



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
HEARTLAND REGION – ILLINOIS FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA to gather data about farm labor

Springfield, Illinois – September 2024 – USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its semi-annual [Agricultural Labor Survey](#) in October. More than 500 Illinois farmers and ranchers will be asked to participate in the survey online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail. The survey is an opportunity for producers to provide information about hired farm labor, including the total number of hired farm workers, total hours worked, and total wages paid for the weeks of July 7-13 and October 6-12.

Average Yearly Wage Rates (\$/hr)		
CORN BELT I (IL, IN, OH)	2022	2023
All Farm Labor	17.87	18.91
Animal Workers	16.11	16.79
Crop & Animal Workers	17.17	18.18
Crop Workers	17.60	18.75
CORN BELT II (IA, MO)	2022	2023
All Farm Labor	18.37	18.57
Animal Workers	17.68	17.82
Crop & Animal Workers	17.54	17.79
Crop Workers	17.43	17.76

“We ask about two separate time periods each time we collect these data in order to publish quarterly data and capture seasonal variation,” said Mark Schleusener, the Illinois State Statistician for NASS. “This method reduces the number of times we contact farmers and lowers respondent burden.”

USDA and the U.S.

Department of Labor use the survey data to estimate the demand for and availability of seasonal agricultural workers, establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, and administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs.

Survey recipients who do not respond by Oct. 16 may be contacted by NASS to arrange an interview or may receive a reminder email. NASS will publish the data on Nov. 20 in the *Farm Labor* report available at nass.usda.gov/publications.

“When hiring workers and estimating expenses, timely and accurate agricultural labor data are vital,” said Schleusener. “By participating in NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey, farmers and ranchers help ensure accurate information for farm programs.”

For assistance with the survey, or for more information, contact the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at (800) 551-1014 or nassrfohrl@usda.gov.

##NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.