



## National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)

### U.S. Department of Agriculture

Aerial and satellite imagery, in the form of digital orthoimagery, is the foundation for most public and private Geographic Information Systems. It is an essential product that is being developed by thousands of different entities across the Nation (e.g. 3,141 counties and 30,000+ incorporated cities) without effective coordination or oversight. This leads to unnecessarily higher costs, varying quality, duplication of effort, and inconsistent products. By establishing basic standards and using large area contracts, the quality of imagery for all applications can be significantly improved while its cost is significantly lowered. We must resolve these issues to effectively support the nationwide agricultural programs that are administered by all levels of government.

The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) is working with Federal agencies and committees to look at new ways to create nationwide aerial imaging programs that will collect and disseminate standardized products on regular schedules. Local, state, regional, tribal, and federal partners will be able to exercise enhancement options for higher resolution/accuracy products based on their unique requirements. The USDA component of this program will cost approximately \$42 million per year to fully implement, but \$24 million is already allocated by Congress for the NAIP program under the USDA IT budget. Expanding the NAIP Program will result in savings (over current practices) due to more efficient contracting, elimination of duplicative programs, and application of uniform standards.

Imagery has become a "commodity" product that falls into an unusual niche based on its price. It has become inexpensive enough that many urban government agencies and businesses do not

hesitate to contract for its development in an uncoordinated fashion. It is still too expensive for many rural areas to obtain. The proposed program will also save significant taxpayer dollars through cost avoidance. In addition, the "downstream" benefits on the U.S. economy are very significant, because imagery serves as a base for all Internet mapping systems and location based services that are used for such varying purposes as real estate transactions and family vacation planning.

**FACT:** Google Earth and Microsoft Virtual Earth use government produced imagery products where they are available.

### What Needs To Be Done?

Congress must take the following actions:

- Establish the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) as a "line item" in the USDA Farm Service Agency budget. This is necessary because in '07 & '08 USDA redirected a significant portion of their NAIP funds.
- USDA should be required to spend all of its allocation on acquisition of imagery under this program and its reasonable management costs.
- In addition to the \$24 million that is already allocated for the NAIP Program, an additional \$18 million needs to be included in the USDA budget.

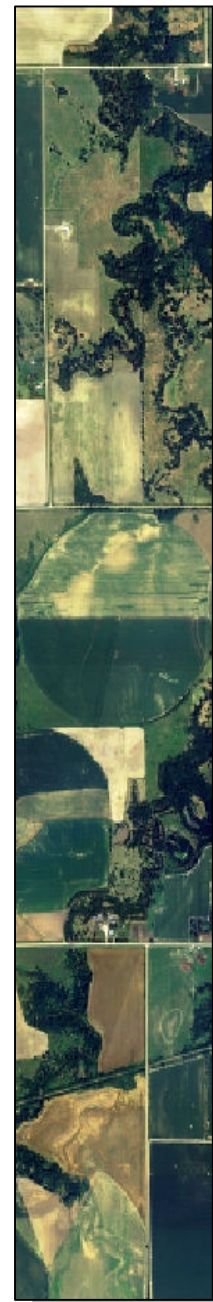
### Expanding NAIP Will Result in:

- Smart & Efficient Government
- Good Public Service
- Taxpayer Savings
- Showing the Right Model for Partnerships to build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Typical Agricultural Uses of Imagery

- ☑ Compliance and crop monitoring
- ☑ Agricultural land delineations
- ☑ Monitoring the spread and eradication of invasive species
- ☑ Determine need for and plan spraying programs (e.g. Mosquito and Gypsy Moth abatement)
- ☑ Plan re-vegetation programs
- ☑ Determine the health of forests, grazing and multiple use areas
- ☑ Use for farmstead activities (e.g. routing driveways, and locating new feedlots and buildings)
- ☑ Use in precision agriculture to assure maximum economic return to farmers while reducing environmental problems associated with over-fertilization
- ☑ Use in developing conservation plans, nutrient management plans, tile drainage plans, wind break plans, and manure management plans
- ☑ Identify grazing issues and rangeland health

## What Does NAIP Imagery Look Like?



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