

USDA To Survey Farmers' Planting Intentions For 2011

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

On the heels of an unpredictable crop year and volatile weather patterns, what will Arkansas farmers plant in 2011? What is the outlook for corn, cotton, rice, soybeans and other crops? These are just a few of the questions that will be answered by the March Agricultural Survey, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

"Each year, the agricultural industry eagerly awaits USDA's *Prospective Plantings* report, which provides the first survey-based estimates of U.S. farmers' planting intentions for the year," said Becky Cross, director of the NASS Arkansas Field Office. "The March Agricultural Survey provides the factual data about producers' planting intentions as of March 1, 2011, making it one of the most important surveys we conduct each year."

Cross, explained that data from the March Agricultural Survey benefit farmers and ranchers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical decisions for their operation. "When producers finalize their

cropping and marketing plans, this survey will be one of the most important sources of information for them," she added.

At the end of February, NASS will begin contacting selected producers by mail or telephone, asking them to provide information about the types and acres of crops they intend to plant in 2011. NASS will also collect data on quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Prospective Plantings* report and quarterly Grain Stocks report, both to be released on March 31, 2011.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Cross.

All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Arkansas Field Office at (800) 327-2970. Δ



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