2010 Explanatory Notes
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Purpose Statement

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) was established by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1446, Supplement 1, of April 3, 1961, under Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 and other authorities. The mission of the agency is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

The statistical data provided by NASS are essential to the public and private sectors for making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions on a wide range of agricultural commodities. Every 5 years the Census of Agriculture provides comprehensive national, State, and county data as well as selected data for Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S., Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands. The USDA published its first crop report in 1863. NASS' responsibilities are authorized under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627) and the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997, Public Law 105-113 (7 U.S.C. 2204g).

- **Agricultural Estimates Program** – NASS field offices regularly survey thousands of operators of farms, ranches, and agribusinesses who provide information on a confidential basis. These scientifically-designed surveys provide the basis for developing estimates of production, supply, price, and other aspects of the agricultural economy. Official USDA national, State, and county estimates and reports are issued relating to the number of farms and land in farms; acreage, types, and production of farm crops; number of livestock on farms and of livestock products; stocks of agricultural commodities; value and utilization of farm products; farm labor; prices received and paid by farmers; agricultural chemical use; and on other subjects as needed. The field offices forward the estimates to NASS headquarters where they are combined and released at scheduled times to the press and public through the Agricultural Statistics Board. Annually, NASS publishes approximately 500 national reports and thousands of additional state reports, covering more than 120 crops and 45 livestock items. These basic and unbiased data are necessary to maintain an orderly association between the consumption, supply, marketing, and input sectors of agriculture.
- **Census of Agriculture** – The Census of Agriculture is taken every 5 years and provides comprehensive data on the agricultural economy, including data on the number of farms, land use, production expenses, value of land and buildings, farm size and characteristics of farm operators, market value of agricultural production sold, acreage of major crops, inventory of livestock and poultry, and farm irrigation practices. Results of the 2007 Census of Agriculture were released on February 4, 2009 and provide national, State, and county level detailed data. Data for Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands are also available.
- **Work Performed for Others –** NASS conducts surveys for and lends technical expertise to other Federal agencies, State governments, and private organizations on a reimbursable basis. NASS provides support and assistance with questionnaire and sample design, data collection and editing, analysis of survey results, and training. NASS also provides technical consultation, support, and assistance for international programs under participating agency service agreements.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service maintains a central office in Washington, D.C., and a network of 46 field offices, serving all 50 States and Puerto Rico, that operate through cooperative agreements with State Departments of Agriculture or universities. As of September 30, 2008, NASS had 1,085 permanent full-time employees, including 410 full-time employees in Washington, D.C., 673 in field offices, 2 in Puerto Rico.

NASS has one on-going Office of Inspector General evaluation. There are no on-going Government Accountability Office evaluations.

#50601-15-KC 4/14/08 NASS – Establishments of Average Yields

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Available Funds and Staff Years
2008 Actual and Estimated 2009 and 2010

Item	Actual 2008		2009 Estimated*		2010 Estimated*	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
National Agricultural Statistics Service	$163,355,000	995	$151,565,000	1,038	$161,830,000	1,068
Rescission	-1,143,485	-	-	-	-	-
Carryover	3,605,134	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Salaries and Expenses	165,816,649	995	151,565,000	1,038	161,830,000	1,068
Obligations under other USDA appropriations:						
Agricultural Marketing Service for pesticide work, and data on milk prices, export certification, and base month series	287,740	1	312,000	1	312,000	1
Agricultural Research Service for assistance on food consumption data, and Nutrient Data Laboratory	11,555	-	12,000	-	12,000	-
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for animal health monitoring system	508,474	4	812,000	5	812,000	5
Cooperative State Research Education, and Extension Service for data on small farms	20,030	-	20,000	-	20,000	-
Economic Research Service for an agricultural resource management and small farms data	6,520,150	37	8,019,000	40	8,019,000	40
Farm Service Agency for data on feed grain county estimates	3,444,546	24	4,670,000	30	4,670,000	30
Forest Service for data on grazing fees and a woodland owners survey	123,651	1	86,000	-	86,000	-
Risk Management Agency for data on county estimates	935,000	8	920,000	6	920,000	6
World Agricultural Outlook Board for printing and lock-up support and cotton objective yield	12,732	-	8,000	-	8,000	-
Other USDA	65,259	-	65,000	-	65,000	-
Total Appropriations	11,929,137	75	14,924,000	82	14,924,000	82
Total, USDA Appropriations	177,745,786	1,070	166,489,000	1,120	176,754,000	1,150
Other Federal Funds:						
Interior, Department of, for BLM grazing fees survey	58,000	-	61,000	-	61,000	-
Foreign Agricultural Service (from AID) for training, technical assistance, equipment and personnel detail	1,026,733	9	506,000	3	500,000	3
NIOSH	-	-	710,000	-	710,000	-
National Science Foundation for data collection	175,000	1	175,000	1	175,000	1
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	34,500	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Other Federal Funds	1,294,233	10	1,452,000	4	1,446,000	4
Non-Federal Funds:						
State Agencies for survey work	2,914,211	20	2,900,000	19	2,000,000	19
Miscellaneous Contributed Funds for distribution of agricultural reports and diskettes and for data on almonds, aquaculture, cherries, grapes, hops, horses, malting barley, potatoes, pistachios, walnuts, and wheat and miscellaneous mailings	152,158	1	123,000	1	123,000	1
Total, Non-Federal Funds	3,066,369	21	3,023,000	20	2,123,000	20
Total, National Agricultural Statistics Service	182,106,388	1,101	170,964,000	1,144	180,323,000	1,174

*37 FTEs were added to Estimated FY 2009 and FY 2010 Budgets to account for Administrative and Financial Management (AMF) personnel. These staff years were erroneously not included in previous NASS budget submissions.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Year Summary
2008 Actual and Estimated 2009 and 2010

	2008			2009*			2010*		
Grade	Wash. DC	Field	Total	Wash. DC	Field	Total	Wash. DC	Field	Total
Senior Executive Service	10	-	10	10	-	10	10	-	10
SL	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1
GS-15	18	17	35	18	17	35	18	17	35
GS-14	58	45	103	58	45	103	58	45	103
GS-13	204	65	269	217	65	282	223	65	288
GS-12	37	127	164	75	127	202	79	127	206
GS-11	30	91	121	25	91	116	25	91	116
GS-10	4	5	9	4	5	9	4	5	9
GS-9	18	61	79	16	58	74	16	64	80
GS-8	18	45	63	18	45	63	18	45	63
GS-7	16	149	165	16	151	167	16	165	181
GS-6	4	57	61	4	57	61	4	57	61
GS-5	1	16	17	1	16	17	1	16	17
GS-4	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4
Total Permanent Positions.....	421	680	1,101	465	679	1,144	475	699	1,174
Unfilled Positions end-of-year.....	-11	-5	-16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Permanent Full Time Employment, end-of-year.....	410	675	1,085	465	679	1,144	475	699	1,174
Staff-Year Estimate.....	421	680	1,101	465	679	1,144	475	699	1,174

*37 FTEs were added to Estimated FY 2009 and FY 2010 Budget to account for Administrative and Financial Management (AMF) personnel. These staff years were erroneously not included in previous NASS budget submissions.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

SIZE, COMPOSITION AND COST OF MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET

The 2010 budget estimate for the National Agricultural Statistics Service proposes the reduction of three passenger motor vehicles.
All passenger motor vehicles of the National Agricultural Statistics Service are located at various field offices and are assigned based on approved program needs and geographic region.

