A New Land Cover Classification Based Stratification Method for Area Sampling Frame Construction

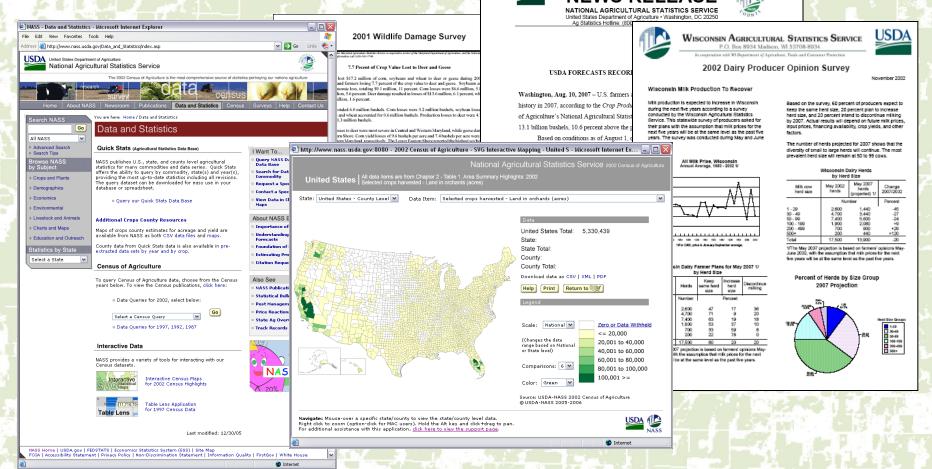
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Background

NASS agricultural surveys use Area Sampling
Frames
NEWS RELEASE



NASS Background

- NASS
 - is the statistical arm of the USDA essentially a survey agency
 - provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture
 - collects and disseminates data on all facets of agriculture.
 - performs the Census of Agriculture every 5 years, and various surveys annually or even multiple times annually.
 - gathers demographic, environmental, and economic data related to agriculture as well.
 - collects data by a variety of methods including mail, phone, Internet, or personal interview.
- However, Ag surveys use Area Sampling Frames(ASF) to select samples, to collect sample information and to make estimate.

Why Area Sampling Frames

- The NASS sampling frames (ASF) are based on a stratification of land cover in the U.S. defined by percent cultivated cropland.
 - They have been used as the primary tool for agricultural surveys to gather crop acreage and other agricultural information since 1954. They are considered the backbone to the agricultural statistics programs of the NASS and agencies and countries.
 - They are multipurpose and can be used for comprehensive surveys.

What is the stratification

- A stratification is a process that
 - Segments and groups land based on land cover types and percent of a cover type within a segment.
- It's a manual, labor-intensive process;
- It's subjective not very accurate, nor reliable!

How Is the Stratification Performed at NASS?

- It has been conducted by Area Frame staff since 1954 using visual interpretation of initially aerial photography, and later moderate resolution Landsat TM data.
- Crop Data Layer products are used recently in the visual interpretation process. It's not used directly for stratification!

NASS Area Frames Examples

Stratification of Arizona Stratification of Illinois 2006 1984 Land Use Strata Land Use Strata > 75% Cultivated 51 - 75% Cultivated >50% Cultivated Commercial: >20 Homes/Sq Mi USDA 25 - 50% Cultivated >50% Cultivated--Native American Native American Agri-Urban: > 100 Homes Per Sq. Mi. Commercial: > 100 Homes Per Sq. Mi. Agri-Urban: >20 Homes/Sq Mi Public/Private Lands < 25% Cultivated 15-50% Cultivated Non-Agricultural Non-Agriculture NASS 15-50% Cultivated--Native American Water Water Projection: NAD 1983, UTM Zone 16 Prepared by Area Frame Section, 2008 Projection: Geographic Latitude and Longitude Prepared by Area Frame Section, 2006

USDA

General Land-Use Stratification Code Definitions Used in NASS Area Sampling Frames

