



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## USDA to Gather Data About Farm Labor

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI – September 15, 2022 -- USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Agricultural Labor Survey in October. The survey will collect information about hired labor from almost 800 Missouri farmers and ranchers. NASS will publish survey results November 23 in the Farm Labor report available on the NASS website.

In the survey, NASS asks producers to answer a variety of questions about hired farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, the total hours worked, and total wages paid for the weeks of July 10-16 and October 9-15. Survey participants can respond online at [agcounts.usda.gov](http://agcounts.usda.gov) or by mail.

“Agricultural labor data are critical in helping producers when hiring workers and estimating expenses,” said Bob Garino, NASS’s Missouri State Statistician. “The data that farm operators provide through NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey also allow federal policymakers to base farm labor policies on accurate information.”

USDA and the U.S. Department of Labor use the results of this survey to estimate the demand for and availability of seasonal agricultural workers, establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

“By asking about two separate time periods each time we collect data during the year, we are able to publish biannual data and capture seasonal variation,” said Garino. “This approach reduces the number of times we survey farms, while ensuring that accurate and timely data are available.”

All previous Farm Labor publications are [available](#) on the NASS website at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Heartland Regional Office at (800) 551-1014. Participants can visit [youtu.be/6oWSOjGTQzU](https://youtu.be/6oWSOjGTQzU) for further instructions on completing the survey.

Average Yearly Wage Rates (\$/hr)		
CORN BELT I (IL, IN, OH)	2020	2021
All Farm Labor	15.99	16.61
Animal Workers	14.57	15.38
Crop & Animal Workers	15.31	15.89
Crop Workers	15.61	16.08
CORN BELT II (IA, MO)	2020	2021
All Farm Labor	15.94	16.92
Animal Workers	15.20	16.01
Crop & Animal Workers	15.37	16.19
Crop Workers	15.54	16.36

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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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