



Data Users Meeting

**APRIL 14 - 15, 2021
12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

VIRTUAL MEETING

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Agricultural Marketing Service	6
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2021 USDA Data Users' Virtual Meeting
 April 14-15

Live Webinar – *All times are Eastern*

AGENDA

DAY 1 — APRIL 14

- 12:00 p.m. Welcome and Overview Joe Parsons
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
- 12:10 p.m. Agency Reviews
 Mike Lynch, Agricultural Marketing Service
 Kelly Maguire, Economic Research Service
 Patrick Packnett, Foreign Agricultural Service
 Brad Karmen, Farm Service Agency
 Mark Jekanowski, World Agricultural Outlook Board
 Joseph DeCampo, U.S. Census Bureau
 Dan Kerestes, National Agricultural Statistics Service
- 12:50 p.m. Break
- 1:00 p.m. Breakout Session #1
- 1:55 p.m. Break
- 2:05 p.m. Breakout Session #2
- 3:00 p.m. Day 1 End

DAY 1 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Day 1 – April 14		
<i>All times Eastern</i>	Session A	Session B
1:00pm	AMS Market News <i>Agricultural Marketing Service</i>	Climate Information for Informed Decision Making <i>World Agricultural Outlook Board</i>
1:55pm	10 Minute Break	
2:05pm	NASS Grain Stocks Program <i>National Agricultural Statistics Service</i>	Foreign Production, Trade, and Import/Export Data <i>World Agricultural Outlook Board, Foreign Agricultural Service, and U.S. Census Bureau</i>

DAY 2 — APRIL 15

12:00 p.m. Day 1 Recap
12:15 p.m. Open forum for questions and comments from participants
1:45 p.m. Break
2:00 p.m. Breakout Session #3
3:00 p.m. Day 2 End

DAY 2 BREAKOUT SESSION

Day 2 – April 15		
<i>All times Eastern</i>	Session A	Session B
2:00pm	NASS Modernization <i>National Agricultural Statistics Service</i>	ERS Research <i>Economic Research Service</i>

MEETING LINKS

DAY 1 SESSION LINKS

Main Session – 12:00 pm ET

Register: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_GtwC6FADRE2fjINVNvE2fA

Breakout 1 - 1:00 pm ET

Session A – AMS Market News

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612621342?pwd=NjRucG1Rc0hRS1Q0K3NWajhXSXBwZz09>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 161 262 1342 | Passcode: 041255

Session B – Climate Information for Informed Decision Making

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1607839900?pwd=RE8wZ2JNTHEyNDVTc0k0S1duRWJiZz09>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 160 783 9900 | Passcode: 640593

Breakout 2 - 2:05 pm ET

Session A – NASS Grain Stocks Program

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1611025171?pwd=MFNHZWVUZGIORHIsbzYvM1N3MWVVDQT09>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 161 102 5171 | Passcode: 640593

Session B – Foreign Production, Trade, and Import/Export Data

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600075884?pwd=WDFmUGMycXFFdEVpWU5BZGVGStlzd09>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 160 007 5884 | Passcode: 493316

DAY 2 SESSION LINKS

Open Forum Session – 12:00 pm ET

Register: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_GtwC6FADRE2fjINVNvE2fA

Breakout 3 - 2:00 pm ET

Session A – NASS Modernization

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1607319385?pwd=bGVxSE1vK09QRfdeU1RHMythVTNVUT09>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 160 731 9385 | Passcode: 176983

Session B – ERS Research

Join: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605513938?pwd=ZzZwZlZKQVJwTHFrS0d5blh6K2dVQT09>

Phone Only: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 | Webinar ID: 160 551 3938 | Passcode: 640593

MEETING MATERIALS

Video Recordings, Slides, and Q&A Transcripts will be available at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE



*The mission of USDAs Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
is to facilitate the competitive and efficient marketing of agricultural products.*

USDA DATA USERS SPRING MEETING 2021

AMS includes four commodity programs: Cotton and Tobacco; Dairy; Livestock and Poultry; and Specialty Crops. These programs provide standardization, grading, and market reporting services. They administer Federal laws such as the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act for livestock and dairy, oversee marketing agreements and orders, and administer research and promotion programs. In addition, AMS encompasses programs providing services spanning across commodity areas: Information Technology Service; Management and Analysis; Science and Technology; Commodity Procurement; Transportation and Marketing; National Organic Program; Federal Grain Inspection Service; and the Fair Trade Practices Program.

CURRENT ISSUES OF INTEREST

My Market News

The Market Analysis & Reporting Services (MARS) and its public facing website, [My Market News](#) and related API continue to expand its offerings to data users in 2021.

Market information for feedstuffs, retail, national feeder cattle summary, bioenergy, international imports and exports and the Specialty Crops commodities of truck rates, national trends, terminal market, shipping point and movement will transition to *My Market News* by the end of August 2021. It is anticipated that all currently available AMS Market News data sets will be moved to the new system within the next year.

In addition to the new commodities listed above, there will be updates coming to allow users to better identify corrected data sets both by report and through the [My Market News](#) API and [Livestock Mandatory Reporting \(LMR\) API](#). Later this year, there will also be a web-based API released that will allow users to automatically pull down specific archived reports report files. AMS is in the process of deploying other updates to the *My Market News* website to remove outdated content and to allow the site to be more user friendly.

The Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News (LPGMN) program has begun the preliminary planning and requirements gathering to introduce a Market News Mobile App in 2021 that will run on both Android and IOS and offer the following features:

- Search reports by Commodity, Offices, Market Types and Report Names
- Filter Search Results by Report Name or Slug, Report Year, Report Start and Report End dates
- Favorite / Unfavorite a Report
- The ability to share a report with others
- Subscribe to the Report to get notified when new report is available
- Find Previous Years' Reports
- Reports for offices nearest to user's current location.

Federal-State Cooperation

AMS Market News has Federal-State Cooperative Agreements with 30 states for commodity market reporting activities. These cooperative working relationships enable resources at the Federal and State levels to be leveraged to expand the breadth, depth, and dissemination of market reporting to the benefit of the industry and information users. State reporters cover livestock auction and grain elevator markets, and other local reporting activities, such as farmers markets, that would otherwise be costly and more difficult to cover using Federal resources.

Organic Market Reporting

AMS Market News currently reports over 240 organic commodities, and tracks and reports organic markets at three main levels – shipping point or point of entry (for imports), wholesale, and retail. Reporting of organic commodities at shipping point usually includes tracking the volume of movement, which consists of domestic shipments or crossings from Mexico/imports from other countries. Market News provides some comprehensive reports for the organic sector, such as the daily *National Specialty Crops Organic Summary*. AMS has a webpage showcasing Market News organic reports including a *Weekly Retail Organic Price Comparison Report* that shows the price differences between organic and conventional products to assist stakeholders in analysis of commodity sales and consumers' willingness to pay for organic products.

