



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
DELTA REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE



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USDA to gather data about farm labor

Jackson, Mississippi – USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual [Agricultural Labor Survey](#) in October. Nearly 400 Mississippi 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 accurate information about hired farm labor, including total number of hired farm workers, total hours worked, and total wages paid for the weeks of July 7-13 and October 6-12.

“We ask about two separate time periods each time we collect these data in order to publish biannual data and capture seasonal variation,” said Esmerelda Dickson, NASS’s Mississippi State Statistician. “This method reduces the number of times we survey farms, while ensuring useful data are available.”

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 October 16 may be contacted by NASDA to arrange an interview or sent a reminder email. NASS will publish the data November 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 Dickson. “By participating in NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey, farmers and ranchers help ensure accurate information for farm programs.”

For more information about the Farm Labor Survey program, visit nass.usda.gov/go/labor, or call the NASS Delta Regional Field Office at (800) 327-2970.

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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.

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