



Agricultural Data Webinar
May 8, 2024
Question and Answer Summary

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Question & Answer Summary

The following is a summary of questions and answers from the Agricultural Data Webinar. Material is organized based on the order it was answered. There was not time to answer all questions, but any unanswered questions were reviewed, and a written response was provided. Slides are appended at the end.

Note: Questions and answers were lightly edited for readability.

Question and Answer Summary

Question: Bryan Vickstrom

For county level estimates, does removing that program have an impact on the FSA data? was that an input?

Answer: Lance Honig

As we were finalizing our thoughts to achieve the needed savings, we reached out to FSA and had a conversation with them around how they utilize the data. And the bottom line is it will have a minimal, very minimal impact on the work that they are doing. They rely primarily on the Risk Management Agency data. Changes were made a few years ago. In the past, yes, this would have had a big impact but because of changes that they made and how they utilize the data, this really is not having a large impact on that process.

Question: Carson Fort

Would the county level production data return if funding was restored?

Answer: Troy Joshua

The answer to the question is yes. We are in a data producing business. If the funding was restored, or if the funding is restored, we will definitely bring the program back because we have heard from our data users how valuable this information is to them.

Question: Bruce Sherrick

The NASS county-level data for major crops are incredibly valuable and represent one of the most important data products from USDA. These data support untold research efforts at universities and private companies. Is there any chance to restore funding in time to continue in an uninterrupted fashion. It is a far more important than many of the other programs supported in the commodity title or ad hoc programs. I would hope a sensible realignment from other expenditures could be considered.

Answer: Troy Joshua

Right now, we are in the planning stages. There is time to bring the project back. When we first started the process, we had six months to the end of the fiscal year. Now we have 5, or almost 4 months, that is left in the fiscal year. We would love to bring the program back, but we have to make a decision soon.

Question: Ann Johannis

Will RMA consider releasing county yield information sooner than they have been so it is closer to the NASS typical release date of late February versus mid-June?

Question: Rhiannon Branch

The NASS county corn and soybean yield estimates were historically referenced to help make crop insurance decisions for the coming year. The RMA county data is released after the March 1 crop insurance deadline each year. Is it possible to publish the RMA data sooner, to be referenced when making crop insurance decisions?

Answer: Xuan Pham

We cannot because this is from the previous crop year and since RMA received the information from the approved insurance providers (AIPs). We get the data from AIPs, and there is typically a lag. The earliest that we can release data from the previous crop year while maintaining completeness of our reporting is starting in mid-May for some crops.

There are also large number of data releases in June, and this continues into to July. So, it is just the way that the crop insurance reporting cycle works and to maintain completeness of our reporting, RMA cannot publish sooner.

Question: Tanner Beymer

Is the raw data for the Disaster Analysis tool collected from the same sources as the County Estimates? If not, how do the two differ?

Answer: Lance Honig

The disaster analysis work that we do is typically very heavily driven by satellite imagery and remote-sensing work. The short answer is no, it is not collected from the same source.

We will include in the response the link, the page was linked back on the slide, and you can access it there. In addition, we can provide clarity, but it is remote sensing driven or satellite driven. This is the information that is driven there.

Link: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Research_and_Science/Disaster-Analysis/index.php

Question: Jerry Gidel

How much appropriation will be needed money is needed to restore?

Answer: Troy Joshua

For July cattle it costs approximate \$550,000 to restore the program. For the county estimates entire program cost approximately \$7 million to restore the program.

Question: Collin Watters

When will the cropland data layer be updated?

Answer: Lance Honig

I believe this is late January.

Answer: Troy Joshua

Yes.

Question: Tanner Beymer

Really appreciate NASS hosting this webinar, as well as the in-depth breakdown which was done at the Data Users Meeting last month. Understanding that you all are facing very real budgetary challenges, has NASS done any evaluation of the savings it may realize from altering the July Cattle report, similar to the changes announced to the January report, rather than cancelling it altogether? If it can cut costs in the January report, it seems it should in the July as well.

Answer: Lance Honig

There are couple points. We can always make some adjustments, but typically the type of adjustments that we made to the January report are small in scope when it comes to a budgetary standpoint.

A huge portion of the cost associated with a project like this is quite frankly carrying out the project. In this case the survey and the report.

So, Troy talked about the \$550,000 cost avoidance that comes from not doing the survey, to start to reduce maybe some of the coverage included in the report would certainly reduce some of the quality aspects. It would have a fairly minimal impact on the cost associated.

Generally speaking, it really wouldn't help solve the issue that we have and if you remember, in July we already only publish at the national level. We would be trimming around the edges for very little cost savings.

Answer: Troy Joshua

The majority of the cost associated with the July cattle is data collection.

Question: Jerry Gidel

The FSA has acres but how do I get a yield idea at the county level. Is the RMA only place for a general yield idea?

Answer: Lance Honig

From my perspective it is the only source I am aware of.

Question: Ly Nguyen

Which some minor specialty crops such as turmeric, where can we find total area or production volume?

Answer: Lance Honig

Minor commodities like that, you have to look at the Census of Agriculture and of course we just recently released the 2022 census results. I would point you there. For the "minor" crops.

Question: Doug Goehring

Many are concerned about the lack of information will allow more manipulation of prices paid for commodities and the ability for wholesale and retail to exploit the consumer.

Answer: Lance Honig

We certainly recognize the value and importance of not only this information but all the information that we publish here at NASS. As I mentioned at the beginning it is not our desire to have to stop producing any of the data products, but at the end of the day we have to operate within budget. The point is certainly recognized, and it is taken into account.

