



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
North Carolina Field Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA NASS conducts its first NC labor survey

Raleigh, NC, April 27, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail its first N.C. Labor Survey, beginning April 24, 2023. This survey will collect data on farm labor in N.C. and the changes that have occurred in the workforce. Identifying best practices in the agricultural sector, which help to prevent and protect underage workers, identify entry points where underage workers may occur, and support collective action to scale up best practices to ensure that the agriculture communities have the resources, knowledge, and support that are needed to thrive.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) and the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute requested this survey to be conducted. NASS was chosen for survey administration due to its established reputation of safeguarding the privacy of farmers, ranchers, and other data providers while providing objective and unbiased statistics about U.S. agriculture.

“This is the first survey conducted to reflect on-farm labor practices accurately. NCDA&CS understands how essential labor is to ensure the continued success of family farms and further supports accuracy on this topic,” said Dr. Alexander ‘Sandy’ Stewart, NCDA&CS Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture.

Questions on labor include:

- The type (H-2A, family, etc.).
- The source (Labor contractors, local workers, etc.).
- The crops (Christmas trees, tobacco, etc.).
- The prevalence of young workers.

Producers in North Carolina are encouraged to participate in this labor survey. Their responses will help provide an accurate picture of North Carolina’s labor workforce, the mechanisms in place to ensure a safe and healthy workforce, and the areas in which the NCDA&CS, N.C. Agromedicine Institute, and other agriculture-related organizations can assist farms and communities in North Carolina with needed training and programs.

The Agromedicine Institute is non-regulatory and non-advocacy, working alongside farmers, ranchers, and agricultural-related organizations to promote the health and safety of all individuals working in agriculture. Support for the survey comes from the NCDA&CS, North Carolina Farm Bureau, and Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina.

All information individuals report will be kept confidential, as required by federal law. Survey results will only be available in aggregate form to ensure no individual producer or operation can be identified. The survey results will be released in September 2023. For more information on this survey, contact Laci Banks-Walker (919) 733-3335 or Laci.Banks@usda.gov.

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*NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.
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