NASS passenger motor vehicles are used for necessary field travel in carrying out the mission of the agency and ensuring accurate data are being reported and collected. Of the 45 State field offices, there are 40 government owned and lease vehicles in 29 states. While all 45 NASS field offices require the use of motor vehicles, it is often cost-effective to acquire vehicles through existing cooperative agreements with the State Departments of Agriculture, through leases from State motor pools, or via rental agreements. Field offices monitor and track vehicle use and costs. Currently, NASS only owns a fleet of 40 vehicles and plans to move from owned to leased as owned vehicles are reported excess. Where possible NASS uses short term rental shared motor pools.

Changes to the motor vehicle fleet. In 2009, NASS plans a reduction of five passenger motor vehicles, leaving 35 in the fleet at the end of 2009. The reduction of three passenger motor vehicles is proposed in the 2010 estimate, leaving 32 in the fleet at the end of 2010.

NASS follows the Federal replacement policy for agency owned vehicles; and maintains vehicles past the minimum Federal replacement criteria of 3 years or 60,000 miles when appropriate. NASS uses appropriated funds to agency owned vehicles when necessary. NASS complies with GSA fleet managers when replacing leased vehicles, ensuring continued program needs.

Impediments to managing the motor vehicle fleet. There have been no significant changes in the size or cost of the NASS vehicle fleet since the beginning of fiscal year 2009 and there are no identified impediments to managing the motor vehicle fleet in the most cost-effective manner.

Size, composition and cost of motor vehicle fleet as of September 30, 2008, are as follows:

Size, Composition and Annual Cost
(in thousands of dollars)
Number of Vehicles by Type

Fiscal Year	Sedans and Station Wagons	Light Trucks 4X2	Light Trucks 4X4	Medium Trucks	Heavy Trucks	Ambulances	Buses	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs ($ in thous)
FY 2007	3	40	1	0	0	0	0	44	$198
Change	-1	-3	0	0	0	0	0	-4	-$9
FY 2008	2	37	1	0	0	0	0	40	$189
Change	0	-5	0	0	0	0	0	-5	$19
FY 2009	2	32	1	0	0	0	0	35	$208
Change	0	-3	0	0	0	0	0	-3	$20
FY 2010*	2	29	1	0	0	0	0	32	$228

*There is a negative amount in the Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST) report for *2010 End of Year Operating* Inventory/ *Owned* under Vans due to an error in the *2010 Planned Decreases/ Owned* portion. This report for the Explanatory Notes shows the correction that will be made in FAST when it reopens. The Vans column in FAST for *2010 Planned Decreases/ Owned* will be corrected to a quantity of 2; which will yield a decrease of 2 Vans and 1 SUV, for a net decrease of 3 (as displayed in the Light Trucks 4X2 column of the Explantory Notes as required).

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

The estimates include appropriation language for this item as follows:

Salaries and Expenses:

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, [$151,565,000] $161,830,000, of which up to [$37,265,000] $37,908,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations Act, 2009	$151,565,000
Budget Estimate, 2010	161,830,000
Change in Appropriation	10,265,000

SUMMARY OF INCREASES AND DECREASES
(On basis of appropriation)

Item of Change	2009 Estimated		Pay Costs		Program Changes		2010 Estimated
Agricultural Estimates	$111,850,000	+	$2,022,000	+	0	+	$113,872,000
Reinstate Chemical Use Survey	2,450,000	+	0	+	$5,750,000	+	8,200,000
Bioenergy Data Series	0	+	0	+	1,850,000	+	1,850,000
Subtotal, Ag Estimates	114,300,000	+	2,022,000	+	7,600,000		123,922,000
Census of Agriculture	37,265,000	+	643,000	+	0		37,908,000
Total Available	151,565,000	+	2,665,000	+	7,600,000		161,830,000

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

PROJECT STATEMENT
(On basis of appropriation)

Project	2008 Actual Amount	2008 Actual Staff-Years	2009 Estimate Amount	2009 Estimate Staff-Years	Increase or Decrease	2010 Estimate Amount	2010 Estimate Staff-Years
1. Agricultural Estimates.....	$110,151,692	765	$114,300,000	808	+ $9,622,000	$123,922,000	838
2. Census of Agriculture.....	51,985,000	230	37,265,000	230	+ 643,000	37,908,000	230
Unobligated balance lapsing.....	74,823	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available or estimate.....	162,211,515	995	151,565,000	1,038 a/	+ 10,265,000	161,830,000	1,068 a/
Rescission.....	1,143,485	-					
Total, Appropriation.....	163,355,000	995					

a/ 37 FTE were added to FY 2009 Omnibus and FY 2010 President's Budget to account for Administrative and Financial Management (AFM) personnel. These staff years were erroneously not included in previous NASS budget submissions.

PROJECT STATEMENT
(On basis of availability)

Project	2008 Actual Amount	2008 Actual Staff-Years	2009 Estimate Amount	2009 Estimate Staff-Years	Increase or Decrease	2010 Estimate Amount	2010 Estimate Staff-Years
1. Agricultural Estimates.....	$110,151,692	765	$114,300,000	808	+ $9,622,000	$123,922,000	838
2. Census of Agriculture.....	53,823,586	230	39,032,000	230	- 1,124,000	37,908,000	230
Unobligated balance lapsing.....	74,823	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unobligated balance forward to next year.....	1,766,548	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total available or estimate.....	165,816,649	995	153,332,000	1,038	+ 8,498,000	161,830,000	1,068
Unobligated balance forward from prior year.....	-3,605,134	-	-1,767,000	-	+ 1,767,000	-	-
Rescission.....	1,143,485	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, appropriation.....	163,355,000	995	151,565,000	1,038 a/	+ 10,265,000	161,830,000	1,068 a/

a/ 37 FTE were added to FY 2009 Omnibus and FY 2010 President's Budget to account for Administrative and Financial Management (AFM) personnel. These staff years were erroneously not included in previous NASS budget submissions.

