

**National Agricultural Statistics Service
(NASS)
United States Department of Agriculture
(USDA)**

**Summary, Estimation, and Disclosure Methodology Branch
Jeff Bailey**

**NISS Government Virtual Career Fair
January 8, 2020**



Mission Statement

NASS provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.



History of Service



- 1791 - George Washington prepared a survey and collected results
- 1839 – Congress funds first agricultural surveys
- 1840 – First Census of Agriculture
- 1862 – USDA established
- 1863 – First Crop Report issued

Our Makeup

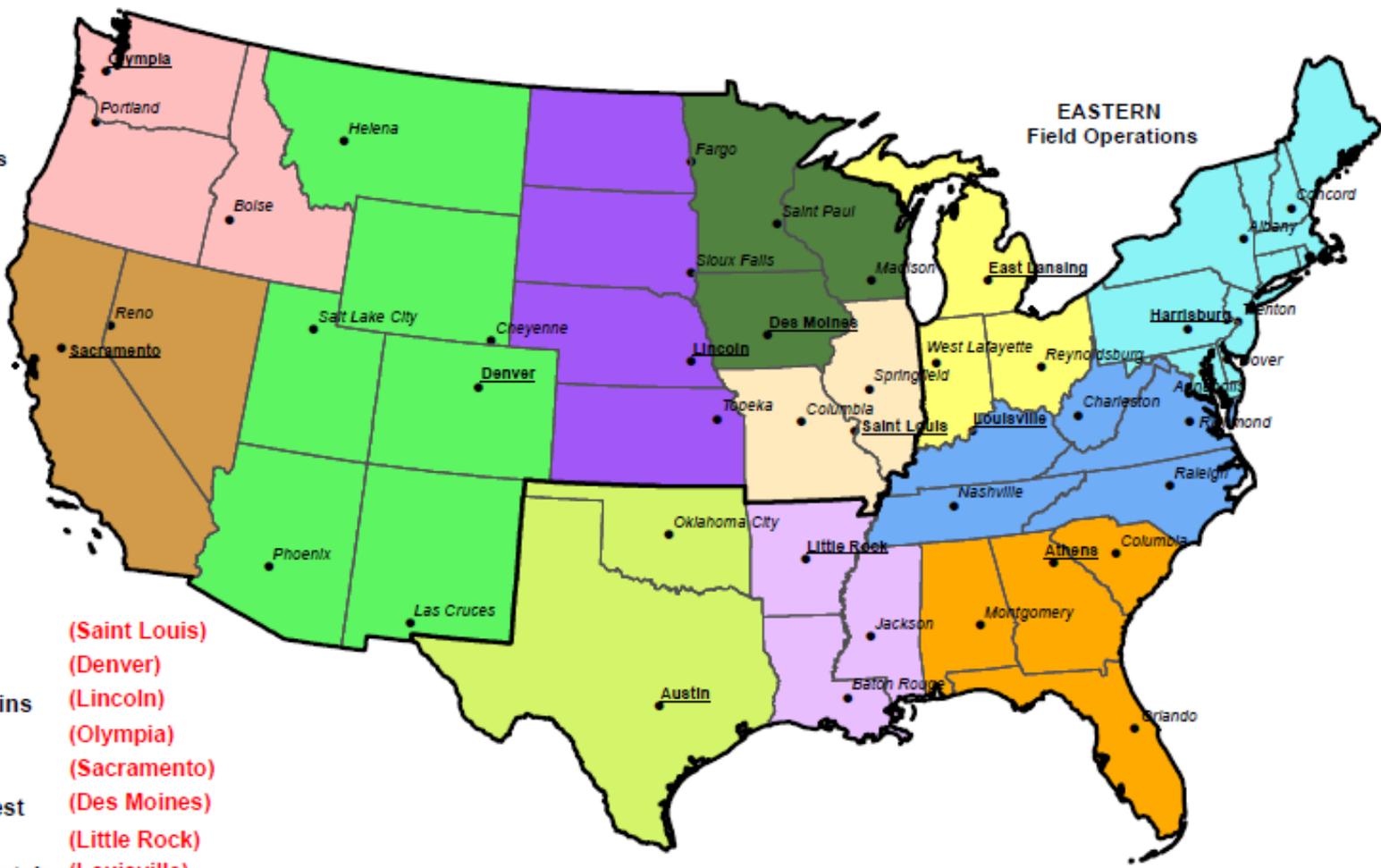
- Headquarters in Washington, DC
- 12 regional offices
- About 800 total staff
- Most have degrees in agriculture, math, statistics, or computer science
- No political appointees
 - No changes with elections

