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

Summary, Estimation, and Disclosure Methodology Branch
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NISS Government Virtual Career Fair
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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
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
Crops Acreage, Stock and Production Survey

Response Rate

Dec Crops
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
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