Land-Use Strata Codes and Definitions	Definition			
Stratum				
11	General Cropland, greater than 75% cultivated.			
12	General Cropland, 51-75% cultivated			
20	General Cropland, 15-50% cultivated.			
31	Ag-Urban, less than 15% cultivated, more than 100 dwellings per square mile, residential mixed with agriculture.			
32	Residential/Commercial, no cultivation, more than 100 dwellings per square mile.			
40	Less than 15% cultivated			
50	Non-agricultural,			
62	Water			

US map illustrating the implementation years of current NASS Area Sampling Frames



Objective

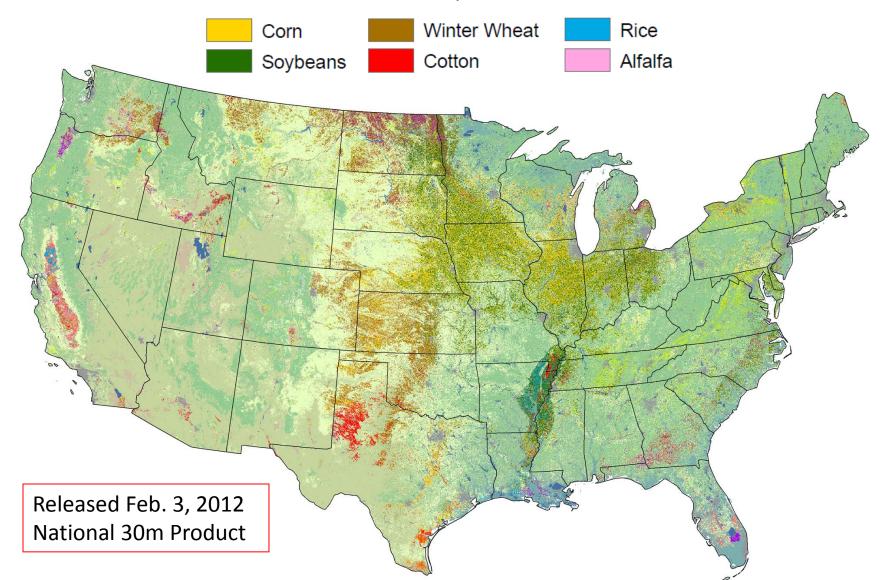
The objective of this investigation was to determine the utility of the automated Cropland Data Layer (CDL) based stratification method for use in Area Sampling Frame (ASF) construction.

Study Areas

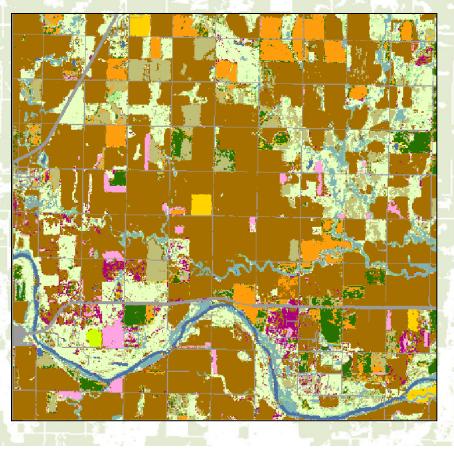
CDL based stratification study of NASS ASF Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) was tested for Arizona, Georgia, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia.

What is the Cropland Data Layer (CDL)?

The Cropland Data Layer product is a raster-formatted, geo-referenced, crop specific, land cover product.