Question: Nathan Smith

Is cotton objective yield survey included in the \$7 million cost figure to restore survey?

Answer: Troy Joshua

It is not included in the \$7 million.

Answer: Lance Honig

It is the rough order of magnitude more in line with the cost of July cattle than the cost of the county estimate program.

Written Question & Answer Summary

Question: Doug Goehring

Is that being considered by USDA and shared with congress?

Answer: Lance Honig

NASS remains engaged with all appropriate parties regarding funding.

Question: Jeyran Bayramova

Is there an upcoming date for data in cotton production (e.g. chemical usage)?

Answer: Lance Honig

The next planned effort for cotton chemical usage is for the 2025 crop season, with publication anticipated in May 2026.

Question: Luis Paul Marchand

Where do I find information for imports into USA of fruits?

Answer: Lance Honig

The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service's Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) includes international agricultural, fish, forest and textile products trade statistics dating from the inception of the Harmonized coding system in 1989 to present. It can be accessed at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx>.

Question: Bill Nelson

Has FSA considered having a webinar to better explain its data? Who should one contact at FSA to answer questions?

Answer: Lance Honig

We will share this suggestion with FSA.

Question: Hussain Jiwani

What is the best source of planted and harvested acres on county level?

Answer: Lance Honig

Although it is up to each user to determine what they believe is the “best” data, the links provided for both FSA and RMA information are valuable sources of county level acreage information.

Question: Bruce Sherrick

Let us know how to help with efforts to restore funding.

Answer: Lance Honig

The NASS mission is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to US agriculture. We will always strive to meet as many of the data needs as possible based on available resources.

Question: Jody Campiche

While 'other' data is available, some of this data is just not very user friendly and is not accessible for everyone.

Answer: Lance Honig

We certainly recognize the value of these data products but had to make some hard decisions to ensure our spending remains within our appropriated total. We also understand that some alternative data sources are not as robust and not accessible in the same manner as the discontinued products.

Presentation Slides

Following this page are the slides presented during the Agricultural Data Webinar.

2024 AGRICULTURAL DATA WEBINAR

May 8, 2024

Lance Honig

Agricultural Statistics Board Chair
Methodology Division Director



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Agenda

- Welcome/Housekeeping/Background
- Other NASS Data
- Other USDA Data
- Q&A
- Wrap-Up

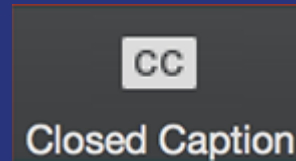


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Housekeeping

- Closed captioning available through the Closed Caption button in Zoom.
- The meeting will be recorded and available online:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php
- Slides and transcript of Q&A with any additional questions we don't have time to answer will be available on our website after the meeting.



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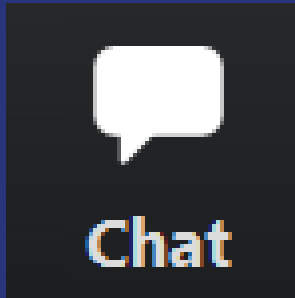
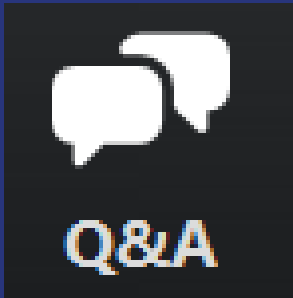
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Questions/Issues

Q&A – Questions will be answered live as time allows

Chat – Technical Issues

Email – Marisa.Reuber@usda.gov



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Panelists

Lance Honig, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Agricultural Statistics Board Chair & Methodology Division Director

Troy Joshua, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Agricultural Statistics Board Executive Director & Statistics Division Director

Xuan Pham, Risk Management Agency (RMA)

Senior Actuary



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Background

Reduced Funding for FY 2024

Limited time to implement

April 9 – Announced program reductions

<https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Notices/2024/04-09-2024.php>

April 16 – USDA Data Users' Meeting

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php

Significant Interest Around Existing Data

Hence, this webinar!



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July Cattle: Other NASS Data

January Cattle

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/h702q636h>

Cattle of Feed

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/m326m174z>

Milk Production

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/h989r321c>

Livestock Slaughter

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/rx913p88g>

Cold Storage

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/pg15bd892>

Dairy Products

<https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/m326m1757>

Census of Agriculture

<https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/index.php>



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County Estimates: Other NASS Data

Cropland Data Layer (CDL) Program

<https://croplandcros.scinet.usda.gov/>

NASS Disaster Analysis

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Research_and_Science/Disaster-Analysis/index.php



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County Estimates: Other USDA Data

Farm Service Agency – Crop Acreage Data

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/efoia/electronic-reading-room/frequently-requested-information/crop-acreage-data/index>

Risk Management Agency – Summary of Business

<https://public-rma.fpac.usda.gov/apps/SummaryOfBusiness/ReportGenerator>

Risk Management Agency – Area Plans Historic Yield

<https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/RIRS/AreaPlanHistoricalYields.aspx>

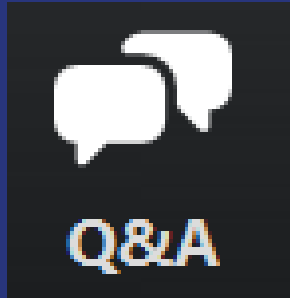


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Questions

Use the Q&A button:



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Wrap-Up

Thank you for joining us!

Find recording and Q&A online at:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php



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