Market Information Organization of the Americas

AMS Market News serves as the chair of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), a cooperation network of institutions from 33 countries that operate like Market News. These institutions track and report major markets within their nations to ensure the availability of reliable information for their agro-industrial complex, relevant ministries, and government agencies. MIOA works to harmonize efforts, identify and share best practices, and support trade and economic development through the availability of critical market data. MIOA supports the concept that timely and unbiased market information helps provide market transparency – a basic public good. MIOA and AMS Market News have partnered to create the *MIOA Toolbox*, a five-part series of modules available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. This series has provided hundreds of leading market information specialists, data analysts, and various strategic partners from the 33 member countries with key information on the strategies, new tools and good practices to improve market reporting across the Americas. The five modules are titled:

- *Components of a Successful MIS*
- *Value of and Strategies for Accurate Market Information*
- *Market Reporter: Profile and Good Practices for Success*
- *Good Practices for MIS in Preparation for Emergencies*
- *Outreach, Education and Promotion for MIS*

Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Reporting

Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News (LPGMN) continues to focus much of its efforts on improving our customer's experience by providing greater access to LPGMN data through more modern tools, including transitioning market data and reports to *My Market News*. LPGMN is also focused on conducting industry outreach to understand challenges presented as part of the reauthorization process of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) Act of 1999, which was extended by Congress to September 30, 2021.

Data users are encouraged to access the *My Market News* API, the LMR API, and the legacy LMR Web Service to consume LPGMN data more effectively, efficiently, and on demand. Data users can also access LMR report data through the XML Format link at the bottom of each PDF report, and through the LMR API. The LMR API offers access to all LMR, Dairy Mandatory, and Federal Milk Marking Order reports and data.

Other recent LPGMN activities include:

- In November and December of 2020, the [AMS Cattle and Carcass Training Center \(CCTC\)](#) conducted a series of public webinars covering a range of topics including USDA cattle and beef grading standards, instrument grading, live cattle evaluation, meat science, CME live cattle contract specifications, and the contract delivery process.
- In December 2020, LPGMN enhanced the Monthly Bison Report by adding an estimated annual volume of weaned bison calves for feeding to give the industry
- On January 4, 2021, LPGMN applied updated yields for all LMR commodities in order to stay relevant with industry production and marketing practices.
- On January 4, 2021, LPGMN began including pork carcasses on the National Weekly Comprehensive Pork reports and cutout value. In addition, LPGMN also added a new primal, the Export Break 4/5 Rib, along with the sub primal cuts to the National Weekly Export Pork Sales Report.
- On January 4, 2021, LPGMN replaced the regional prior day purchased swine reports with inclusive reports that contained the National and regional information on the same report.

Cotton Market News Reporting

During the 2020-2021 cotton crop year, Cotton Market News added information on the high percentage of cotton containing seed coat fragments to the Weekly Cotton Market Review. This seed coat fragment information was broken down by NASS Agricultural Districts to provide more granular information. Cotton Price Excel and CSV files are available in My Market News. Historical files continue to be loaded and files will be available going back to at least the 2014-2015 marketing year. Additional Cotton Price datasets are available by request. E-mail CottonMN@usda.gov or Barbara.Meredith@usda.gov if you are interested in Cotton Price datasets.

Dairy Market News Reporting

Dairy Market News (DMN) continues to enhance My Market News, improving access to information and data for the dairy industry. CME Group pricing information for butter, cheese, nonfat dry milk, and dry whey will be launched in the My Market News system. Pricing will be available for daily closes in addition to weekly, monthly, and yearly averages. Enhancements to APIs at the My Market News landing pages are made to improve customer needs.

Dairy Market Information Branch (MIB) data are now available on the *My Market News* website. Additionally, MIB data are available in Datamart and the associated LMR API and Cornell Sample API workbooks are available on the *My Market News* website.

Specialty Crops Market News Reporting

Specialty Crops Market News (SCMN) added new packages, origins, and varieties to its market reports as they emerged in the marketplace, or in response to industry requests to report new products or enhance existing products. The *National Retail Report – Specialty Crops* has grown to be one of the mostly closed tracked reports published by Market News. SCMN tracks approximately 410 supermarket chains, with over 30,300 individual outlets. Overall, SCMN tracks over 785 unique specialty crop commodities at three market levels (retail, wholesale, and shipping point), plus the movement, which consists of domestic shipments, crossings from Mexico, and import volumes. To better meet specialized information needs, the *U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement Seasonal Perishable Products Weekly Update*, was created to highlight the seasonal market situation on several of the most widely imported specialty crops commodities, with additional commentary and market price and volume data visualizations.

SCMN gained access to the Automated Commercial Environment/International Trade Data System (ACE), implemented through the joint efforts of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Homeland Security, and the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). SCMN transitioned to using the ACE system as the primary source of import data, starting with the northern border on January 2, 2020. On January 3, 2021, SCMN continued the transition to ACE with the addition of the southern border, excluding Mexico Crossings through Nogales, Arizona. The ACE data using the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes is timelier, allowing SCMN to have daily reports for hundreds of commodities, and it reflects the more actual volumes, as it covers all ports and points of entry.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE



United States Department of Agriculture

ERS' mission is to anticipate trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America and to conduct high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making. ERS also provides a wide range of data products covering different commodity markets and the agricultural economy.





United States Department of Agriculture

Economic Research Service

www.ers.usda.gov

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Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by USDA.

To ensure the quality of its research reports and satisfy governmentwide standards, ERS requires that all research reports with substantively new material be reviewed by qualified technical research peers. This technical peer review process, coordinated by ERS' Peer Review Coordinating Council, allows experts who possess the technical background, perspective, and expertise to provide an objective and meaningful assessment of the output's substantive content and clarity of communication during the publication's review.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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High-Quality, Objective Economic Research

ERS research programs provide timely, independent, and objective information about the U.S. agricultural economy, its resources, and its links to the general economy and food markets. Our research integrates market information and economic theory to inform decision makers in the Government, the U.S. Congress, agribusinesses, farm and industry groups, the media, and the general public.

Our research covers a range of economic and policy topics, including:

Commodity Markets & Outlook

Timely, in-depth analyses and information important to understanding and anticipating developments in agricultural commodity markets. The Outlook program covers the major field crops (feedgrains, oilseeds, wheat, rice, cotton, and sugar), livestock and products, specialty crops (fruits, nuts, vegetables, and pulses), and agricultural trade.

Farm & Rural Economy

Farm sector performance and farm households' well-being; farm size and concentration; investments in rural communities and drivers of rural economic performance; and demographic change and its impact on rural communities.

Global Markets & Trade

Major markets and competitors; economic impacts of existing and potential exports and imports, trade barriers, and existing/potential trade agreements.

Resources & Environment

Economic impacts of conservation programs, efficacy of policies designed to protect the environment, and the use of technology to enhance agricultural competitiveness.

Food & Nutrition

Economic research and analysis on policy-relevant issues related to the food sector (food safety, food prices, and markets); consumer behavior related to food choices (food consumption, diet quality, and nutrition); and food and nutrition assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, National School Lunch Program).

Timely Data on the Agricultural Economy and Commodity Markets

ERS creates over 30 data products covering the agricultural economy, commodities and food markets. ERS data products were accessed **3.3 million times** in 2019.

Our work on data products includes transforming raw survey data to make the information accessible to users, as well as developing new datasets based on economic models or through the compilation of data from diverse sources.

ERS releases four types of data products:

- **Survey data** such as the Agricultural Resource Management Survey, which is a primary source of information on the financial conditions, production practices, and resource use of U.S. farm businesses.
- **Model-based results**, including estimates from our economic models, such as the Food Dollar series, which measures annual expenditures by U.S. consumers on domestically produced food; and the Agricultural Trade Multipliers, which estimate the amount of economic activity and jobs generated by agricultural exports.
- **Economic indicators and summary statistics** compiled from an array of official sources. Examples include Farm Income estimates, Cost of Production estimates, and detailed data on commodity supply/use and U.S. agricultural trade.
- **Charts and visualizations**, including Charts of Note released daily, Tableau visualizations, and an extensive inventory of chart galleries that display key trends and relationships across market variables.