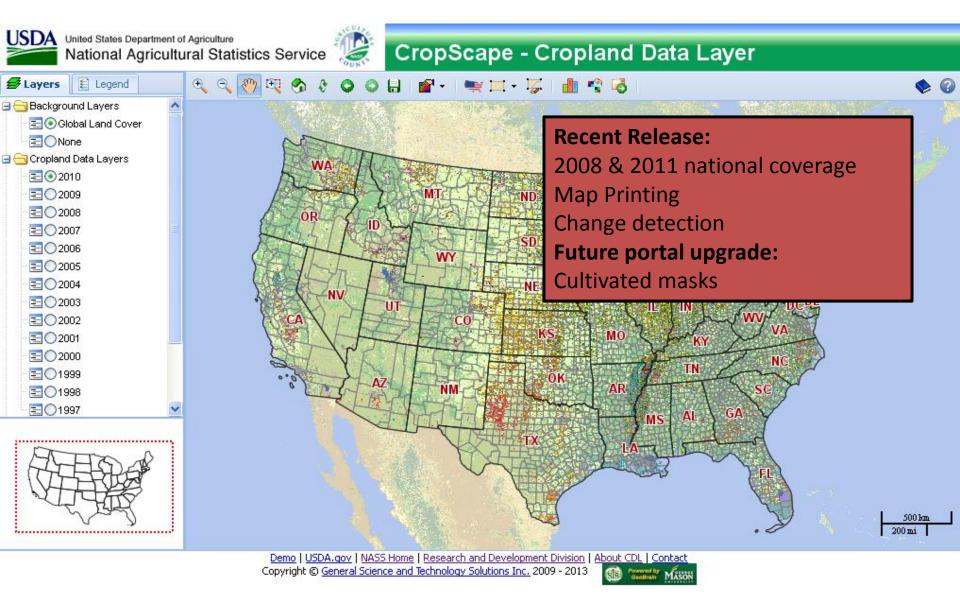


Total crop mapping accuracies for historic CDLs range from 85% to 95% for the major crops



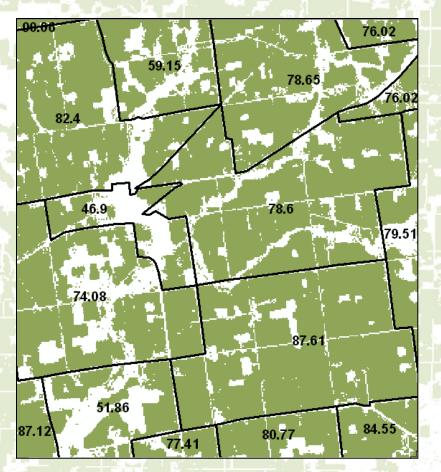


CropScape Portal

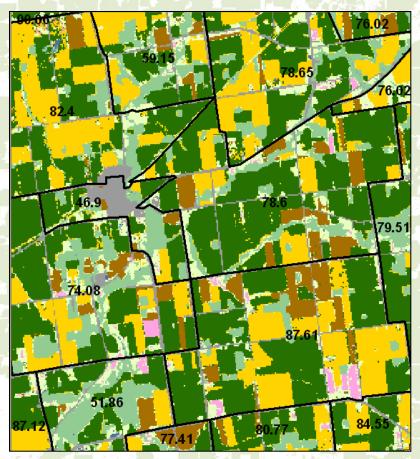


nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape

A new automated stratification method has been developed to utilize the NASS Cropland Data Layer in the construction of the NASS Area Sampling Frame

