

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2005

NASS



 *United States Department of Agriculture*

National Agricultural Statistics Service



NASS Mission

To provide timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) **National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)** administers the Department's program for collecting and publishing national, state and county agricultural statistics, as well as conducting the Census of Agriculture. Data provided by NASS are essential to both the public and private sectors of the agriculture industry and are used in making effective policy, production and marketing decisions in a wide range of agricultural areas.

Research, Education and Economic Mission Area Goals

Goal 1

To enhance economic opportunities for agricultural producers.

Goal 2

To support increased economic opportunities and improved quality of life in rural America.

Goal 3

To enhance protection and safety of the Nation's agriculture and food supply.

Goal 4

To improve the Nation's nutrition and health.

Goal 5

To protect and enhance the Nation's natural resource base and the environment.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

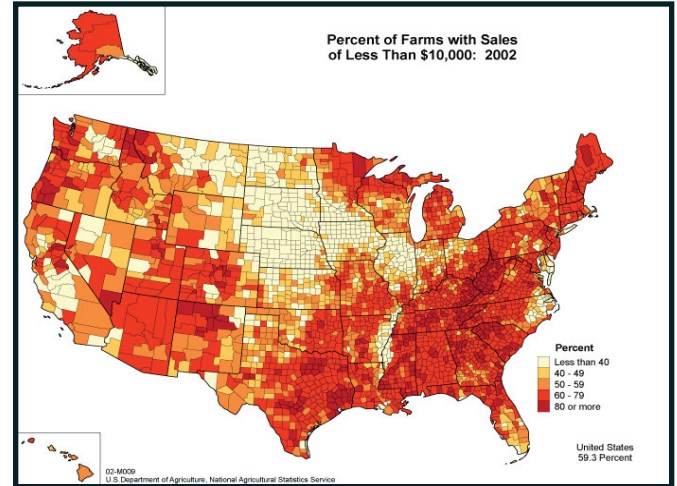
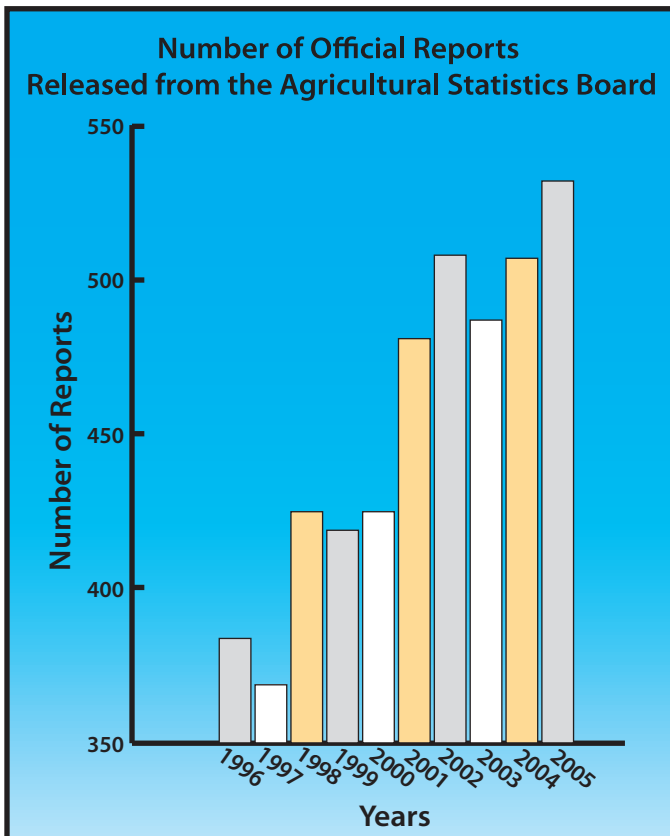
Throughout the 2005 fiscal year, NASS strived to meet the 5 goals set forth by the USDA Research, Education and Economic mission area. In doing this, NASS achieved key accomplishments in the areas of surveys, census and technology.

