leaders in agriculture across the country. This will ensure that the next generation of women farmers are educated, encouraged, and empowered to take on the challenges of meeting the world's growing food, fuel, and fiber needs. If you are a woman farmer, such programs affect and benefit you directly.*



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**MAKE YOUR POINT!**

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**ADD THE DETAILS.**

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**As the statistical agency for USDA and an official source of comprehensive information, NASS data are used to support research, education, and advocacy for the future of agriculture in your region.**

Governments and organizations at all levels use NASS data to develop agricultural education and research priorities and to advocate for farming and ranching among non-agricultural neighbors and groups.

That means your local, state, and national leaders use NASS data to address agriculture-related issues that impact you directly. Regardless of where you live, researchers in such fields as bacteriology, genetics, biochemistry, dairy science, environmental studies, entomology, plant sciences, rural sociology, veterinary medicine, wildlife, and ecology all have access to and use NASS data to advance their studies.

They use NASS data to:

- ▶ Answer challenging questions on such topics as crop management, chemical pesticides, land usage, and veterinary science
- ▶ Detect trends in invasive pests or plant species, or in viruses and illnesses affecting livestock
- ▶ Design studies for agricultural experiments to increase crop productivity and yields
- ▶ Evaluate the impact of climate and the environment on agriculture
- ▶ Understand the vital economic role of various ag industry sectors
- ▶ Promote the ag industry locally, regionally, and nationally
- ▶ Educate students about agriculture
- ▶ Pinpoint best practices for producers and promote their adoption

*As one example, Oklahoma State University's (OSU) Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources conducts research using NASS data and parlays findings into practical extension programs that help Oklahomans solve issues of importance to them, their families, and their communities. Having access to NASS data enables OSU to maximize its research efforts – critical to a public land-grant institution. So vital are NASS data to OSU's ability to achieve its mission and serve Oklahomans, the University teamed up with USDA to promote NASS surveys and encourage producers to respond.*



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**MAKE YOUR POINT!**

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**NASS data indicate the health and well-being of your community – which not only affects you, but also your friends, neighbors, and family members.**

NASS data are evidence of the health and well-being of the agriculture industry in your community, and at the local level throughout your state.

It is an indicator of how:

- ▶ Agriculture production in your area is thriving and where economic opportunities exist.
- ▶ You and your neighbors are utilizing land and resources.
- ▶ Producers are responding to or influencing food trends across the country and nourishing people around the world.

In this way, NASS data support the flow of goods and services in your region.

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**In service of the ag industry and on behalf of USDA, NASS data tell your story and the story of the millions of farmers and ranchers who came before you.**

NASS has contributed to the historical documentation of the American farmer and rancher since 1863.

In that time, NASS has:

- ▶ Documented yields
- ▶ Chronicled every flood, windstorm, or drought and its effect on regional crop prices
- ▶ Shown the many ways communities have weathered highs and lows
- ▶ Tracked market trends that have influenced and shaped ag businesses in rural towns

Telling this ever-evolving story is critical so that citizens today – as well as future generations – understand and appreciate agriculture’s influence on shaping the American economy and daily life.

For producers like you, consulting NASS’s report archives can enable you to learn from past efforts, trends, mistakes, and outcomes and use them to make smarter, well-informed business decisions.



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**MAKE YOUR POINT!**

This column presents easy-to-digest main points.

**ADD THE DETAILS.**

This column presents explanations to support the main points.

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**Your participation in NASS surveys matters to your business and to your community.**

Without adequate participation from local producers like you, NASS surveys cannot accurately reflect the health and well-being of the agriculture industry in your area.

That means. . .

- ▶ Your county, state, and national leaders won't have access to data that represent the needs of your area. Without localized NASS data, they aren't able to develop more effective legislation and policies to benefit farmers and ranchers in your area or to evaluate the value of programs and policies already in place.
- ▶ Area businesses that serve you and your fellow producers won't have the data they need to determine the right mix of products and services. Plus, their pricing may be off or their inventory insufficient. That impacts your profit margin and your ability to do your work.
- ▶ Researchers won't be able to advance their studies and solve real-world problems that affect your business.
- ▶ USDA, in partnership with various producer groups, won't be able to adequately prepare for and respond to crises in your region (e.g., natural disasters, disease outbreaks) with accurate inventory and production data.

**With all of NASS's surveys now available online, participation is faster and easier than ever before.**

All NASS surveys are available to complete online.