Modernization of Data Delivery

To expand the reach of our data products, ERS is continuously innovating to develop data dissemination tools and channels that meet the changing needs and expectations of our users. Ongoing efforts include:

1 **Developing structured and automated databases**
to facilitate open and centralized access to a broad range of data.

2 **Expanding use of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)**
to allow users and developers to design new ways to access and present data.

3 **Developing a new data dissemination web platform**
that will serve as a one-stop shop for our most used data, including commodity market data.

4 **Leveraging Tableau and other visualization software**
to present data in a modern and user-friendly format.

Recent Publications by the Economic Research Service

ERS releases periodic Outlook reports covering developments in commodity markets, including seven monthly releases on field crops and livestock/dairy/poultry, two biannual reports covering specialty crops, and quarterly U.S. Agricultural Trade Outlook reports.

Other Outlook and Economic Research Reports and Economic Informational Bulletins released by ERS include:



Cover Crop Trends, Programs, and Practices in the United States.

On U.S. cropland, the use of cover crops increased by 50 percent between 2012 and 2017. Over this same period, Federal and State conservation programs have increased efforts to promote cover crops through financial and technical assistance. Based on a series of farm- and field-level surveys, this report details how cover crops are managed on corn, cotton, soybean, and wheat fields.



Attributing U.S. Campylobacteriosis Cases to Food Sources, Season, and Temperature

ERS researchers used Homescan® daily consumer food purchase data to present a new approach to understanding which foods cause specific foodborne illnesses in the United States. More than 90 percent of the country's foodborne illnesses are sporadic and may have different food exposure routes than outbreak cases; therefore, this approach was tested on foodborne sporadic campylobacteriosis.



Absent Landlords in Agriculture – A Statistical Analysis

The majority of rental farmland is owned by landlords who do not operate farms, and a subset of these landlords, known as absent landlords, do not reside in the local farming area. This report explores associations between landlord absenteeism and measures of long-term economic and agricultural health.



China's Refusals of Food Imports

Compliance with China's food standards and regulations can be a challenge for exporters aspiring to sell to that country's growing market. Refusals of imports fluctuate from year to year, peaking in 2007 and 2017 and dropping to their lowest-ever totals in 2018-19.

COVID-19 Working Paper: The Effects of COVID-19 on Food Sales This report provides an overview of U.S. farms, including the latest statistics on production, financial performance, and farm household characteristics by farm size. Among the findings, 98 percent of U.S. farms are family farms and they accounted for 88 percent of farm production in 2018. Most farms are small (90 percent), and they accounted for 21 percent of production that year.

COVID-19 Working Paper: International Food Security Assessment, 2020-2030: COVID-19 Update and Impacts of Food Insecurity

Updated analysis estimates that in 2020, there will be 921 million food-insecure people, an increase of 160 million from the pre-pandemic estimate, and almost double the pre-COVID-19 estimate published in the ERS August 2020 International Food Security Assessment, 2020-2030.



America's Diverse Family Farms: 2020 Edition

This report provides the latest statistics on U.S. farms, including production, financial performance, and farm household characteristics by farm size. Among the findings, 98 percent of U.S. farms are family farms and they accounted for 86 percent of farm production in 2019. Most (90 percent) farms are small (gross cash farm income less than \$350,000) and account for 22 percent of production.

Examples of Data Products by the Economic Research Service

Primary—survey data

- ARMS Farm Financial and Crop Production Practices, which are developed jointly with USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Model results estimates

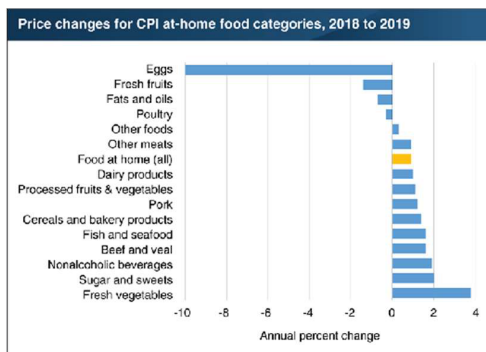
- Food Dollar
- Agricultural Trade Multipliers
- International Baseline Data
- Season-Average Price Forecasts

Summary statistics

- Foreign Agricultural Trade of the U.S.
- U.S. Bioenergy Statistics
- Feed Grains Database
- Livestock & Meat Domestic Data

Charts and Visualizations

- Charts of Note
- Cross-Commodity Visualization



World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates at a Glance
March 2020

The visualization is prepared by the Economic Research Service.

The visualization is based on the latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE). The WASDE is prepared by USDA's International Commodity Database, which are shared by the WRI/CIAT Agriculture Outlook Report and include expectations from the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Economic Research Service (ERS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is a primary source of production data.

For the latest WASDE report visit <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/wasde/> for more information.

Commodity	Unit	2019 Feb. estimate	Mar. projections for 2019/20		Change from last month's projection at midpoint	
			2019 Feb. estimate	Mar. projections for 2019/20		
Cotton	Cotton	70.30	62.00	60.00	-0.88 ▼	
Barley	\$ / bu	4.50	4.00	4.00	—	
Corn	\$ / bu	3.91	3.95	3.90	-0.05 ▼	
Feed grains & wheat	\$ / bu	3.95	2.95	2.95	—	
Sorghum	\$ / bu	3.25	3.35	3.30	-0.05 ▼	
Wheat	\$ / bu	5.15	4.05	4.05	—	
Rice	Long	\$ / cwt	11.80	12.00	12.00	—
Medium and short	\$ / cwt	10.90	10.10	10.00	-0.19 ▼	
Meat	\$ / cwt	308.20	308.00	308.00	—	
Soybeans	\$ / bu	0.29	0.24	0.22	-0.02 ▼	
Oilseed	\$ / bu	8.45	8.75	8.70	-0.05 ▼	

\$ / bu: cents per bushel
 \$ / bu: dollars per bushel
 \$ / cwt: dollars per hundredweight
 \$ / mt: dollars per metric ton

Reported value	2019		2020	
	Annual	Feb. estimates	Mar. estimates	Feb. projections
16.27	16.80	16.80	16.85	16.25

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

Update on Information and Data Products Available from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service April 2021

Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN)

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) provides timely reports on foreign markets through the Global Agriculture Information Network (GAIN) database. GAIN allows the FAS global network of agricultural experts, located in over 90 offices covering approximately 200 countries, to efficiently create and submit reports providing timely intelligence and accurate analysis on global agriculture, agricultural markets, and foreign government policies affecting agricultural trade. FAS creates approximately 2,700 reports on an annual basis, which are uniformly catalogued and published for web-based retrieval. Users can access this service from the GAIN homepage: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/>.

In 2019, FAS released a new GAIN system with improvements that included a mobile design and access to the report schedule. In February 2021, additional enhancements were made to GAIN to improve the search engine's functionality, and to allow the user to access all public GAIN reports dating back to 1996.

FAS continues to review reporting requirements for our overseas FAS offices based on developments in relevant countries and global commodity markets. Commodity reporting is reviewed annually to ensure that reporting requirements are up to date with current needs. Reporting requirements are being maintained to the extent possible during this time of COVID-19 because of the importance of timely market intelligence. Although many Posts had limited ability to access and submit information in 2020, the majority of Posts were able to submit the required commodity reports on time, in addition to submitting numerous reports detailing the effect that COVID-19 had on commodities and trade. Reporting on climate change and reports on the Farm to Fork Strategy are examples of new issues covered.

