



News Release

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USDA Lauds New National Operations Center in St. Louis

*New National Agricultural Statistics Service office will
create more than 350 jobs while reusing federal space in Missouri*

ST. LOUIS – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, with local, state and national officials, today toured the Charles F. Prevedel federal facility in Overland, Mo., where renovations are now underway for a new national operations center for USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The new facility will create more than 350 new local jobs and reuse an existing military facility that is transitioning as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure plan. While helping to stimulate the St. Louis area economy, the center will allow NASS to better serve the statistical needs of USDA and its agricultural data users and providers.

“I’m very pleased to see and to share in the progress of this new facility, which supports our vision for building an economy that works for the agricultural community and all Americans; one that makes, creates, innovates and expands the middle class in a responsible and accountable way,” said Secretary Vilsack. “With this centralized facility we are streamlining government operations and delivering results – at lower cost – for the American people, and in particular the people who provide and use our agricultural data products and services.”

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys every year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Production of food and fiber, agricultural prices, energy production, chemical use, and changes in the demographics of U.S. farmers are only a few examples. The Overland, Mo. facility will allow NASS to standardize and centralize its data collection and processing activities as well as its agency training.

“NASS has a long history of providing accurate, timely and unbiased agricultural statistics that are used worldwide. The agency is currently undergoing a series of major changes that will make our agency more efficient, effective and relevant in the future,” said agency Administrator Dr. Cynthia Clark. “This facility will help our outstanding employees work to make data collection easier for those who provide it, improve the quality of information for those who use it, and become a more transparent and accountable government agency. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the people of the St. Louis area.”

The Prevedel building was constructed in 1990 and has since been used for the U.S. Army and National Archives and Records Administration. In 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended that the Army’s human resources command center be relocated from the building. In 2009, the National Archives announced their relocation as well. With the relocations pending, the Agriculture Department worked with the U.S. General Services Administration to reuse the building for

its new operations center. Selection of the facility for the operation center was based on a number of considerations including quality of life, cost of living, transportation efficiencies, availability of highly qualified staff, and telecommunications capabilities.

“This is a great example of creating local jobs while extending the life of a federal building,” said GSA Regional Administrator Jason Klumb. “The facility is in very good condition structurally. With the mechanical and electrical improvements, we expect it will serve the federal government well for years to come.”

Located at 9700 Page Ave., the renovated federal building will also be used by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It is noted as the first federal building named for a Missing-in-Action soldier.

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Attachment: NASS National Operations Center Fact Sheet



**U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service's
National Operation Center, Overland, Mo.**

Fact Sheet

Purpose

NASS is establishing a centralized data collection, processing and training center in St. Louis to standardize and improve the efficiency of NASS's survey procedures to better serve the statistical needs of USDA and agricultural data users and providers. The work is currently done at 46 separate field offices.

Employment

The center will house approximately 97 full-time federal employees. About half will be new, local jobs and half will be transfers within NASS from other offices. Approximately 300 part-time federal employees will be hired as supervisors, coaches and telephone interviewers with varying hours, wages and benefits. Advertising for the positions is expected to begin in June; hiring in July; and training in August.

Building Information

The new center will use about 90,000 square feet of space on two floors at the Charles E. Prevedel Federal Building. The Prevedel building was built in 1990 and was the site of a former U.S. Army federal records center that was moved to Fort Knox, Kentucky, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

NASS has provided \$5.2 million for equipment, furnishings, and other items to make the space ready to open for business. The U.S. General Services Administration has also obligated more than \$1 million to complete this USDA space.

In addition to NASS offices, GSA will invest about \$24 million for infrastructure improvements and energy-efficient system upgrades for the entire federal complex. When all renovations are complete, the Prevedel Federal Building is expected to receive a Silver Rating in the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.