



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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USDA conducts Pennsylvania custom rates survey for the first time since 2016

HARRISBURG, PA – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is contacting Pennsylvanian farmers and agri-businesses for the 2022 Custom Rates Survey. The survey is a comprehensive assessment of custom crop and livestock service work offered in the state during 2022.

“The most recent crop and livestock custom rates data available are from 2016 and continues to be a highly requested data set,” said King Whetstone, director of the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office. “This year, persons involved in agriculture in Pennsylvania can show how hiring custom services on farms has changed.”

NASS will contact about 4,000 farmers and agri-businesses in Pennsylvania starting in early August with a postcard. Survey respondents are encouraged to use the new Respondent Portal at agcounts.usda.gov. The postcard will contain a unique survey code and instructions on how to respond online. On the portal, they can complete their survey, track upcoming surveys, access data visualizations and reports of interest, link to other USDA agencies, and more. To ensure all survey participants have an opportunity to respond, NASS interviewers will follow up with those that did not respond by mail or online to conduct telephone interviews starting late September 2023.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents. The information provided by survey respondents will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with federal law, responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form.

Survey results will be published in the *Pennsylvania Custom Rates* report to be released in December 2023. This and all NASS reports are available online at nass.usda.gov/Publications. For more information on available reports, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518.

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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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