For questions about the GAIN search engine please contact 1-GAINAppSupport@fas.usda.gov.

To receive GAIN reports via email, register at:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFAS/subscriber/new>

FAS – U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook

The annually produced U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook, first published in June 2020 (covering calendar year 2019), provides a statistical summary of U.S. agricultural commodity exports to the world and the United States' primary trading partners. The Yearbook is coordinated by FAS' Office of Global Market Analysis. The 2019 Yearbook can be found at <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/2019-united-states-agricultural-export-yearbook>. FAS will make the 2020 Yearbook available to the public in the coming weeks.

All U.S. export data found within the Yearbook are collected and published by the U.S. Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Foreign country export data are sourced from the reporting countries' national statistical agencies as reported through Trade Data Monitor (TDM). The 2019 U.S. Agricultural Export Yearbook consisted of two sections: 1) Commodity exports, and 2) Country of destination exports. The Yearbook utilized FAS Product Groups that can be found at FAS' Global Agricultural Trade System

(GATS). The product groups were defined using the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) at the ten-digit level and aggregated into classifications that include the primary commodity and its derivatives. FAS has titled these product groups as “BICO (HS-10).” BICO is an FAS designation that stands for Bulk, Intermediate & Consumer Oriented goods.

The 14 product groups or commodity aggregations, displayed in the Yearbook, are based on the United States’ largest export categories. The country Yearbook pages include the United States’ top fifteen export destinations. Each commodity and country page includes a list of drivers that influenced exports, market conditions affecting supply and demand and policy and market access issues that impact the United States’ ability to export.

Foreign Agricultural Service Data Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) data API portal provides users the ability to obtain programmatic access to publicly available agricultural commodity data from the Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS), Production, Supply & Distribution (PSD), and Export Sales Report (ESR) databases.

The FAS Open Data Services can be found at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/opendataweb/home>.

For technical questions, please contact the FAS Web Admin Team at FASWebAdminTeam@usda.gov.

Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS)

USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) includes international agricultural, fish, forest and textile products trade statistics dating from the inception of the Harmonized coding system in 1989 to present. In addition, United Nations trade statistics (UN Comtrade) may be queried through GATS. UN trade data is available for nearly 200 countries or areas, dating from the inception of the Harmonized System (HS) of trade codes in 1989 to present. The database is continuously updated. U.S. trade data are updated monthly according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s reporting system. UN Comtrade data are updated in GATS after nationally submitted data to the UN are standardized by the UN Statistics Division and added to UN Comtrade database. Users can access the GATS homepage at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx>.

Beginning with the release of the January 2021 monthly agricultural trade data on March 5, 2021, USDA adopted the World Trade Organization (WTO) definition of agriculture, which includes ethanol, distilled spirits, and manufactured tobacco products, three product groups which were not included in the previous USDA definition. Additionally, certain enzymes, lecithin and industrial acids, rubber and other miscellaneous fibers, and rennet were among some of the products removed from the definition of agriculture. The change harmonizes U.S. trade reporting practices with those of the international community and will ensure that USDA numbers are aligned with those of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, which already uses the WTO agricultural definition when negotiating WTO binding trade agreements. USDA made this change in coordination with the U.S. Department of Commerce. Within GATS, the product groups (i.e., BICO, FAS, FATUS, and Processed Foods) have been updated to incorporate code changes. This includes concordance of historic codes under the revised aggregates to ensure consistent time-series data.

Users can find additional information at <https://www.fas.usda.gov/updated-agricultural-products-definition-trade-reporting>.

For questions, please contact Jason Carver (Jason.Carver@usda.gov) or Saquib Ahsan (Saquib.Ahsan@usda.gov).

Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD) Online

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) PSD Online contains data on production, supply, and distribution of agricultural commodities for the U.S. and key producing and consuming countries. Users can access PSD online at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/home>.

Effective January 1, 2021, the separation of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU) is complete, including trade between both entities. FAS will continue using the term "European Union" to mean the countries involved in the previous customs union, i.e., EU27+UK, from January 2021 through April 2021 for field crops PSDs (except cotton). Starting in May 2021 with the release of 2021/22 data, field crops PSDs will reflect EU27 and UK separately. Cotton PSDs have been and will continue to be maintained on an individual country-level basis, including the UK.

FAS will continue using the term "European Union" to mean the countries involved in the previous customs union, i.e., EU27+UK, from January 2021 through October 2021 for livestock and poultry PSDs and through December 2021 for dairy PSDs. Starting in October 2021 with the release of the 2022 data, livestock and poultry PSDs will reflect EU27 and UK separately. Starting in December 2021 with the release of the 2022 data, dairy PSDs will reflect EU27 and UK separately.

Horticultural Products (citrus, coffee, deciduous fruit, stone fruit, tree nuts): FAS will continue using the term "European Union" to mean the countries involved in the previous customs union, i.e., EU27+UK, for PSD data through 2020/21. Beginning with 2021/22, data will represent the European Union (not including the United Kingdom) and will exclude all intra-trade.

Sugar: FAS will continue using the term "European Union" to mean the countries involved in the previous customs union, i.e., EU27+UK, for PSD data through 2020/21. Beginning with 2021/22, data will represent the European Union (not including the United Kingdom) and will exclude all intra-trade.

Beginning with the release of 2021/22 (or calendar year 2022) data for each commodity group (except cotton), historical data for both EU27 and the UK will be provided for 5 years (2016/17 through 2020/21; or calendar years 2017 through 2021).

For questions, please contact us at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/contact>.

Export Sales Reporting

Authorized under Section 602 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, the Export Sales Reporting (ESR) Program requires exporters of reportable U.S. commodities to report each week all of their export sales regardless of the quantity, to the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). There are 40 commodities currently covered under the program to include wheat, wheat products, barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, rye, soybeans, soybean cake and meal, soybean oil, flaxseed, linseed oil, cotton, sunflower seed oil, cottonseed, cottonseed cake and meal, cottonseed oil, rice, cattle hides and skins, wet blues, beef and pork. Users can access the ESR System at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html>.

FAS knows how important the ESR program is to the U.S. marketplace and takes its responsibility for administering this vital program very seriously. FAS began work on upgrading the Export Reporting and Maintenance System (ESRMS) in January 2021. FAS expects to have the upgraded ESRMS operational before the end of fiscal year 2022. Users of the data should expect more streamlined, user-friendly reports; an upgraded query system and an improved API that will make pulling data from ESRMS much easier. In addition to being available online through the ESR webpage and the ESR Query System, weekly and daily reports are now available through email via GovDelivery to all users who sign up.

For additional information, contact the Export Sales Reporting Team at esr@usda.gov.

Agricultural Tariff Tracker

To help exporters obtain information about tariff reductions resulting from Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), FAS launched the Agricultural Tariff Tracker in 2013. The Ag Tariff Tracker has tariff, tariff rate quota (TRQ), and safeguard information for the United States' existing free trade agreements with 11 FTA partners. In 2019, terms of the U.S.– Japan Trade agreement were added to the Ag Tariff Tracker.

This tool is available at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/agtariifftracker/Home/Search> on the Trade Policy/Trade Agreements topic page of the FAS website: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-agreements>.