SURVEYS

Conducted new and expanded surveys to measure the impact of natural disasters on U.S. agricultural production, including a special citrus forecast to measure hurricane damage on the Florida citrus industry.

Produced new and expanded products to measure and report changing food trends and consumption patterns, including statistics on fresh apple slices at the request of the apple industry due to the large increase in usage of apple slices by U.S. fast food chains.

Responded to the discovery of Asian soybean rust in the United States and the heightened speculation of how growers would react to the fast-spreading, yield-reducing disease, by including questions in the 2005 March Agricultural Survey to measure farmer awareness of the disease and how its discovery had affected their planning decisions.



Source: 2002 Census of Agriculture, *Agricultural Atlas Map 02-M009*

CENSUS

Addressed concerns about the advancing age of farmers and its impact on farm structure and farm succession in the publication "What We Know About the Demographics of U.S. Farm Operators," presented at the 2005 USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum. The paper included information about the interrelationships of farm operators from data gathered from the 2002 Census of Agriculture.

Issued a special report on "Operators by Race" combining the relevant 1997 and 2002 principal operator counts into one publication, and for the first time, reporting information on operators who indicated they were more than one race on the agriculture census.

Compiled and released an Agricultural Atlas to provide a graphic representation of data collected for the census of agriculture. The atlas, available online, contains 276 maps including those illustrating agriculture trends and shifts across the United States and down to the county level.

Key Accomplishments

Provided one of the most complete and detailed profiles of irrigation in the United States with the release of the 2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey results. The report supplements the basic irrigation data collected during the census by providing statistics on irrigation practices and water usage down to the state level.

TECHNOLOGY

Strengthened the security and confidentiality of all NASS data, including transmission of market sensitive estimates, by installing computer and software upgrades throughout the agency. All of the critical application systems and general support systems in NASS successfully passed a certification and accreditation process to ensure adequate security controls exist and are documented.

Continued expansion of electronic data reporting (EDR) with the addition of 37 commodities/surveys available in the EDR system, now allowing more respondents to report data via the Internet. Plans are in place to complete the EDR system with the electronic availability of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Redesigned and launched a new NASS web site to improve usability and meet USDA web design standards. The redesign incorporates the use of new technology such as a Rich Site Summary (RSS) feed and SVG mapping application and provides increased access to historical publications via full text scans.

Number of U.S. Principal Operators by Race

	2002	1997
All Principal Operators	2,128,982	2,215,876
White	2,067,379	2,154,284
Black or African American	29,090	26,785
American Indian or Alaska Native	15,494	12,911
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	983	(NA)
Asian	8,375	9,620
More than One Race Reported	7,661	(NA)
Other Race	(NA)	12,276
Spanish, Hispanic or Latino Origin*	50,592	33,450

Using data collected from the 2002 Census of Agriculture, NASS released a special publication in April 2005 on Operators by Race to better report the diversity of principal operators.

To access Census publications and other NASS reports visit the NASS web site at www.nass.usda.gov.

*Spanish, Hispanic or Latino origin is considered an ethnicity and not a race. Data provided in this table on the number of principal operators of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino origin can be found in Volume 1, Table 49, of the 2002 Census of Agriculture.

PARTNERSHIPS

Providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture is not a mission achieved alone. In fiscal year 2005, NASS established and maintained partnerships with other USDA and federal agencies, international and state level organizations and universities.

USDA AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

Issued a special report on Non-Ambulatory Cattle and Calves in cooperation with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services. Conducted a follow-on survey for the APHIS National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) to study management practices and health attributes of livestock producers with nonambulatory milk cows. Conducted mail and telephone surveys for NAHMS to study health management practices of equine farms and to study awareness of the National Animal Identification System among U.S. livestock and poultry producers, livestock market operators and veterinarians.