- ▶ NASS online surveys are designed to save time and make it easier to submit data. In the new Respondent Portal, producers can complete their surveys, track upcoming surveys, access data visualizations and reports of interest, link to other USDA agencies, and more.
  - ▶ The online version: skips questions automatically if they do not pertain to you; can be completed on most devices; saves your work for return later; can be printed for your records; and calculates totals for you.
  - ▶ Responding online will reduce manual errors, make data collection and analyses more efficient, and ultimately ensure continued high-quality data.
  - ▶ No other organization or private company offers free and easy access to such comprehensive, unbiased data reflecting the American agriculture industry.
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**MAKE YOUR POINT!**

This column presents easy-to-digest main points.

**ADD THE DETAILS.**

This column presents explanations to support the main points.

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**When you participate in NASS surveys, NASS takes great care to protect the confidentiality of your information.**

The information you provide to NASS is used for statistical purposes only. Your name, addresses, phone numbers, and the data you report about yourself and your operation are fully protected by law. Only authorized persons working for NASS as employees or sworn agents can access individual records – and only for approved official purposes. Everyone signs a confidentiality form pledging not to compromise reported information. Anyone who discloses the information is subject to a fine, a jail term, or both.

In addition, NASS keeps paper responses in a secure area and electronic responses on a secure server. All questionnaires are destroyed as required by law. And, when NASS prepares official statistical estimates, it does so under tight security and publishes only aggregated data, not individual or farm-specific data.



## ***Notes and Localized Talking Points***

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**MAKE YOUR POINT!**

**ADD THE DETAILS.**

Add your own local or topical examples and notes here to customize your conversations.

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# Sharing the Facts about NASS

*When you need to share specific facts about NASS – maybe during a presentation or meeting – use these messages.*

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## WHAT NASS IS AND WHAT IT DOES

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### MAKE YOUR POINT!

This column presents easy-to-digest main points.

### ADD THE DETAILS.

This column presents explanatory statements to support the main points.

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**NASS is the statistical agency for USDA.**

As the statistical agency for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for more than 150 years, NASS is the official source of primary, comprehensive, current information on the farms, ranches, and people who provide food, fuel, and fiber to our nation and the world. And NASS measures all agricultural activities down to the county level from everyone, big or small, urban or rural.

NASS's mission is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

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**What we do**

- ▶ Collect, assemble, process, and disseminate data about all aspects of U.S. agriculture based on survey, satellite, and administrative information.
- ▶ Conduct hundreds of national weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual surveys each year, along with many more at regional, state, and local levels.
- ▶ Conduct a detailed census of every farm, ranch, and agricultural producer every five years.
- ▶ Publish more than 400 national reports and hundreds of thousands of data items each year that help others make farm-level, business, and policy decisions.
- ▶ Partner with state agriculture departments, universities, and others to conduct additional surveys to meet partners' specific needs.
- ▶ Conduct ongoing statistical research on survey design, sampling, and other topics to advance the accuracy of statistical science.



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## WHAT NASS IS AND WHAT IT DOES

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### MAKE YOUR POINT!

This column presents easy-to-digest main points.

### ADD THE DETAILS.

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#### NASS staff are experts!

NASS staff come from many different geographic areas and academic backgrounds.

About three-quarters of its 900 staff members are agricultural statisticians, math statisticians, and IT specialists. The rest are economists, geographers, cartographers, managers, administrative, budget, and communications professionals.

NASS has headquarters in Washington, D.C., at a national operations center in St. Louis, and in 12 regional and 33 state offices.

NASS Employees:

- ▶ Are intellectually curious.
- ▶ Apply technical skills and rigor to all of their work.
- ▶ Have a deep understanding of agriculture.

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#### NASS is internationally recognized for its expertise.

NASS is recognized internationally for its expertise and resources, the quality of its data, and its contributions to statistical science.

NASS works with the U.S. Agency for International Development and other federal agencies to provide technical assistance and training on a reimbursable basis to help developing and transitioning countries improve and expand their capacity to produce agriculture statistics.

Providing such assistance benefits both the country receiving the assistance and the United States:

- ▶ By helping other countries advance their agricultural statistics systems, USDA improves its ability to assess world food and fiber production.
- ▶ Establishing strong working relationships with ag statisticians around the world helps NASS gather and develop new ideas for improving U.S. agriculture statistics.

In today's global trade economy, timely and accurate statistics are essential for smooth and efficient markets.



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## WHO USES NASS DATA?

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### MAKE YOUR POINT!

This column identifies different NASS data users.

### ADD THE DETAILS.

This column presents explanatory statements to support the main points.