Production Estimates

FAS maintains a website that is a dynamic global crop production portal with key information including World Agricultural Production (WAP) briefs, Commodity Intelligence Reports (CIR), geospatial applications, crop production maps and crop calendars at a subnational level for the top-20 producing countries (Figure 1, <https://www.ipad.fas.usda.gov>).

The FAS website for global crop production also hosts an application called Crop Explorer that displays global rainfall, average temperature, maximum/minimum temperature, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, precipitation, SPI (Standardized Precipitation Index) Drought Severity, NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) vegetation conditions, snow cover, production maps, etc. for 12 different crops: cotton, corn, barley, millet, rice, sorghum, wheat, soybeans, sunflower, rapeseed, peanuts, and palm oil. (<https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/>).

The Crop Explorer website was upgraded to monitor the latest crop conditions and seasonal rainfall received for specific crops grown within primary production states. The upgraded Crop Explorer monitors specific crops with related web apps called Corn Explorer, Soybean Explorer, Wheat Explorer, Cotton Explorer, etc. For example, the dashboard view for Corn Explorer shows corn production maps at sub-national (state) levels, cumulative rainfall and NDVI crop conditions for all major corn producing countries and regions (Figure 2).

Crop Explorer also monitors SPI Drought Severity in 5-day time steps to quickly identify the severity of droughts that may reduce crop yields during the growing season. For more information, please contact Curt Reynolds at curt.reynolds@usda.gov.

Figure 1. FAS home page for global crop production (March 2021)



World Agricultural Production (WAP) Circular

WAP Current Update (Mar 09, 2021)

- **South Africa Corn:** Production Prospects Improve from Abundant Rains
South Africa's 2020/21 corn production is forecast at 17.0 million metric tons (mmt), up 0.5 mmt (3 percent) from last month and 1.2 mmt (7 percent) from last year. The USDA forecast includes output from both the developing and commercial sectors, with the commercial sector accounting for approximately 97 percent of the total crop. Area is estimated at 3.1 million hectares (mha), unchanged from last month but up 0.2 mha (7 percent) from last year. Corn area planted was the largest since the 2014/15 growing season. Yield is forecast at 5.48 metric tons per hectare, up 1 percent from last year and up 12 percent from the 5-year average. (For more information, please contact Curt.Reynolds@usda.gov.)
- **Brazil Corn:** Production Unchanged but Increasing Risks to Safrainha Corn
- **Indonesia Corn:** Abundant Seasonal Rains Lead to Record Production and Yield
- **Mexico Sorghum:** Freezing Weather Lowers Winter Planted Area in Tamaulipas
- **Australia Sorghum:** Production Revised Lower but Significantly Above Last Year
- **India Rice:** Ideal Weather Boosts Production to Record Level
- **Russia Wheat:** Record Production Driven by Record or Near-Record Yields in Several Key
- **Australia Wheat:** Production Reaches a New Record
- **Brazil Soybeans:** Record Production Despite Further Harvest Delays
- **Malaysia Palm Oil:** Production Reduced Due to Negative La Niña Affect
- **Senegal Cotton:** Favorable Rains Boost Yield
- **Brazil Cotton:** Lower Production Forecast

Crop Explorer

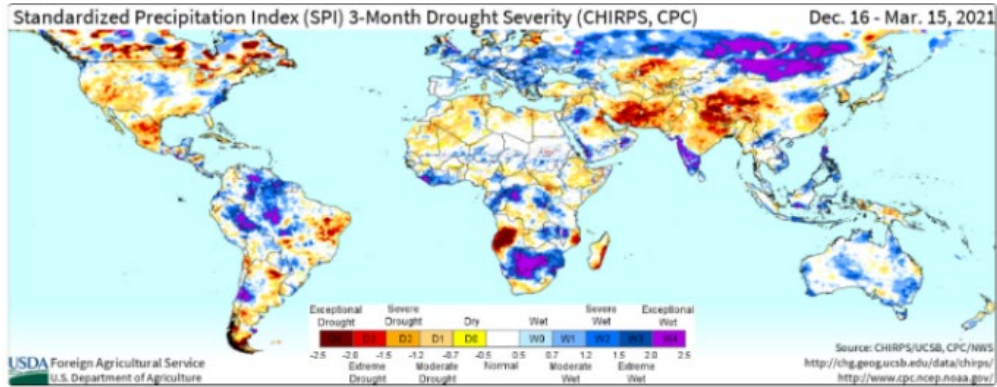
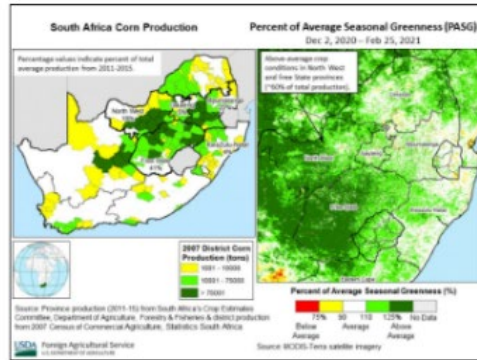
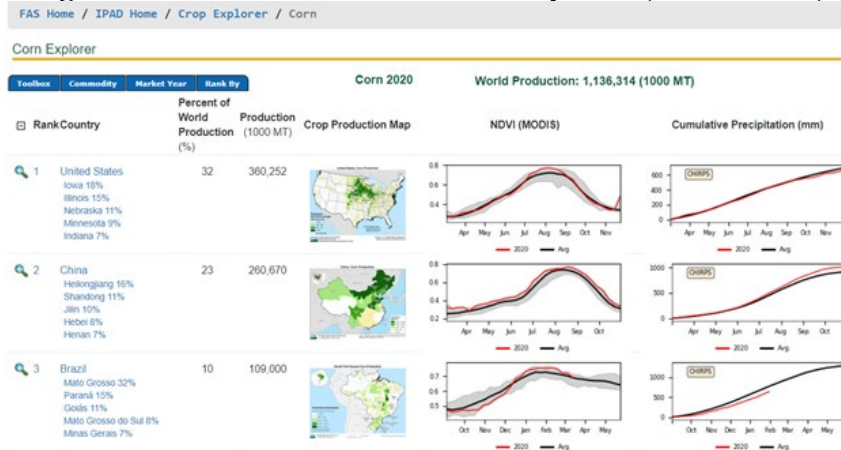


Figure 2. Dashboard View of Corn Explorer (March 2021)



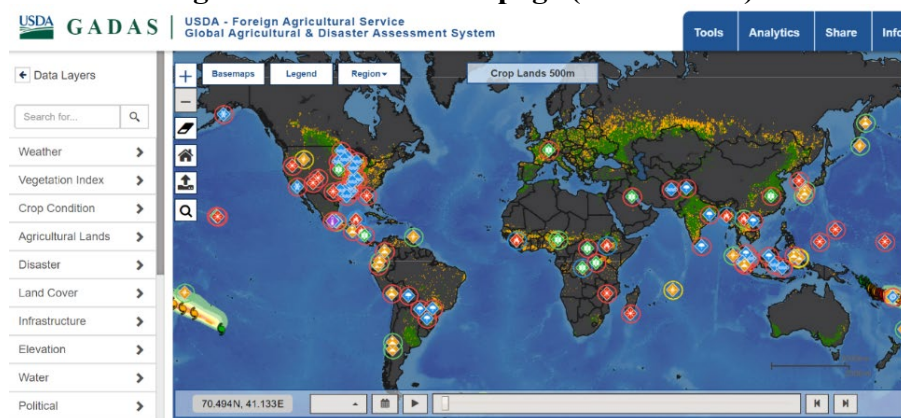
Global Agricultural and Disaster Assessment System (GADAS)

GADAS is a new state-of-the-art Geographic Information System (GIS) tool which integrates a vast array of highly detailed earth observation data streams, particularly targeted towards agricultural and disaster assessment analysis, into an easy-to-use, web-based environment. GADAS provides analysts with a wide variety of routine geospatial products (maps, charts, tables) they require for comprehensive situational investigations and recurring assessments. GADAS can be accessed directly at (<https://geo.fas.usda.gov/GADAS/index.html>) or through (<https://www.ipad.fas.usda.gov>).