Justification of Increases and Decreases

(1) An increase of $9,622,000 for agricultural estimates ($114,300,000 available in 2009) consisting of:

(a) An increase of $5,750,000 and 20 staff years to reinstate the Agricultural Chemical Use Program.

In 1991, NASS began surveying the use of pesticides and commercial fertilizers in response to data needs for water quality and food safety initiatives. Before the NASS program was instituted, there was very little statistically reliable and readily available information on the amounts and types of chemicals used in agriculture. Consequently, neither USDA nor other concerned parties could respond adequately to questions about agricultural chemical use and its possible effects on the environment. The NASS data series is the only free publicly available agriculture chemical use information. Proprietary data sources exist, but are extremely costly to access and must not be disclosed outside the client's pervue. In 2007, NASS chemical use statistics were curtailed due to budget shortfalls in the annual agricultural statistics program. Congress, USDA, and NASS have received thousands of inquiries citing the importance of having statistically sound data to ensure a safe food supply for our Nation and the World. However, due to the size of this program, NASS is simply unable to reinstate the program by redirecting existing funds. The FY 2009 Omnibus included funding to reinstate the fruit Chemical Use Survey. This funding request for FY 2010 would restore the remaining NASS chemical use data series to its prior level, including data on major row crops on an alternating year basis, post harvest chemical use data, and vegetable chemical use data. Appropriated funding is necessary for this initiative to ensure equal access to Federal statistics. The National Research Council of the National Academies publishes the *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*. This report is widely cited and used by Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and Federal agencies to evaluate statistical agencies. As indicated in the report, one of the primary practices of a Federal statistical agency is to get information into the hands of users who need it on a timely basis. Requiring user fees to obtain this data would create an environment which hinders the opportunity for the socially disadvantaged to have equal access to the data, therefore being placed at a disadvantage in the competitive market.

The chemical use data collected by NASS have been used in building a database for the USDA Pesticide Data Program. This database is used by the Department to evaluate the safety of the Nation's food supply. Additionally, the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), in 1996, increased the need for actual, reliable chemical use data. FQPA requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct an accelerated review of tolerance levels for re-registration of pesticide products. Part of the review includes using actual chemical usage data that only growers can provide. The absence of these data has created difficulties for EPA and industry to effectively conduct and analyze these reviews. In the absence of actual data, EPA is often in the position to assume maximum label rates are being applied on all acreage. This has the reality of over-estimating actual pesticide usage and could subsequently cause a product to be incorrectly pulled from the market.

(b) An increase of $1,850,000 and 10 staff years to provide a data series on bio-energy production and utilization.

The emphasis on renewable energy will likely lead America's farmers to an increased focus on production of energy crops. The lack of data in this area for agriculture has created a lot of uncertainty. Based on
meetings with industry and Department stakeholders, NASS has identified key areas of interest where data collection would provide beneficial information for program development and energy research. These areas are:

- Quinquennial surveys of on-farm energy production and uses of these resources;
- Annual maps of county level production with overlays of major transportation grids and ethanol plants;

- Production and utilization of biomass materials (switchgrass, stover, etc.) to promote cellulosic energy production;
- Measure the capacity of on- and off-farm biomass storage facilities to meet bioenergy industry needs.

During fiscal year 2010 on-farm energy production will be measured and preparations will be made to collect annual information on the utilization of biomass materials.

The development of technology to produce bioenergy also brings challenges of ensuring facilities are located in areas which allow profitability and sustainability of these entities. For example, ethanol plants must be efficient in the use of their inputs and outputs. The transportation of the fuel that is produced, and the byproducts that result from this production, are both critical for these plants to remain profitable. Additional information is needed on optimal locations of commodity production and transportation grids to ensure the long-term success of future plants. This initiative will monitor the supply of these energy sources and enhance the overall activities of the USDA in support of expanding biofuel capabilities. The NASS initiative is coordinated with those of the other research agencies within USDA and will complement their ability of expanding agriculture from traditional food and feed production to bioenergy feedstock production.

Technology advancements continue to make great strides in the area of energy produced from renewable sources. As these advancements move toward increased cellulosic energy production, it will be vital for the Nation to have unbiased supply estimates. This initiative will monitor the supply of these energy sources.

(c) An increase of $2,022,000 to fund increased pay costs.

A large percent of NASS' non data collection budget supports personnel compensation. This increase is critically important to NASS to enable the agency to perform its mission and meet the growing need for agricultural statistics. It will also ensure adequate staffing for the current statistical program and maintain most statistical program components.

(2) An increase of $643,000 the Census of Agriculture:

(a) An increase of $643,000 to fund increased pay costs to the Census of Agriculture.

A large percentage of NASS' non-data collection budget supports personnel compensation. This increase is critically important to NASS to enable the agency to perform its mission and meet the growing need for agricultural statistics.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and Staff Years
2008 and Estimated 2009 and 2010