United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service



WESTERN
Field Operations

EASTERN
Field Operations



Regions

- Heartland (Saint Louis)
- Mountain (Denver)
- Northern Plains (Lincoln)
- Northwest (Olympia)
- Pacific (Sacramento)
- Upper Midwest (Des Moines)
- Delta (Little Rock)
- Eastern Mountain (Louisville)
- Great Lakes (East Lansing)
- Northeastern (Harrisburg)
- Southern (Athens)
- Southern Plains (Austin)

Presence Offices
Regional Offices



What Does NASS Do?

- Administer USDA's Statistical Estimating Program
- Conduct the 5-year Census of Agriculture
- Collect and summarize agricultural data under reimbursable agreements
- Provide statistical consulting for Federal/State gov't, universities, and other countries



Crop
Production

Released August 18, 2011, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.
For information on "Crop Production" call (202) 720-2222, Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

Corn Production Down 7 Percent from 2010
Soybean Production Up 4 Percent

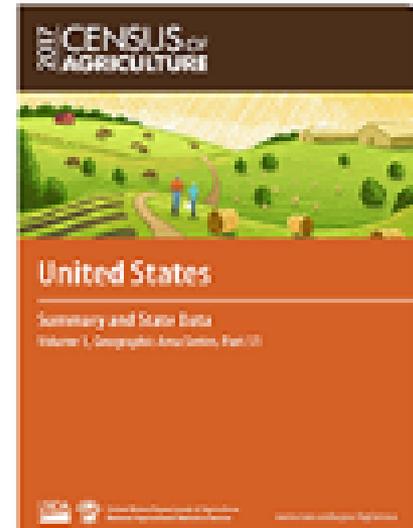
Corn production is forecast at 9.27 billion bushels, down 7 percent from last year and 2 percent from 1999. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 133.9 bushels per acre, down 5.2 bushels from last year. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1997. Yields are mostly lower than 2001 in the central and eastern Corn Belt as well as the northern Plains. Mostly higher yields were reported in the western Corn Belt and Southeast where the corn crop is rebounding from drought conditions last year. Farmers expect to harvest 69.2 million acres of corn for grain, down 100,000 acres from June and 9 percent from 2010.

Soybean production is forecast at a record high 2.87 billion bushels, up 4 percent from 2010, and 8 percent from 1999. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 38.7 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from 2010. This is the third highest yield behind 38.9 bushels per acre in 1997 and 1998. Yields are mostly higher than last year in the Great Plains, Southeast, and lower Mississippi Valley. However, yields are down in the western Corn Belt and Atlantic Coast States. Area planted, at a record 75.2 million acres, is down slightly from June, but up 1 percent from last year. Acres for harvest, at a record 74.1 million acres, are up 2 percent from the 2010 average.

All Cotton production is forecast at 20.0 million 480-pound bales, up 16 percent from 2010. The yield is expected to average 670 pounds per harvested acre, up 38 pounds from last year. If realized, this would be the largest production on record. The record production is a combination of the second highest harvested acreage since 1912, coupled with above average yields throughout most of the cotton belt. Nationwide, producers expect to harvest 14.3 million acres, 10 percent above last year. Upland cotton accounts for 14.1 million harvested acres, 9 percent above 2010. American-Pima harvested acreage totaled 234,000 acres, 38 percent more than 2010. Upland cotton production is forecast at 19.4 million 480-pound bales, a