GADAS will help USDA/FAS remain a global leader in the use of location-based technologies for agricultural monitoring and global food security intelligence. The system combines daily climate, satellite imagery, other geospatial data, and custom-built applications that quickly support the visual comparison of agricultural production-related data. GADAS is also designed to provide hourly updates of natural disasters (cyclone tracking, drought evolution, flooding impacts) as well as tools for rapid pre- and post-disaster agricultural assessments. Web-based GIS improves collaboration between teams in FAS working around the world.

For questions, contact Robert Tetrault at robert.tetrault@usda.gov.

Figure 3. GADAS home page (March 2021)





United States Department of Agriculture

WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK BOARD

Questions about World Agricultural Outlook Board programs may be directed to Mark Jekanowski, Chairman, WAOB, Mail Stop 3812, South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-3812; Mark.Jekanowski@usda.gov.

The World Agricultural Outlook Board's (WAOB) primary mission is to provide reliable and objective economic forecasts for farmers and other participants in the food and fiber system. Functions include coordinating USDA forecasts of domestic and international agriculture; providing economic analysis related to global commodity markets; monitoring markets and agricultural weather; and disseminating relevant information.

Mark Jekanowski, WAOB Chairman, oversees the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report. Dr. Jekanowski joined the WAOB as Deputy Chairman in August 2018. Former positions include Deputy Director for the commodity outlook program at USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), Chief of the Crops Branch at ERS, and Senior Vice President at Informa Economics.

Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees (ICECs), chaired by WAOB senior economists, clear all USDA economic outlook reports to ensure consistency with official USDA estimates. The committees develop supply and demand estimates for the United States, over 100 individual countries, and global totals. Four USDA agencies are represented on the committees: the Economic Research Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, the Farm Service Agency, and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Report Usage: Each year, WAOB issues 12 monthly *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* reports; and publishes 52 weekly *Weather and Economics Briefing* reports. On average, the WASDE is accessed by over 100,000 users worldwide each month. It's one of USDA's primary Federal statistical indicators and directly impacts commodity markets.

Historic WASDE Data: Ten years of consolidated historical WASDE data is available for the first time on the World Agricultural Outlook Board website (<https://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity-markets/wasde/historical-wasde-report-data>). The data is provided in CSV format and includes every data point from each monthly WASDE between April 2010 and December 2020. Monthly data in the same CSV format for the months of 2021 are available at this same website and can be combined with the historic data file. Current monthly data will be updated within two business days of each WASDE release.

USDA Baseline: WAOB oversees the annual publication of the inter-agency *USDA Agricultural Long-term Projections*, updated and released every February. The *Long-term Projections* reports provide a conditional long run scenario about what would be expected to happen to the global agricultural economy under a continuation of current farm legislation and other specific assumptions. These reports are important sources for strategic planning information used in formulating the President's budget, and for decisions made by agricultural producers, agribusiness leaders, and policy officials.

Mark Brusberg, Chief Meteorologist, is a key contributor to, and main point of contact for, drought-related activities involving the Department and other Federal Partners, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Mr. Brusberg serves on the Executive Council of the NOAA-led National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and leads several projects related to the work done by NIDIS and other drought-oriented groups on behalf of the Department. He currently serves

as the Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP), an intergovernmental task force offering leadership in the coordination and administration of activities designed to help mitigate the impacts of drought on vulnerable segments of the Nation's economy. He is also a lead USDA representative to the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology.

Mr. Brusberg chairs USDA's Combined Drought and Water Management Team, a venue for other agencies within the Department to share information and coordinate responses on projects and programs involving drought and water resources. As the Departmental lead on Drought, he facilitates partnerships between USDA and other groups, including the NDRP, NIDIS, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC).

Agricultural Weather Monitoring and Assessments: WAOB's staff of meteorologists generates timely weather and crop assessments in support of the monthly *Crop Production* and *WASDE* reports issued by National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and WAOB, respectively. The meteorologists also provide weekly updates of crop weather to USDA Radio and often appear on local and national radio and television broadcasts. As recognized experts within the Department, they are sometimes tasked with attending Capitol Hill briefings and reviewing legislation and testimony, and occasionally contribute assessments and products to the USDA blog and other publications. Another key duty is to meet with foreign delegations and domestic groups regarding the process of using weather and climate products to produce operational agricultural assessments. WAOB meteorologists publish the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*, which provides the public with weekly assessments of global agricultural weather. Data and products are supplied to the *WWCB* by NASS and NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, through a formal agreement establishing the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility. The *WWCB* averaged over 30,000 downloads per week in FY20 from USDA, and additional downloads from the Cornell site. On a rotating basis, WAOB meteorologists prepared the weekly *U.S. Drought Monitor* and the monthly *North American Drought Monitor*. WAOB continues to support the World Meteorological Organization, including the World Agrometeorological Information Service (WAMIS), which helps communicate weather and climate information to the global farming community.

Agricultural Outlook Forum 2021: The Outlook Forum is USDA's largest and premiere annual gathering. The breadth and timeliness of the AOF programs have consistently drawn a diverse group of participants including producers, processors, policymakers, government officials, and non-governmental organizations, to discuss current and emerging issues. .

This year, the Forum was held under the theme "Building on Innovation, a Pathway to Resilience." Due to COVID-19, the 2021 Forum was held virtually and registration was free, which allowed thousands of stakeholders from all over the country (and around the world) to participate for the first time. Nearly 4,500 people from 50 States and over 100 countries attended Forum sessions. Forum sessions covered a range of topics relating to commodity market outlooks, supply chain resilience, agricultural technology and innovation, and U.S. trade, among others. All sessions are available for viewing for free on the platform provider's website until February 11, 2022 through the Forum website. (<https://www.usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum>)

Staff changes:

- **Bill Chambers**, formerly Chair of the Food Grains Committee at the WAOB, was appointed Deputy World Board Chair in October 2020. Prior to joining WAOB, Bill served for ten years as a commodity and policy analyst with USDA's Farm Service Agency, where he analyzed commodity markets, farm policies, new program proposals, and budget outlays.
- **Mark Simone** became the Food Grain Chair in January 2021. Mark has served as a Food Grain Analyst for USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board since 2017. Prior to that, he served for ten years as an Agriculture Economist for USDA's Farm Service Agency.
- **Justin Choe** joined the Board as a senior feed grains analyst in June 2020. Justin previously served as an international trade analyst with U.S. International Trade Commission and as an economist with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

The U.S. Census Bureau provides information that tells the story of our changing economy. The Economic Indicators, Economic Census and our quarterly and annual economic surveys give Federal, state, and local governments, policy makers, and business and community leaders the information needed to make informed decisions that shape our economy.