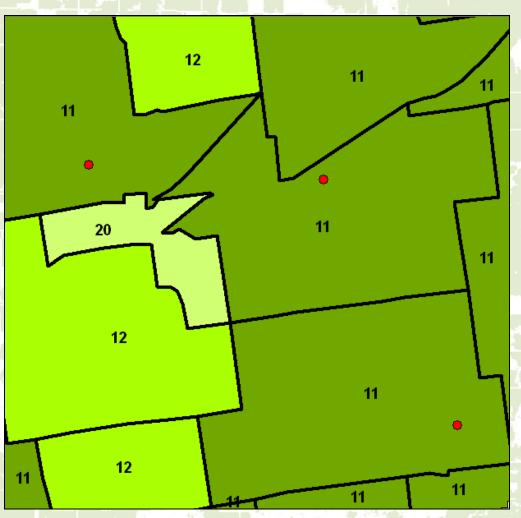


Area Frame: Primary Sampling Units with CDL percent cultivation



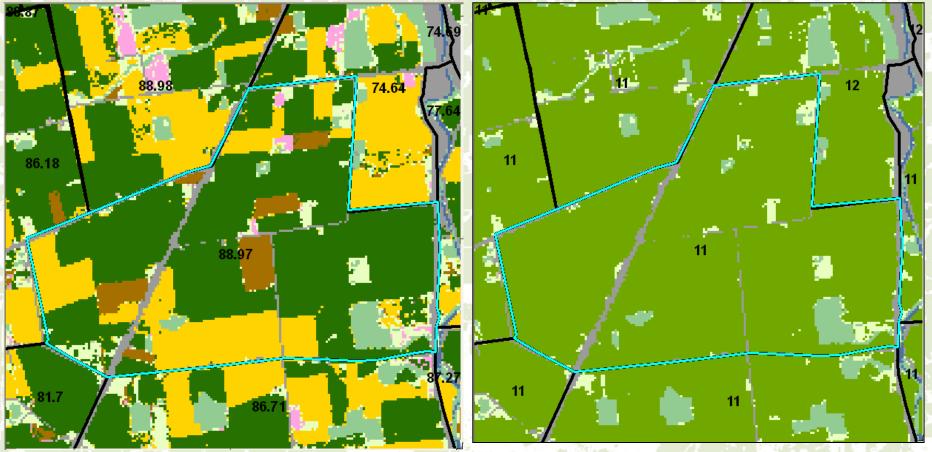
Primary Sampling Units with CDL percent cultivation, overlaying a 2010 CDL image product

Cropland Data Layer (CDL) based stratification of a NASS Area Sampling Frame (ASF)



Red dots are location points of in situ validation collected during the 2010 June Area Survey

Area Frame manual stratification *matches* CDL based automated stratification



CDL percent cultivation – 88.97%

AF stratification – 11 (manual) CDL stratification – 11 (automated)

Area Frame manual stratification does not match

Cropland Data Layer based automated stratification



CDL percent cultivation – 61%

AF stratification – 11 (manual) CDL stratification – 12 (automated)

Evaluation

Stratification accuracy was measured using in-situ data collected by enumerators during the 2010 June Area Survey (JAS) in the five states evaluated.

Accuracy measures were derived by comparing the strata definitions reported by JAS enumerators with the original ASF manual stratification and the CDL based automated stratification.

Evaluation

To determine if the percentage differences between the original Area Frame stratification method and the CDL based stratification method were statistically significant at a 95% confidence level, a two-tailed proportion test was used.

These tests were performed with Chi-Square and Fisher's Exact tests when the sample sizes were less than five

Evaluation

The hypotheses of the significance tests were H_0 : $p_1=p_2$ and H_a : $p_1 \neq p_2$. The null hypothesis stated that there was no difference in the results of the two stratification methods while the alternative hypothesis stated that the results of the two stratification methods were significantly different.

The tests were performed and p values were calculated for each state and each stratum with a confidential level of 95%.

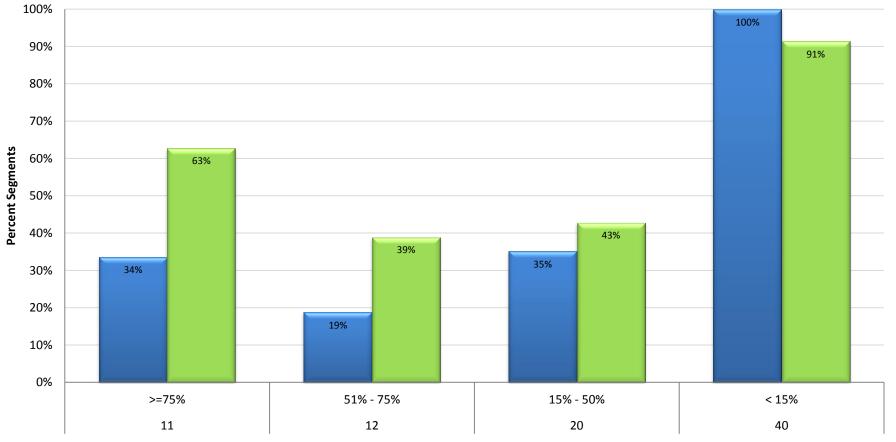
Area Frame vs. CDL Stratification Oklahoma 2010