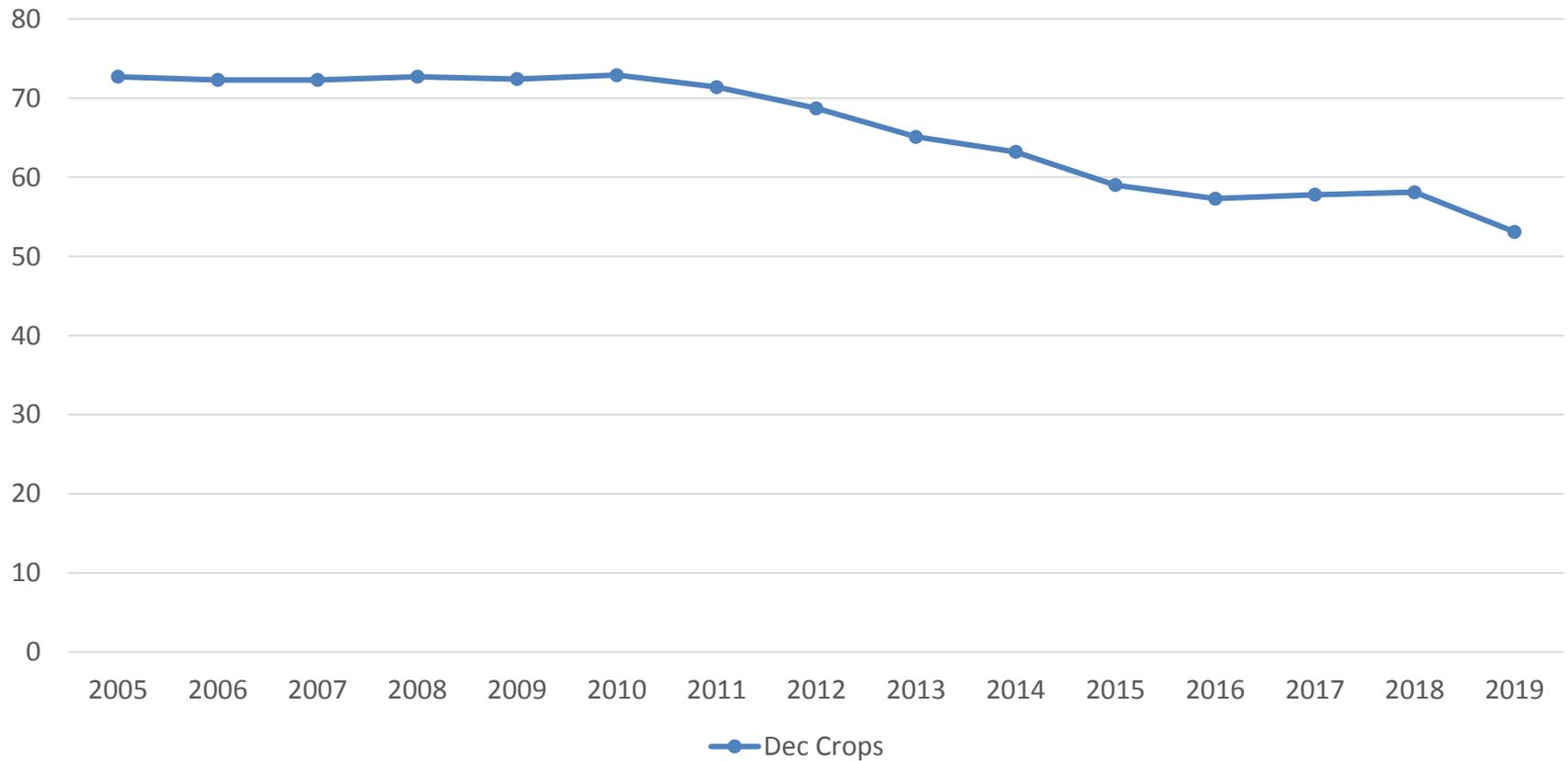
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FAO, up



Crops Acreage, Stock and Production Survey

Response Rate



What Challenges NASS Faces

- Falling response rates – Nonresponse adjustments, weighting and imputation
- Improving repeatability, efficiency, transparency and measures of error – developing models to use all available data so the model results can be published
- Questionnaire development for new topics and increasing web reporting– cognitive interviews

NASS Links

- NASS Homepage: <https://www.nass.usda.gov/index.php>
- About NASS:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/About_NASS/index.php
- Career Opportunities:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/About_NASS/Opportunities/index.php
- Research Reports:
[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education and Outreach/Reports, Presentations and Conferences/Reports by Date/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Reports,_Presentations_and_Conferences/Reports_by_Date/index.php)
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