Issues of Interest to Data Users

1. *Accessing Data from the U.S. Census Bureau*

- ***USA Trade Online***

USA Trade Online is a dynamic data tool that gives users access to current and cumulative U.S. export and import data. With multiple data sets and capabilities, USA Trade Online can assist different types of customers from a wide range of industries and fields. This tool offers data by Harmonized System, North America Industry Classification System (NAICS), and the Department of Agriculture code. This powerful software allows users to create customized reports and colorful charts detailing international trade data at different levels.

<https://usatrade.census.gov/>

- ***Monthly Trade Data in the Census Data API***

The U.S. Census Bureau has detailed monthly international trade data in its [Application Programming Interface](#) (API). The Census Data API has international trade data from 2013 to present. The international trade statistics provide monthly and cumulative year-to-date export and import totals with multiple layers of detail. The statistics also include two datasets with U.S. exports and imports by Department of Agriculture code.

The Application Programming Interface provides researchers and developers free access to its demographic and economic data.

<https://census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/international-trade.html>

- ***Global Market Finder (GMF)***

The Global Market Finder is an interactive data visualization tool that paints a picture of the export market for a particular commodity. The user just needs to select the Schedule B code they are interested in and the tool will display all the countries that the U.S. exports to, shows value by method of transportation, and unit price. Users can drill down to specific countries and download the data that they have pulled.

<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/export-markets.html>

- ***Census Business Builder***

The Census Business Builder (CBB) is a suite of services that provide selected demographic and economic data from the Census Bureau tailored to specific types of users in a simple to access and use format. The CBB includes:

- Demographic, socioeconomic, and housing data from the American Community Survey
- Business data from the County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, and Survey of Business Owners
- Trade data on total imports and exports, broken out by mode of transportation (Air & Vessel), for selected three- and four-digit agriculture, mining, and manufacturing NAICS codes at the national and state level.
- Building Permits data at the county and place level

In addition, it provides Agriculture data from the Census of Agriculture (USDA).

<https://www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html>

2. ***Principal Economic Indicators***

The U.S. Census Bureau's Economic Indicators keep the world informed by providing the first official measures of the U.S. economy. Our Economic Indicator surveys provide monthly and quarterly data that are timely, reliable, and offer comprehensive measures of the U.S. economy. These surveys produce a variety of statistics covering construction, housing, international trade, retail trade, wholesale trade, services, and manufacturing. The survey data provide measures of economic activity that allow analysis of economic performance and inform business investment and policy decisions. The data can be accessed via the Economic Indicator Briefing Room and the Economic Indicator Database.

- **Economic Indicator Briefing Room**

The Economic Indicator Briefing Room web site provides access to the latest data, full release reports, historical data, and time series and trend charts. [census.gov/economic-indicators](https://www.census.gov/economic-indicators)

- **Economic Indicator Database**

Select an economic indicator and customize your data selection. Ability to download the data to a spreadsheet and create your own time series charts. [census.gov/econ/currentdata](https://www.census.gov/econ/currentdata)

- **For questions regarding Economic Indicators, please contact:**

Ms. Stephanie Studds, Chief
Economic Indicators Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Room 7K154
Washington, DC 20233-6010
Phone: (301) 763-2633
Email: Stephanie.Lee.Studds@census.gov

3. *International Trade*

Each month, the U.S. Census Bureau releases the *U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services* (FT900) report, which is one of the principal economic indicators for the United States. This report can be found along with other information on our website [census.gov/trade](https://www.census.gov/trade)

Webinars are archived at: <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/outreach/index.html>

- 15 CFR PART 30 — Foreign Trade Regulations

For information on the FTR and filing requirements, please email emd.askregs@census.gov or use the International Trade Helpline number, 1-800-549-0595 and select option 3.

- Questionable data should be brought to our attention as soon as possible. Potential data errors caught early are easier to verify and improve the quality of data going forward. To request data verification, please contact Mr. Gregory Kondilas (gregory.kondilas@census.gov), Chief of our International Trade Indicator Micro Analysis Branch.

4. *Other Economic Data from the U.S. Census Bureau*

- 2017 Economic Census

Every five years, the U.S. Census Bureau collects extensive statistics about businesses that are essential to understanding the American economy. This official count, better known as the Economic Census, serves as the foundation for the measurement of U.S. businesses and their economic impact.

Throughout the year, several products were released including:

- Geographic Area Statistics
- Product Statistics by North American Product Classification System (NACPS)
- Establishment & Firm Size Summary Statistics by Revenue Size and Employment Size of Establishments
- For more information, see <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census.html>.
- Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES)

The Annual Capital Expenditures: 2019 was released December 16, 2020.

The Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES) is part of a comprehensive program designed to provide more detailed and timely information on capital investment in structures and equipment by nonfarm enterprises. The data are used to improve the quality of current economic indicators of business investments, as well as the quarterly estimates of gross domestic product. The data also provide facts about trends in capital expenditures useful for identifying business opportunities, product development, and business planning.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aces.html>

- County Business Patterns (CBP)

The 2018 County Business Pattern data was released on June 25, 2020.

County Business Patterns provides annual information about establishments with paid employees by NAICS industry down to the county level. This series includes the number of establishments, employment during the week of March 12, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll.

CBP releases information on the following agriculture related industries, including:

- o NAICS 113 Forestry and Logging
- o NAICS 114 Fishing, Hunting and Trapping
- o NAICS 115 Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry
- o NAICS 311 Food Manufacturing
- o NAICS 4244 Grocery and Related Product Merchant Wholesalers
- o NAICS 4245 Farm Product Raw Material Merchant Wholesalers
- o NAICS 445 Food and Beverage Stores

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>

- Information on all the U.S. Census Bureau's economic products can be found at <https://www.census.gov/topics/business-economy.html>

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

STATISTICS DIVISION

What's New and What's Changing?

NASS Mission Statement:

To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. Agriculture

Crops

In June 2020, estimates of corn and soybean acres remaining to be planted for the United States were published in the *Acreage* report. These estimates will continue to be published in the *Acreage* report moving forward. Similarly, estimates of corn and soybeans remaining to be harvested for the United States were first published in the *Crop Production 2020 Summary* report in January 2021 and will continue to be published in this annual report. These additional estimates are at the request of multiple industry sources and provide increased transparency regarding the published acreage estimates.

During the past year, information regarding reliability of published crop estimates was enhanced and standardized in various publications. Information is now provided in tabular format for Barley, Corn, Hay, Oats, Oranges, Peanuts, Potatoes, Rice, Sorghum, Soybeans, Sugarbeets, Sugarcane, Upland Cotton, and Wheat (by Type) each time these crops appear in the monthly *Crop Production* reports as well as the *Prospective Plantings* and *Acreage* reports.

Beginning with the 2020 crop season, several changes were made to the crop county estimating program. New modeling techniques were implemented to improve consistency and efficiency of the process, enhancements were made to the publication standards, and district level estimates were discontinued for crops. As a result of these changes the number of counties published has increased significantly.

Released in January 2021, the *North American Potatoes* publication now contains potato estimates for Mexico. This report now contains comparable potato estimates for Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

On February 25, 2021, NASS released the *Crop Values* report. Beginning with the 2020 crop season, State-level marketing year average prices and value of production estimates are published for chickpeas. Estimates were previously only published for the United States totals.

In April 2021, NASS published the first Methodology and Quality Measures report for *Grain Stocks*. This report contains details concerning the survey methodology as well as quality metrics that describe the performance data for all surveys contributing to the published estimates. Plans are to publish this report annually following the January *Grain Stocks* report.

