



# NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
HEARTLAND REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## USDA to gather data about farm labor

**Saint Louis, MO** –March 2024 – USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual [Agricultural Labor Survey](#) in April. More than 800 Missouri farmers and ranchers will be asked to participate in the survey online at [agcounts.usda.gov](http://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 Jan. 7-13 and Apr. 7-13, 2024.

“We ask about two separate time periods each time we collect these data in order to publish biannual data and capture seasonal variation,” said Brad Summa, director of the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office. “This method reduces the number of times we survey farms, while ensuring useful data are available.”

<b>Average Yearly Wage Rates (\$/hr)</b>		
<b>CORN BELT I (IL, IN, OH)</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
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
<b>CORN BELT II (IA, MO)</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
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

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 Apr. 17 may be contacted by NASS to arrange an interview or sent a reminder email. NASS will publish the data May 22 in

the *Farm Labor* report available at [nass.usda.gov/publications](http://nass.usda.gov/publications).

“When hiring workers and estimating expenses, timely and accurate agricultural labor data are vital,” said Summa. “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 [nassrfohler@usda.gov](mailto:nassrfohler@usda.gov).

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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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