

USDA To Gather Data On Crop Acreage And Stocks

LOUISVILLE, KY.

How many acres of corn and soybeans have farmers planted this year? How has the biofuels boom influenced the balance of crop acres? Are biotech crop varieties continuing to grow in popularity?

The June Agricultural Survey, conducted by the Kentucky Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will help answer these and other critical questions about the production and supply of major commodities for 2008.

"The June Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is the most important survey conducted each spring by NASS," explained Leland Brown, director of the NASS Kentucky Field Office. "This survey will provide the first clear indication of the potential production and supply of major commodities in the United States for the 2008 crop year.

"Results of the June Agricultural Survey benefit farmers and the entire agricultural industry by providing timely and accurate information to

help them make critical business decisions," added Brown.

Beginning in early June, NASS will contact 1,865 Kentucky producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on what commodities they planted, how much they planted, and how much they have stored on their farms. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of highly anticipated USDA reports, including the annual *Acreage* report and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on June 30.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Brown. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Kentucky Field Office at (800)928-5277. Δ