	2008		2009*		2010*	
	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years	Amount	Staff Years
Alabama	1,095,936	12	$1,139,000	13	$1,118,000	13
Alaska	195,723	2	203,000	2	200,000	2
Arizona	961,332	10	999,000	10	981,000	11
Arkansas	1,308,464	16	1,359,000	17	1,335,000	17
California	2,205,062	26	2,291,000	27	2,249,000	28
Colorado	1,281,927	15	1,332,000	16	1,308,000	16
Delaware	133,307	1	139,000	1	136,000	1
District of Columbia	111,232,429	404	98,533,000	414	108,030,000	433
Florida	1,417,416	15	1,473,000	16	1,446,000	16
Georgia	1,278,682	14	1,329,000	15	1,304,000	15
Hawaii	839,514	9	872,000	9	856,000	10
Idaho	1,054,721	12	1,096,000	13	1,076,000	13
Illinois	1,602,774	16	1,665,000	17	1,635,000	17
Indiana	1,444,941	16	1,501,000	17	1,474,000	17
Iowa	1,354,337	17	1,407,000	18	1,381,000	18
Kansas	1,402,693	17	1,457,000	18	1,431,000	18
Kentucky	1,324,508	14	1,376,000	15	1,351,000	15
Louisiana	994,710	12	1,034,000	13	1,015,000	13
Maryland	933,430	11	970,000	11	952,000	12
Michigan	1,371,110	17	1,425,000	18	1,399,000	18
Minnesota	1,180,261	16	1,226,000	17	1,204,000	17
Mississippi	1,337,994	15	1,390,000	16	1,365,000	16
Missouri	1,213,989	13	1,261,000	14	1,238,000	14
Montana	1,025,760	12	1,066,000	13	1,046,000	13
Nebraska	1,421,960	15	1,477,000	16	1,450,000	16
Nevada	289,568	3	301,000	3	295,000	3
New Hampshire	1,249,429	14	1,298,000	15	1,274,000	15
New Jersey	990,213	10	1,029,000	10	1,010,000	11
New Mexico	742,128	7	771,000	7	757,000	8
New York	1,128,074	16	1,172,000	17	1,151,000	17
North Carolina	2,103,837	16	2,186,000	17	2,146,000	17
North Dakota	1,046,183	13	1,087,000	14	1,067,000	14
Ohio	1,473,007	15	1,530,000	16	1,502,000	16
Oklahoma	1,083,122	12	1,125,000	13	1,105,000	13
Oregon	1,089,091	13	1,132,000	14	1,111,000	14
Pennsylvania	1,188,634	15	1,235,000	16	1,212,000	16
South Carolina	961,871	10	999,000	10	981,000	11
South Dakota	1,337,837	15	1,390,000	16	1,365,000	16
Tennessee	1,223,190	14	1,271,000	15	1,248,000	15
Texas	1,965,389	23	2,042,000	24	2,005,000	25
Utah	793,995	9	825,000	9	810,000	10
Virginia	1,064,961	13	1,106,000	14	1,086,000	14
Washington	1,657,615	16	1,722,000	17	1,691,000	17
West Virginia	626,098	7	651,000	7	639,000	8
Wisconsin	1,454,883	16	1,512,000	17	1,484,000	17
Wyoming	681,209	9	708,000	9	695,000	10
U.S. Territories	211,964	2	220,000	2	216,000	2
Subtotal, Available or Estimate	163,975,278	995	153,332,000	1,038	161,830,000	1,068
Unobligated balance lapsing	74,823	-	-	-	-	-
Unobligated balance forward to next year	1,766,548	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available or Estimate	165,816,649	995	153,332,000	1,038	161,830,000	1,068

*37 FTEs were added to Estimated FY 2009 and FY 2010 Budget to account for Administrative and Financial Management (AFM) personnel. These staff years were erroneously not included in previous NASS budget submissions.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Classification by Objects

2008 Actual and Estimated 2009 and 2010

	2008	2009	2010
Personnel Compensation:			
Washington, D. C.	$38,701,321	$40,211,000	$42,272,000
Field	43,362,412	45,054,000	47,363,000
11 Total personnel compensation	82,063,733	85,265,000	85,635,000
12 Personnel Benefits	23,515,892	22,633,000	22,816,000
13 Benefits for former personnel	16,400	17,000	17,000
Total pers. comp. & benefits	105,596,025	107,915,000	108,468,000
Other Objects:			
21 Travel and transportation of persons	3,548,764	3,000,000	3,000,000
22 Transportation of things	942,360	1,000,000	1,000,000
23.2 Rental payments of others	89,399	90,000	90,000
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	7,689,456	5,400,000	5,400,000
24 Printing and reproduction	299,798	300,000	300,000
25.1 Contractual Services by Fed Agencies	7,481,394	8,400,000	8,000,000
25.2 Related Expenditures	446,823	400,000	400,000
25.3 Repair, Alteration or Maint of Equip	702,639	1,350,000	1,000,000
25.4 Contractual Services - Other	29,800,000	17,400,000	24,800,000
25.5 Research & Development Contracts	1,625,188	400,000	1,500,000
25.7 Miscellaneous Services	2,219,079	1,487,000	2,600,000
26 Supplies and materials	1,124,411	2,000,000	1,600,000
31 Equipment	2,400,499	4,180,000	3,662,000
42 Insurance claims and indemenities	7,710	8,000	8,000
43 Interest and dividends	1,733	2,000	2,000
Total other objects	58,379,253	45,417,000	53,362,000
Total direct obligations	163,975,278	153,332,000	161,830,000
Position Data:			
Average Salary, ES positions	$162,029	$162,029	$162,029
Average Salary, GS positions	$73,846	$76,726	$78,261
Average Grade, GS positions	11.9	11.9	11.9

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

STATUS OF PROGRAM

The National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) mission is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. To achieve this, NASS administers USDA's program of collecting and publishing current national, State, and county agricultural statistics. The Census of Agriculture, conducted every 5 years, provides comprehensive, local level data about agricultural communities across America. The statistical data provided by NASS are essential to both the public and private sectors for making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions on a wide range of agricultural commodities.

NASS programs are organized into the following three major areas: (1) agricultural estimates, (2) Census of Agriculture, and (3) work performed for others.

AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES

Current Activities:

The NASS agricultural statistics program is conducted through 45 field offices serving all 50 States, and a Puerto Rico field office. Scientifically designed surveys of farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, and others provide the basis for developing estimates of production, supply, price, and many other aspects of the agricultural economy. These surveys are supplemented by field observations, objective yield counts and measurements, and other data to provide reliable information. Administrative data available from other USDA agencies and State Departments of Agriculture are also used to produce statistical reports, including monthly livestock and poultry slaughter, egg production, and dairy products reports.

Official USDA national and State reports are issued relating to the number of farms and land in farms; acreage, yield, production, and stocks of grains; production of hay, oilseeds, cotton, potatoes, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, floriculture, nursery, and selected specialty crops; inventories and production of hogs, cattle, sheep and wool, goats and mohair, mink, catfish, trout, poultry, eggs, and dairy products; prices received by farmers for products, prices paid for commodities and services, and related indexes; cold storage inventories; agricultural chemical use; and other related items that affect the agricultural economy. The NASS field offices forward the estimates to the Headquarters office in Washington, D.C., where they are combined, analyzed, and released at scheduled times to the media and public through free published reports on the NASS Web site, http://www.nass.usda.gov/. Annually, NASS publishes more than 500 national reports, covering over 120 crop and 45 livestock items, complemented by more than 8,000 additional State reports. These basic and unbiased data are critical to maintain an orderly association between the consumption, supply, marketing, and input sectors of agriculture.

NASS provides timely and accurate agricultural statistics that are used throughout the agricultural sector to evaluate supplies and determine competitive prices for world marketing of U.S. commodities. These statistics promote a level playing field in production agriculture with impartial information available to everyone at a predetermined and publicized date and time.

Statistical data are also provided on chemical use and biotechnology for use in monitoring and evaluating risk assessment to both food safety and food security. Data on agricultural practices, farm and ranch irrigation practice trends, and the geographic information system cropland data layer provide meaningful information on the Nation's resource base and environment.