		AREA FRAME Stratification			CDL Stratification			P-value
Stratum	Survey Ratio (% Cultivated)	Total Segments	Total Reported	Percentage (p ₁)	Total Segments	Total Reported	Percentage (p₂)	Ha: p₁ ≠ p₂
11	>=75%	140	47	34%	43	27	63%	0.001
12	51% - 75%	48	9	19%	77	30	39%	0.024
20		74			98			
	15% - 50%	74	26	35%	98	42	43%	0.305
40	< 15%	61	61	100%	105	96	91%	0.027
Total		323			323			

Area Frame vs. CDL Stratification Oklahoma 2010

AREA FRAME Stratification

CDL Stratification



Stratum & Percent Cultivation

Area Frame vs. CDL Stratification Five State - Strata Summary, 2010

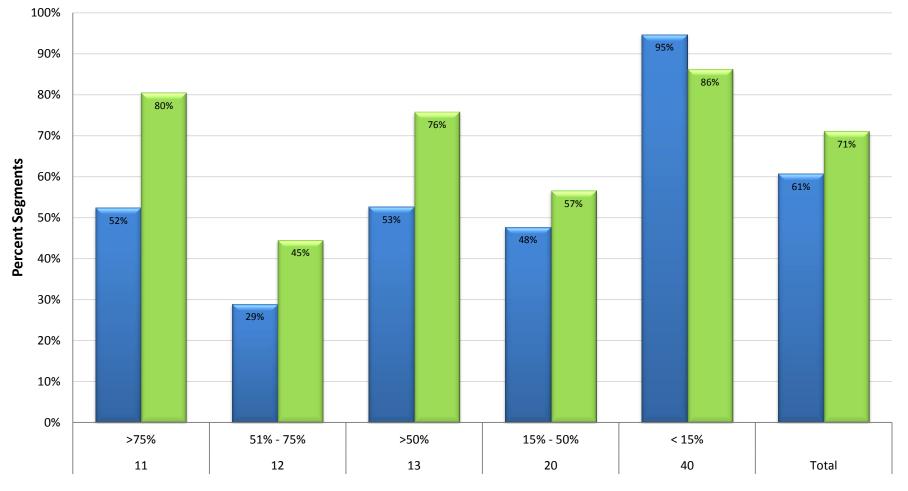
					CDL Stratification			
		AREA FRAME Stratification				P-value		
Stratum	Survey Ratio (% Cultivated)	Total Segments	Total Reported	Percentage (p₁)	Total Segments	Total Reported	Percentage (p ₂)	Ha: p₁ ≠ p₂
11								
	>75%	250	131	52%	128	103	80%	0.000
12								
12	51% - 75%	83	24	29%	119	53	45%	0.025
13	>50%	171	90	53%	91	69	76%	0.000
20	15% - 50%	371	177	48%	387	219	57%	0.000
40	< 15%	322	305	95%	472	407	86%	0.000
Total		1197	727	61%	1197	851	71%	0.000

Five State Analysis - Arizona, Georgia, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia.

Area Frame vs. CDL Stratification Five State - Strata Summary 2010

AREA FRAME Stratification

CDL Stratification



Stratum & Percent Cultivation

Conclusion

Results of the five state analyses indicated that the new automated Cropland Data Layer (CDL) stratification method performed well in determining U.S. percent cultivation **in moderate to highly intensive cropped areas** and weaker in non agricultural areas.

The strength of the CDL product and the CDL based stratification method is the **objective and consistent identification of cultivated cropland**.

Conclusion – Cont.

The Cropland Data Layer based stratification method can be used for

- review of current Area Sampling Frames
- as a change detection technique
- as the primary method of stratification

The Cropland Data Layer based automated stratification method should improve the efficiency, reduce the cost and improve the precision of the June Agricultural Survey estimates.

Thank you! Questions?

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