Beginning in 2021, the acreage estimates for Hops that were previously published in the *Acreage* report at the end of June will be published in the *Crop Production* report earlier that month. This change was requested by the Hop industry.

Beginning in 2021, the final U.S. marketing year average prices for several crops will be published earlier in the year to allow the Farm Service Agency to meet statutory deadlines in administering their programs. Crops impacted and the new publication months are: Barley (June), Oats (June), Wheat (June), Canola (July), Dry Edible Peas (July), Flaxseed (July), Lentils (July), Rapeseed (July), Mustard Seed (September), Safflower (September), and Sunflower (September). As a reminder, these estimates are published in the *Agricultural Prices* report that is released near the end of each month.

NASS is working on designing and soon implementing the first comprehensive hemp survey conducted by USDA. NASS is working with our USDA partners to tentatively launch the survey in the fall of 2021 with a resulting report published by early 2022.

Livestock

In April 2020, NASS published *Poultry and Egg Production* highlights from the results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

Annual Methodology and Quality Measures reports for *Hogs and Pigs* (December 2020), *Cattle* (March 2021), *Cattle on Feed* (March 2021), and *Milk Production* (March 2021) continue to be published.

During this past year, NASS made improvements and standardization to the annual Methodology and Quality Measures reports for *Catfish, Honey, Mink, Sheep and Goats*, and *Trout*. These reports will be released in 2021.

In 2021, Methodology and Quality Measures reports for *Chickens and Eggs*, and *Honey Bee Colonies* will be published for the first time.

Environmental, Economics and Demographics

On June 9, 2020, NASS released the *Puerto Rico Census of Agriculture (COA)*. The results are available at the regional level. The COA now includes specific data tables on young producers (age 35 and under), new and beginning producers (less than 10 years), and producers with military service.

On July 21, 2020, NASS released the *Outlying Census of Agriculture (COA)*. This includes data from American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

On August 17, 2020, NASS released the *2019 National Farmers Market Managers Survey*. This survey was conducted under an agreement with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). This data is used by AMS to measure the customer demand of local foods from the Farmer's Market manager's perspective, look for potential expansion opportunities, target access to nutritional foods, market nutritional education, measure access to local foods and organic foods, and strengthening community engagement. This survey is conducted every 5-years.

On October 22, 2020, the *2019 Organic Survey* was released after being conducted under the authority of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997 with mandatory participation. The primary purpose of the Organic Survey is to provide acreage, inventory, production, value of sales and sales outlets and production practices on certified organic farms. The Organic Survey provides comprehensive data at the State and National level for organic crops, livestock, and marketing and production practices. This Census Special

Study is a complete inventory of all known organic producers in the United States that are certified, exempt from certification (those grossing less than \$5,000 annually from organic sales), and those producers transitioning to organic production.

Released on December 8, 2020, the *2019 Census of Horticulture Specialties* contains data at national and state levels. This Census Special Study is the only source of detailed production and sales data for floriculture, nursery, and specialty crops and provides a comprehensive picture of the horticultural sector of the U.S. economy

Released on December 17, 2020, the *Irrigation Organizations* publication provides information on organizations that either provide off-farm water for farms or manage groundwater usage on farms. Tables provide a breakdown of the services the organizations provide, the amount of water they work with, and the economic conditions they work under. NASS and ERS developed the national Survey of Irrigation Organizations to provide the first updated dataset of local water-supply management entities since the 1978 Census of Irrigation Organizations, which was conducted by the Census Bureau.

On January 22, 2021, NASS released *Typology*, the last data series from the 2017 Census of Agriculture. *Typology* focuses primarily on the family farm and classifies all farms into categories based on two criteria – who owns the operation and gross cash farm income (GCFI).

On February 11, 2021, NASS published the reinstated *Farm Labor* report. This report included annual average base and gross wage rates for regions, states, and Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Systems. In 2021, the Farm Labor Report will be released on May 26 and November 24.

On May 14, 2021, *Field Crop Chemical Usage* data will be released. Originating in 1990, the NASS Chemical Use data series is USDA's official source of statistics about on-farm chemical use and pest management practices.

On July 21, 2021, *Vegetable Chemical Usage* data will be released. This report is released every other year. Originating in 1990, the NASS Chemical Use data series is USDA's official source of statistics about on-farm chemical use and pest management practices.

On August 18, 2021, *Farm Computer Usage and Ownership* data will be released. These data are published every other year and present data on farm computer usage including ownership, internet access and farm business use.

The Cash Rents county level data will be published August 27, 2021. NASS was directed through the "Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008" and amended by the "Agricultural Act of 2014" to collect cash rents data for use by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in program administration

On November 18, 2021, *Local Food Marketing Practices* will be released. This is the second release in the data series that was last conducted in 2015. This study provides data on the marketing of locally and regionally produced agricultural food products, as directed under the 2018 Farm Bill. 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 are included.

Census of Agriculture Program

The final products were released from the 2017 Census of Agriculture during 2020. These included a special tabulation regarding Typology along with, for the first time, a data visualization product and profile for the Navajo Nation.

Preparations for the 2022 Census of Agriculture are well underway. This past December, NASS began collecting data for its Content Test. The Content Test is critical for determining the ability to collect new data items on the census of agriculture questionnaire. The Content Test also serves as a dry run for developing and enhancing data processing systems that will be used for the production in late 2022. NASS continues to focus efforts on improving its online data reporting system to capture additional responses via a secure and convenient Internet platform.

Modernization

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is well known for being the gold standard for U.S. agricultural data that can help you in your work. We are proud of our reputation for providing useful, accurate data in service to U.S. agriculture for more than 150 years. To provide these data, we've done things consistently and comparably for decades, tapping into new technologies when they uphold our high standards for data quality – and importantly for maintaining the privacy of our data providers.

USDA NASS is committed to high standards of customer service and making interaction with us as easy as possible. We are modernizing our online systems to improve the customer experience and access to official federal agricultural data and reports. We are making accurate data available on schedule in ways that customers want.

NASS has embarked on numerous efforts to modernize our customer interfaces to make responding to surveys and accessing NASS data and reports *faster, friendlier, and easier*. The modernizations are also intended to make NASS work more efficiently. Modernization will be focused in two areas.

- **Data Collection** - Beginning in mid-2017 with the Census of Agriculture, we phased all surveys into a new online questionnaire that is a faster and more convenient way to respond to surveys.
 - The new online questionnaire includes time-saving features such as mobile accessibility, automatic calculations, skipping questions that do not apply to the particular farm or ranch, and faster direct data entry as opposed to mail/scan entry.
 - Research and testing are underway for new initiatives to reduce the data collection burden on farmers and ranchers such as using previously reported data in questionnaires, further utilizing administrative data, incorporating field-level data, further encouraging online response, and increasing electronic communications with producers.
- **Data Dissemination** - There are many recent, current, and future improvements to data dissemination and data access at NASS.
 - Made the website more user friendly by merging the previously separate Census of Agriculture and overall NASS sites.
 - Developed an award-winning data visualization and are improving usability of the website by consolidating survey information onto one page.

- Longer-term, will overhaul management and presentation of the website resulting in a data-first, user-friendly, interactive customer experience.
- Implemented a system to handle extreme demand loads during data release times, thereby keeping systems fast and accessible for customers.

NASS is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful agricultural data that help all data users in their work.

Visit the NASS website (www.nass.usda.gov) and follow us on Twitter [@usda_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass) to stay up to date.