NASS continues to keep abreast of information needs through a variety of means, including data user meetings, advisory committees, attending industry meetings, and sponsoring outreach activities. Even though most NASS reports consist of specific data series, improvements to reports and databases are constantly being made in terms of additional data breakouts, improved coverage, and improved timeliness. Special reports or additional categories within existing reports are added to best summarize the constantly changing character of agriculture. The following examples represent FY 2008 accomplishments.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

New and Expanded Agricultural Statistics published by NASS

- An additional *Rice Stocks* report was added to the annual publication cycle in June 2008. The rice industry felt the time period between the March 1 report and August 1 report was too long and hindered data users from tracking rice moving from on-farm to off-farm facilities. A June 1 report gives a better indication of the disappearance that can be expected by the end of the marketing year.

- Beginning in September 2008, Long Grain and combined Medium/Short grain U.S. rice prices are published in the monthly *Agricultural Prices* report. Prior to the 2008 Farm Bill, one target price was established for rice and included all 3 lengths of grain. The new Farm Bill sets a target price for Long grain and Medium grain (in the 2008 Farm Bill, the term "medium grain rice" includes short grain rice). Publishing these monthly prices will enable data users to track prices and anticipate whether counter-cyclical payments are made or not.

- A special wheat objective yield report was issued on May 30, 2008, titled *Wheat Objective Yield Survey Data, 1993-2007*. This report provides information on the types of data collected from the wheat objective yield surveys and how they relate to the Agricultural Statistics Board yield estimates. This information was provided to data users to aid in understanding the wheat objective yield program and to provide a historical perspective of the changes that have occurred in the objective yield data over the last 15 years.

- NASS also made a few program changes to react to the changing agricultural sector and become more efficient. Beginning in 2008, the Cotton Objective Yield Survey is no longer conducted in California. A grower reported yield survey will continue to be conducted and will provide data used to establish monthly California cotton yield and production forecasts. Upland cotton acreage in California has declined significantly in recent years, and now accounts for less than 2 percent of the U.S. upland cotton planted area. Additionally, Texas was dropped from the Bell Pepper Estimation Program begininng with the January 2008 *Vegetables* release.

- A special report, *Overview of the U.S. Turkey Industry*, was issued November 9, 2007. This report covers a graphic historical look at turkey supplies in the United States for the last 32 years. Historical data on hatchery capacity and number, turkeys raised, eggs set, production, price, and slaughter were presented.

- During January and February 2008, U.S. level estimates were added to the annual publications of *Trout Production* and *Catfish Production*. Previously the Trout and Catfish annuals included a limited number of the States in the estimate of total production. With the release of this year's annuals, a U.S. level estimate was published for the total production numbers.

- A reliability table was added to the *Monthly Chickens and Eggs* release. The reliability table shows how well an estimator of interest performs in estimation. Twenty-four months of data are used to calculate the "Root Mean Square Error" percent that compares the first estimate to the final estimate.

- A reliability table was added to the *Annual Honey* release. The reliability table shows how well an estimator of interest performs in estimation. Ten years of data are used to calculate the "Root Mean Square Error" percent that compares the first estimate to the final estimate.

- A final rule was published in the Federal Register on June 17, 2008 (73 FR 34175, that establishes a Dairy Product Mandatory Reporting Program as required by law. The rule became effective on June 22, 2008. This program will be carried out by NASS and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Beginning with week ending July 2, 2008, all weekly *Dairy Product Prices* data reported to NASS covered the requirements of the new rule.

- Publication of regional data for sheep was dropped in July 2008. All categories are still published at the US level. This change made the level of sheep data published consistent with the goat and the cattle data published in July.

- Two years of data were revised and published in the *Poultry Slaughter Annual Summary* on February 28, 2008. This change aligned the *Poultry Slaughter Annual Summary* with the *Livestock Slaughter Annual Summary* which already contained two years of revision.

- Montana became a published State in the *Annual Mink* publication, while the data series providing an estimate of the number of mink farms that also raise fox was discontinued from the publication in 2008.

Research and Development

- For over 50 years, NASS has been conducting research studies on how to improve data collection and estimates. This non-sensitive research and its findings have been documented in over 800 reports available electronically via the Internet, making them available to agency staff, as well as other government agencies and statistical organizations. This year a NASS Intranet (internal) site was developed which includes Administratively Confidential reports in addition to the 800 reports mentioned above. This latest improvement in information sharing broadens the effort in assisting NASS employees identify best practices in surveys and in using geospatial information.

- Currently, NASS' early season soybean yield and production forecasts utilize historic five-year weight per pod (WPP) averages. The soybean WPP project is researching the concept of improving the soybean September WPP indication based on specific soybean pod measurements taken during the agency's September Soybean Objective Yield Survey, enabling it to utilize current data in the models. NASS started collecting soybean WPP research data for Illinois in 2004. The WPP research project was subsequently expanded to Iowa in 2007; and was further expanded to Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota in 2008. An interactive program was developed to process, edit and update the September WPP data; and objective yield soybean lab data procedures were developed to capture end-of-season WPP data.

- For the first time, the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) had access to in-season acreage indications based on remote sensing methodology for six of the ten market sensitive winter wheat States for the June Crop Acreage Report. Additionally, statistical indications were provided to the ASB for the first time for the August Crop Production Report, including all market sensitive corn and soybean States, four of the seven market sensitive cotton States, eight of the ten market sensitive winter wheat States, and two of the three market sensitive spring wheat States, while providing indications for thirteen different crops across eighteen States. This was accomplished by increased operational efficiencies

developed within the program and data sharing with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). The indications were produced nearly six months earlier than in the past, while simultaneously covering more States and additional market sensitive crops. In addition, county level acreage indications were available in October for dissemination to NASS Field Offices.

- Corn and soybean State level yield indications for Minnesota and Nebraska based on remote sensing methodology were supplied in real-time to the ASB for the first time in September 2008. Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa indications continued to be provided. County level and Agricultural Statistics District indications for all five States were provided in October.

- NASS utilized satellite-based remotely sensed imagery for rapid evaluation of effects on cropland of the Midwest flooding in late spring and the Gulf Coast summer hurricanes. Of primary concern was how those storms may have altered the situation shortly after survey data collection. Derived products included maps of flooded areas with locations of NASS June Agricultural Survey segments, grain storage facilities, and the spatial distribution of non-respondents. Additional geographic data such as localized rainfall estimates and topography were integrated into the map products. Furthermore, statistics were derived from the flooding imagery to give objective numbers on the percentage of cropland that was likely severely impacted.

- The NASS Area Frame Section is now laminating the 11,000 aerial photos used in conducting each year's June Area Survey. The lamination of the sample segment photos will help preserve them, and it will eliminate the replacement costs and man-hours previously incurred by the Section each year. This process will also produce a better quality product and enable more efficient field operations.