Administered the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) in cooperation with USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). The data enabled NASS to publish chemical use statistics and provided ERS the ability to estimate farm income and costs associated with producing agricultural commodities, to compile farm business financial data and more.

Partnered with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency to collect data for the Conservation Effects Assessment Project to be used in producing a national assessment of environmental benefits of conservation programs.

Surveyed U.S. farms to document childhood injuries and adult occupational injury issues as a continuation of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health studies sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

INTERNATIONAL, STATE AND UNIVERSITY

Released a joint publication with Statistics Canada on United States and Canadian Hogs and Pigs to consolidate statistics on the total hogs, breeding, market hogs, sows farrowed and pig crop for both countries.

Joined with the Florida Department of Citrus and National Aeronautics and Space Administration to develop a geospatial citrus pilot program using satellite imagery to count citrus trees and detect changes in the Florida citrus population.

Facilitated a survey for Mississippi State University to study the feasibility of providing aquaculture producers with risk management products, including insurance, through the USDA Risk Management Agency.

Collaborations and partnerships on statistical endeavors have afforded NASS the opportunity to improve the quality, quantity, consistency and accuracy of statistics produced for the needs of other organizations.

NASS's field offices have experienced an increasing amount of requests from land grant universities and state departments of agriculture for their guidance and assistance in conducting special surveys.

Outreach and Support



NASS provided on-site agency representatives, exhibit booth displays, web site demonstrations and education and outreach materials at more than 85 national-level and hundreds of state-level conferences, trade shows, exhibits and meetings.

Outreach efforts provided the opportunity for NASS representatives to increase agency awareness by meeting thousands of agricultural producers, industry representatives, data users, teachers and students at events sponsored by:

- American Farm Bureau Federation
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- National Association of Ag Educators
- And many, many more

The desire and need for continual growth and development spurred NASS to expand its boundaries. During the 2005 fiscal year, NASS provided outreach and support at international, national and state conferences, organized and provided statistical training and assistance and improved communications with grassroots minority organizations.

INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND STATE CONFERENCES

Sponsored the annual Data Users Meeting with representatives from NASS, ERS, Agricultural Marketing Service, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, the Foreign Agricultural Service and the Foreign Trade Division of the Bureau of the Census providing data users an opportunity to request data series changes and ask questions.

Hosted the annual meeting of the USDA Advisory Committee on Agricultural Statistics and received committee member advice and suggestions on the content of the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the environmental statistics program and the on-going survey program.

Organized the second international conference on Statistical Data Warehousing and Business Intelligence to provide a forum for statistical agencies around the world to meet and exchange ideas on data warehousing. Seven countries presented papers including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, South Africa, Slovenia and the United States.

STATISTICAL TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

Supplied technical assistance and training to help improve agricultural statistic programs in 14 countries. Short-term assignments supported work in Armenia, Belize, Brazil, China, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Russia, Sudan and Ukraine.

Coordinated and conducted training in the United States for 220 visitors representing 30 countries in an effort to promote better quality data and improved access to data from other countries.

GRASSROOT ORGANIZATION OUTREACH

Improved communications with American Indian leaders in New Mexico and Arizona to build relationships and gain support and participation in NASS surveys. As a result, the quality and quantity of demographic data on American Indian operators was improved by conducting a pilot study in to more effectively capture data on this population of minority farmers. ■■

RECOGNITIONS

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NASS ranked number 1 in the USDA and 26th among 277 federal subagencies as the “Best Place to Work in the Federal Government” by the non-profit Partnership for Public Service. The rankings were derived from the Office of Personnel Management Best Places to Work in the Federal Government survey.

NASS customer service received a score of 91 for courtesy and professionalism on the 2004 American Customer Satisfaction Index. The index, measured by the University of Michigan Business School, showed NASS as having an overall satisfaction score of 77, five points higher than the score in 2000 and five points higher than the current private sector average score.





NASS Key Accomplishments

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