<b>Farmers and ranchers</b>	<p>Farmers and ranchers use NASS data to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Develop production and marketing strategies</li><li>▶ Plan purchases and capital investments</li><li>▶ Compare their operation, rental rates, prices, and productivity against others in the state or across the United States</li><li>▶ Make specific decisions about their operations such as what crops to plant, how many cattle or other livestock to raise, etc.</li><li>▶ Benchmark and track how herd numbers, acreage, technology use, and practices, such as nutrient management and conservation tillage, compare to the practices of local farmers, farmers in their state, or those across the country</li></ul>
<b>USDA agencies</b>	<p>USDA agencies (including RMA and FSA) use NASS data to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Evaluate and administer insurance, disaster, commodity, conservation, credit, and other farm programs</li></ul>
<b>USDA and producer groups</b>	<p>USDA, in partnership with various producer groups, uses NASS data to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Prepare for and respond to crises (e.g., disease outbreaks) with accurate inventory and production data</li><li>▶ Create market access for producers</li><li>▶ Advocate for farmers and ranchers</li></ul> <p><b><i>Well-known data about the share of a food dollar that goes to farmers come from NASS data.</i></b></p>
<b>Federal and state agencies</b>	<p>Federal and state agencies use NASS data to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Make well-informed policy</li><li>▶ Evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies</li><li>▶ Determine the impact of proposed agriculture legislation on farmers and rural communities</li><li>▶ Respond to emergencies and diseases affecting agriculture</li></ul>



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## WHO USES NASS DATA?

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### MAKE YOUR POINT!

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### ADD THE DETAILS.

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#### Local officials, community planners, and cooperatives

Local representatives use NASS data to:

- ▶ Identify needed services and facilities
- ▶ Identify recreational, educational, and community awareness programs based on the interests and concerns of local producers
- ▶ Respond to emergencies and diseases affecting agriculture
- ▶ Make a range of decisions that directly affect producers (e.g., decisions about local food marketing, export opportunities, etc.)
- ▶ Describe the economic impact, either positive or negative, of a policy or proposal to local agriculture
- ▶ Share county statistics with legislators and county commissioners to demonstrate the strength of agriculture in an area and to justify local budget-based funding elements for ag

*For example, NASS data can be used to show the economic and employment impact of farm-friendly zoning or right-to-farm programs.*

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#### Processor, warehouse, storage, and transportation companies

Ag-related businesses use the data to:

- ▶ Assess the timing and size of harvest
- ▶ Determine the need for and location of new facilities
- ▶ Gear up or down for anticipated livestock slaughter volume and cold storage capacity

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#### Manufacturers and suppliers of farm equipment, materials, tools, and parts

Manufacturers and suppliers use NASS data to:

- ▶ Understand trends and identify opportunities to develop new products to serve the ag industry
- ▶ Predict demand for their products so they have ample supply and stock to meet demand
- ▶ Improve their own ability to serve the ag industry better



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## WHO USES NASS DATA?

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### MAKE YOUR POINT!

This column presents easy-to-digest main points.

### ADD THE DETAILS.

This column presents explanatory statements to support the main points.

<b>Precision ag companies</b>	Precision ag companies use NASS data to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Develop products, software, and apps that improve farm management capabilities</li></ul>
<b>Commodity markets</b>	Commodity markets use NASS data to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Establish futures and commodity prices</li></ul>
<b>Agriculture traders and international customers</b>	Agriculture traders use NASS data to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Evaluate U.S. export potential</li></ul> International customers use NASS data to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Determine the U.S. supply of major commodities</li></ul>
<b>Industry and market analysts</b>	Industry and market analysts use NASS data to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Forecast production and supply expansion and contraction</li></ul>
<b>Researchers, economists, extension agents, farm media, and others</b>	Researchers, analysts, and other professionals use NASS data to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Identify and analyze emerging trends, issues, and their implications</li><li>▶ Answer challenging questions on such topics as crop management, chemical pesticides, land usage, and veterinary science</li><li>▶ Develop grant programs for emerging animal health, food and feed production, and crop transition research needs as well as those that take ag research into production</li><li>▶ Quantify economic impact of the agricultural industry on the state or county economy</li></ul>
<b>The public</b>	As a government agency, NASS data are publicly available to anyone who wants to access them. The data can answer public curiosity about local farming, farmers markets, agri-tourism, water supply, demographics in agriculture, impacts of weather on local food and feed supply, and much more.



## ***Notes and Localized Talking Points***

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**MAKE YOUR POINT!**

**ADD THE DETAILS.**

**Add your own local or topical examples and notes here to customize your conversations.**

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