- All area frames for the US and Puerto Rico are now in digital form, allowing for much more efficiency in processing, quick and easy segment replacement when needed, and a reduction in the time and staff needed to create a frame. Additionally, the full digital conversion has improved efficiency by enabling digital placement of a highway map and a topographic map on the front of the segment photos to reduce enumeration material preparation time and to help enumerators locate the segments in the field.

Security and Contingency Planning

- NASS implemented the Federal Desktop Common Configuration security controls to its desktop environment in compliance with Office of Management and Budget mandate.
- NASS recertified and reaccredited all its Information Technology systems in compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act.
- In compliance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, NASS initiated its background checks for all staff; is in the process of issuing LincPass to staff and contractors; has started converting physical access systems; and started to implement two-factor authentication using HSPD-12 credentials.
- NASS significantly improved its incident response and handling procedures including collaboration with USDA Cyber Security, and with U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team personnel, thereby efficiently addressing potential incidents related to lost/stolen portable devices, and potential loss of data containing Personally Identifiable Information.
- NASS continues to educate its users on the importance of sound security procedures by means of security awareness and privacy training. System and Network Administrators with significant security responsibilities were required to complete security courses specific to their field of expertise.
- NASS improved and tested both its Headquarters and Field Offices Continuity Of Operations Plan.
- Network protection was elevated in NASS by implementing additional network security analyzing tools.

Data Users Meeting

- A data user meetings was held in Chicago, IL in October to update data users on program changes and to solicit input on new data needs. The meeting was hosted by NASS, the Economic Research Service, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the FAS, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, and the Foreign Trade Division of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics

- In February 2008, a meeting was held in Louisville, KY, to advise NASS on annual program priorities; the 2007 Census of Agriculture follow-on surveys; and tour the National Processing Center, a Department of Commerce facility which NASS contracts for mailing and data capture. In addition, the committee discussed the NASS County Estimates Program and the Data Enclave that provides University Researchers with access to Agricultural Resource Management Survey data.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Current Activities:

The Census of Agriculture is taken every 5 years and provides comprehensive data at the national, State, and county level on the agricultural economy, including the number of farms, characteristics of farm operators, land use, production expenses, value of land and buildings, farm size, market value of agricultural production sold, acreage of major crops, inventory of livestock and poultry, and farm irrigation practices.

Information from the Census of Agriculture provides comprehensive and detailed data at the county level which facilitates locality-based policy and business decisions affecting the agricultural industry and rural residents. The following examples represent accomplishments during fiscal year 2008.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

2007 Census of Agriculture

- Three million two hundred thousand census forms were mailed on or slightly before January 1, 2008, with three subsequent follow up mailings and telephone enumeration. Almost 80 percent of the respondents replied, not including additional response expansion from a nonresponse study.

- The processing and editing of the 2.5 million forms ended October 24, 2008. Data were summarized and disclosure performed for publication. Publication tables are currently under review and the release date is scheduled for February 4, 2009.

- Besides the usual printed census materials, NASS has made a strong effort to improve online products. All products will be available on-line shortly after their official release. Additionally, NASS has enhanced its on-line query system to allow enhanced downloads of customized data sets.

Census Follow-On Surveys

- An aggressive census follow-on survey program plan has been formulated for the post 2007 Census of Agriculture.

- The content and form design have been completed for a follow-on Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey (FRIS) with input from industry, the Environmental Protection Agency, and ERS. The primary purpose of FRIS is to provide a wide range of irrigation information covering water usage, irrigation practices, irrigation by type, irrigation by crop, expenses, sources of information, purchase of energy for pumping water by power source, and use of recycled or reclaimed water.

- Horticultural operations with sales greater than $10,000 will be included in the 2008 FRIS, in 2003 they were excluded. Initial FRIS mail out is scheduled for January 12, 2009, with publication release on November 30, 2009.

- The content and form design is nearing completion for the Organics Production follow-on survey. This will be the first time NASS will collect organics production and marketing data. Initial mail out date is April 2009 with release date set for November 30, 2009.

- Other planned follow-on surveys include Horticulture in 2010, Land and Economic Stability Survey and Aquaculture to be conducted in 2011.

2012 Census of Agriculture Teams

- The Council on Food, Agriculture and Resource Economics is an outside census review panel that recommended three teams be formed by NASS for the 2012 Census of Agriculture. The teams are Content, Cognitive Testing and Publications.

- The Content Team's primary responsibility will be to determine what will be asked on the 2012 Census of Agriculture**.** This team has been chartered and members assigned**.**

- The Cognitive Team will determine how the 2012 census instruments will be constructed. They will also conduct the cognitive research to quantify the recommendations from the Content Team.

- The Publications Team will not be chartered until after the release of the 2007 Census of Agriculture. This team will address future census publications and data products.

Research and Development

- The reengineering of the processes of weighting respondent data to adjust for complete unit nonresponse and for coverage deficiencies in the census mail list resulted in significant improvements for the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The new procedures provided much more transparency, and without depending on preconceived notions about what farm characteristics were key in differentiating response rates. The weighting process improvements reduced the time required for the operational processing of the weighting functions and improved the quality of the census summary results. Significant improvements implemented were 1) an entirely new, data-driven approach for creating nonresponse weights; 2) a separate process for weighting a group of records with lower response and farm in-scope rates, to reflect the results of a Nonresponse Follow-up Survey; 3) an improved review process for nonresponse and coverage weighting exemptions; and 4) an interactive instrument for entering and maintaining calibration parameters for coverage weighting.

- The Classification Error Survey following the 2007 Census of Agriculture was redesigned to change its focus from a quantitative one to a much more actionable qualitative one. Instead of trying to estimate the amount of farm misclassification, which wasn't feasible with adequate precision or accuracy, the new, qualitative approach focused on identifying the sources of discrepancy between the census and June area survey responses, with an eye toward correcting the cognitive issues in the survey instruments

that caused them. The new focus enabled a rescaling of the survey and implementation of the needed resolution step. The new qualitative approach will yield actionable information to improve both the census and June area survey questionnaires.

- Imputation for nonresponse on the 2007 Census was redesigned to improve both data quality and editing performance. A program was developed to stratify donor records, that is, records whose data could be used to fill in missing information for partial nonresponse. This stratification allows the imputation program to run more efficiently by searching for a donor only within a stratum of operations with characteristics similar to those of the recipient.

eGovernment

- NASS leveraged its on-line reporting system and allowed Census of Agriculture respondents the option of reporting via the Internet for the first time. Nearly 100,000 respondents completed their questionnaire form on-line.

WORK PERFORMED FOR OTHERS

Current Activities:

NASS conducts surveys for and lends technical expertise to other Federal agencies, State governments, and private organizations on a reimbursable basis. NASS provides support and assistance in the areas of questionnaire and sample design, data collection and editing, analysis of survey results, and training. NASS also provides technical consultation, support, and assistance to foreign countries desiring to enhance their statistical programs.

NASS performs services and statistical consultation for other Federal and State agencies and private commodity organizations on a reimbursable basis. Statistics generated meet special needs not covered by the National Agricultural Statistics Program. In addition, statistical consultation by NASS staff members contributes to improvements in the overall quality and consistency of statistical information produced for the needs of other organizations. The following examples represent accomplishments during fiscal year 2008.

Selected Examples of Recent Progress:

Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

- The ARMS is conducted annually in cooperation with ERS. The survey provides data to enable NASS to publish chemical use statistics and to provide ERS the ability to estimate farm income, conduct economic analysis relating to field crop chemical usage, estimate costs associated with producing agricultural commodities, and compile farm business and household financial data. Data collected support both agencies' estimation programs for farm production expenditures. Use of respondent incentives continued in 2008 with the use of debit cards for respondents in the core ARMS sample. The 2007 ARMS Phase III data collection focused on farm financial data, conducted in early 2008, was integrated with Census of Agriculture data collection to reduce respondent burden and more efficiently use agency resources.

National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

- NASS conducted a survey under contract for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) to study health management practices of beef

cattle on farms in 24 States. This cow-calf health survey is a continuation of a series of surveys sponsored by NAHMS, an information gathering and dissemination organization within APHIS. NASS provided statistical services including questionnaire development, data collection, data keying, data editing, and summarization.

United Soybean Board.

- NASS has been collaborating with the United Soybean Board (USB) for 5 years by supplying the USB with soybean samples from 11 States involved in our annual Soybean Objective Yield Survey. Compositional analysis of the random samples is made to determine such variables as oil and protein content. These analyses help determine the quality of soybeans produced in the U.S. and how they compare with those grown in other countries and help USB establish priorities for research, marketing, and education efforts. At the end of each crop season, USB provides analyses back to NASS field offices that can be provided to Soybean Objective Yield respondents.

County Cash Rents Survey.

- Through the 2008 Farm Bill, NASS was directed to conduct an annual Cash Rents survey to establish per acre estimates of county average cash rental rates for dryland and irrigated cropland and pastureland. Extensive planning occurred in late fiscal year 2008 in preparation for the first survey to be conducted in 2009. The survey will generate county and/or district level estimates of cash rental rates for all counties with 20,000 plus acres (any combination of dry cropland, irrigated cropland or permanent pasture). Data collected will support FSA's administration of payments for the Conservation Reserve Program.

Agricultural Marketing Service Microbiological Data Program.

- NASS provided statistical consultation to AMS on its Microbiological Data Program (MDP). Recent events have drawn attention to the public health risks from microbiological contamination of fresh produce, resulting in a new awareness that the objectives of the MDP should include a sampling plan that can detect and localize potential health hazards resulting from these contaminations. Since the sampling schemes employed up-to-now for the MDP were not specifically designed for achieving this objective, NASS has undertaken the task of developing sampling methodology that will address the new objectives within the constraints of available resources and technology. Preliminary plans for a new MDP sampling scheme are expected to be in place no later than April 2009, with revisions and extensions planned on an on-going basis.

Center for Nutrition and Policy and Promotion.

- NASS is assisting the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) in updating their *MyPyramid Food Intake Patterns* and *Healthy Eating Index* reports. This assistance requires developing computer programs to calculate the daily food consumption of the US population and to determine how that actual consumption compares with the current USDA Food Pyramid recommendations. NASS also assisted CNPP in analyzing nutritional data to determine Healthy Eating Index scores for their *America's Children* report. All of these reports are available through the CNPP Web site.

International Technical Assistance Provided

- NASS provided technical assistance and training to improve agricultural statistics programs in nine countries. Short-term assignments supported work in Argentina, Armenia, China, Georgia, Madagascar, Mongolia, Peru, Russia and Vietnam. The technical assistance ranged from basic survey

concepts and procedures to complete national Census of Agriculture support. In addition, NASS coordinated and/or conducted training programs in the U.S. for 105 visitors representing 16 countries. These assistance and training activities promote better quality data and improved access to data from other countries, which allows U.S. analysts to better understand the world supply and demand situation. Improved analysis supports trade and more efficient marketing of U.S. agricultural products.

PART Assessment: The NASS program, including the agricultural estimates and the Census of Agriculture, underwent an assessment by the Office of Management and Budget's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) during the fiscal year 2006 budget process and received an overall program rating of "Moderately Effective." The findings gave NASS a perfect score for "program purpose & design," "program management," and "strategic planning." The lack of a recent independent, external evaluation of the NASS program was cited. Based on these findings, NASS has contracted for three external reviews. Two of these reviews are complete. The National Academy on Science reviewed ARMS and the Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (CFARE) reviewed the quinquennial Census of Agriculture. NASS has prioritorized the recommendations and is in various stages of implementing them. A third evaluation is now being performed by CFARE on the NASS Prices Received by Farmers and Prices Paid program. The "program results" section of the PART indicated the need for improved demonstration of NASS achieving its long-term and annual performance goals. The American Customer Satisfaction Index will be conducted periodically and used to demonstrate progress in these areas.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Summary of Budget and Performance
Statement of Agency Goals and Objectives

NASS has four strategic goals and five strategic objectives that are supported by appropriated funds, and strategic goals 1 and 5 are supported by periodic reimbursable projects only.

Agency Strategic Goal	Agency Objectives	Programs that Contribute	Key Outcome
Agency Goal 2: Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural and Farm Economies.	Objective 2.1: Provide Statistical Data to Promote Efficient Domestic Agricultural Production and Marketing Systems. Objective 2.2: Provide Statistical Data for Risk Management and Financial Tools to Farmers and Ranchers.	Agricultural Estimates Census of Agriculture	Key Outcome 1: Ensure high quality statistics for stakeholders. Key Outcome 2: Ensure data are relevant and useful to stakeholders. Key Outcome 3: Ensure timely release of data.
Agency Goal 3 : Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America.	Objective 3.1: Conduct the Census of Agriculture To Help Create Opportunities for Growth, Through Sound Agricultural Decision Making.	Census of Agriculture	Key Outcome 1: Ensure high quality statistics for stakeholders Key Outcome 2: Ensure data are relevant and useful to stakeholders Key Outcome 3: Ensure timely release of data.
Agency Goal 4: Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply.	Objective 4.1: Provide Chemical Usage Statistics to Enable Informed Decision Making Using Sound Science in Risk Analysis.	Agricultural Estimates	Key Outcome 1: Ensure high quality statistics for stakeholders Key Outcome 2: Ensure data are relevant and useful to stakeholders Key Outcome 3: Ensure timely release of data.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Summary of Budget and Performance
Statement of Agency Goals and Objectives

Agency Strategic Goal	Agency Objectives	Programs that Contribute	Key Outcome
Agency Goal 6: Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment	Objective 6.1: Provide Statistical Data to Support Management of Productive Working Cropland.	Agricultural Estimates Census of Agriculture	Key Outcome 1: Ensure high quality statistics for stakeholders. Key Outcome 2: Ensure data are relevant and useful to stakeholders. Key Outcome 3: Ensure timely release of data.

Selected Accomplishments Expected at the FY 2010 Proposed Resource Level:

- The NASS Agriculture Chemical Usage program will be fully restored. These data are used by EPA and others to ensure the safety of the Nation's food supply.
- Proposed funding will also be used to implement a bioenergy data series to help monitor commodity supplies produced for fuel production and help the U.S. become less dependent on foreign oil.
- The available Census of Agriculture funding will, in part, be used to conduct in-depth follow-on studies on Horticulture and aquaculture.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Summary of Budget and Performance
Key Performance Outcomes and Measures

NASS has developed performance measures based on the NASS mission to provide timely, accurate, and useful agricultural statistics. Each goal of the USDA Strategic Plan to which NASS contributes and receives appropriated funding has a measure for each of the Investment Criteria: Usefulness (relevance), accuracy (quality), and timeliness (performance). The NASS key outcomes and long term performance measures are consistent across all goals and are stated here only once for efficiency.

Goal 2: Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural and Farm Economies.

Goal 3: Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America.

Goal 4: Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply.

Goal 6: Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment.

Key Outcome 1: Ensure high quality statistics for stakeholders.

Longterm Performance Measure: Percent of key survey estimators meeting predefined levels of precision.

Key Outcome 2: Ensure data are relevant and useful to stakeholders.

Longterm Performance Measure: Alignment of commodity inclusion and coverage with stakeholders needs.

Key Outcome 3: Ensure timely release of data.

Longterm Performance Measure: Percent of time official reports are released on the date and time prespecified to data users.

Key Performance Targets:

Performance Measure	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Target	2010 Target
Timeliness-Percent of time official reports are released on the date and time pre-specified to data users.						
a. Units(Percent)	99.8	100.0	100.0	99.6	98.9	100.0

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Summary of Budget and Performance
Full Cost by Agency Strategic Goal

Agency Strategic Goal 2: Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural and Farm Economies.

PROGRAM	**PROGRAM ITEMS**	**AMOUNT ($000)**		
Agricultural Estimates				
		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
	Salary expenses	$71,072	$71,584	$75,456
	Data collection	3,637	3,780	3,870
	Contracts	25,610	25,307	25,217
	Travel/ Transportation	1,705	1,837	1,837
	Printing	170	455	455
	Hardware/software	2,021	2,690	2,690
	Postage/Shipping/Contingencies	3,326	3,380	3,380
	Indirect	1,811	2,017	2,017
	Total Costs	109,352	111,050	114,922
	FTEs	765	790	782
Performance measure: Percent of time official reports are released on the date and time pre-specified to data users				
	Units	100%	100%	100%
Census of Agriculture				
	Salary expenses	0	$243	$2,402
	Contracts	0	139	1,375
	Travel/ Transportation	0	5	47
	Printing	0	4	36
	Hardware/software	0	4	40
	Indirect	0	5	51
	Total Costs	0	400	3,951
	FTEs	0	2	20
	Total for Agency Strategic Goal 2			
	Total Cost (program, direct, indirect)	$109,352	$111,450	$118,873
	FTEs	765	792	802

NASS statistical programs include: Ag Production Statistics, ARMS III, Census of Horticulture, and Aquaculture Census.

Agency Strategic Goal 3: Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America

PROGRAM	**PROGRAM ITEMS**	**AMOUNT ($000)**		
Census of Agriculture				
		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
	Salary expenses	$27,371	$22,300	$21,092
	Contracts	16,683	6,526	4,759
	Travel/ Transportation	1,515	1,095	1,095
	Printing	1,312	1,112	1,112
	Hardware/Software	2,703	2,377	2,377
	Indirect	3,979	3,022	3,022
	Total Costs	53,563	36,432	33,457
	FTEs	229	219	208
	Total for Agency Strategic Goal 3			
	Total Cost (program, direct, indirect)	$53,563	$36,432	$33,457
	FTEs	229	219	208

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Summary of Budget and Performance
Full Cost by Agency Strategic Goal

Agency Strategic Goal 4: Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply.

PROGRAM	PROGRAM ITEMS	AMOUNT ($000)		
Agricultural Estimates				
		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
	Salary expenses	0	$540	$2,340
	Contracts	0	692	4,642
	Travel/ Transportation	0	175	175
	Printing	0	178	178
	Hardware/Software	0	381	381
	Indirect	0	484	484
	Total Costs	0	2,450	8,200
	FTEs	0	18	56
	Total for Agency Strategic Goal 4			
	Total Cost (program, direct, indirect)	0	$2,450	$8,200
	FTEs	0	18	56

NASS statistical programs include: Chemical Use.

Agency Strategic Goal 6: Protect and Enhance the Nation’s Natural Resource Base and Environment.

PROGRAM	PROGRAM ITEMS	AMOUNT ($000)		
Agricultural Estimates				
		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
	Contracts	$800	$800	$800
	Total Costs	800	800	800
	FTEs	0	0	0

NASS statistical programs include: Geospacial Statistics.

Census of Agriculture				
	Salary expenses	$100	$720	$100
	Contracts	0	1,320	240
	Travel/ Transportation	4	4	4
	Hardware/software	71	71	71
	Postage/shipping/Contingencies	2	2	2
	Indirect	83	83	83
	Total Costs	260	2,200	500
	FTEs	1	9	2

NASS statistical programs include: Farm & Ranch Irrigation.

Total for Agency Strategic Goal 6			
Total Cost (program, direct, indirect)	$1,060	$3,000	$1,300
FTEs	1	9	2

TOTAL AVAILABLE OR ESTIMATE, All Goals; Agricultural Estimates	**$110,152**	**$114,300**	**$123,922**
FTEs	**765**	**808**	**838**
TOTAL AVAILABLE OR ESTIMATE, All Goals; Census of Agriculture	**$53,823**	**$39,032**	**$37,908**
FTEs	**230**	**230**	**230**
GRAND TOTAL AVAILABLE OR ESTIMATE, ALL GOALS	**$163,975**	**$153,332**	**$161,830**
FTEs	**995**	**1,038**	**1,068**