USDA Crop Data Collection

Agriculture Workgroup Conference Call

Lance Honig, Chief
Crops Branch
USDA-NASS

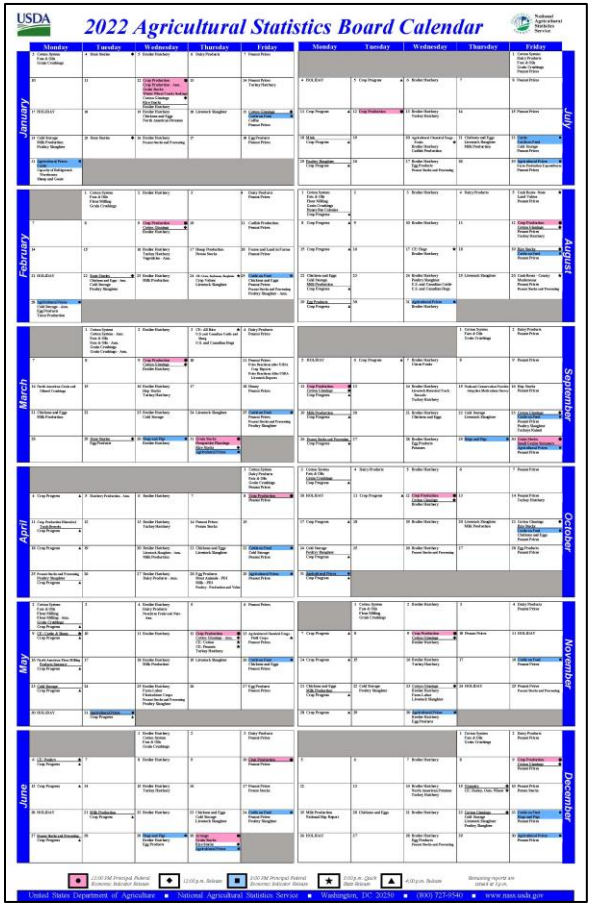
March 17, 2022

Topics

- About NASS
- Roles Within USDA
- Census vs Annual Program
- NASS Crop Estimating
- Disclosure
- Transparency
- Looking Ahead

NASS MISSION

To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.



- ~120 Crop Commodities
- ~40 Livestock Commodities
- ~400 National Reports Annually
- Census of Agriculture

Non-Policymaking

Non-Political

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

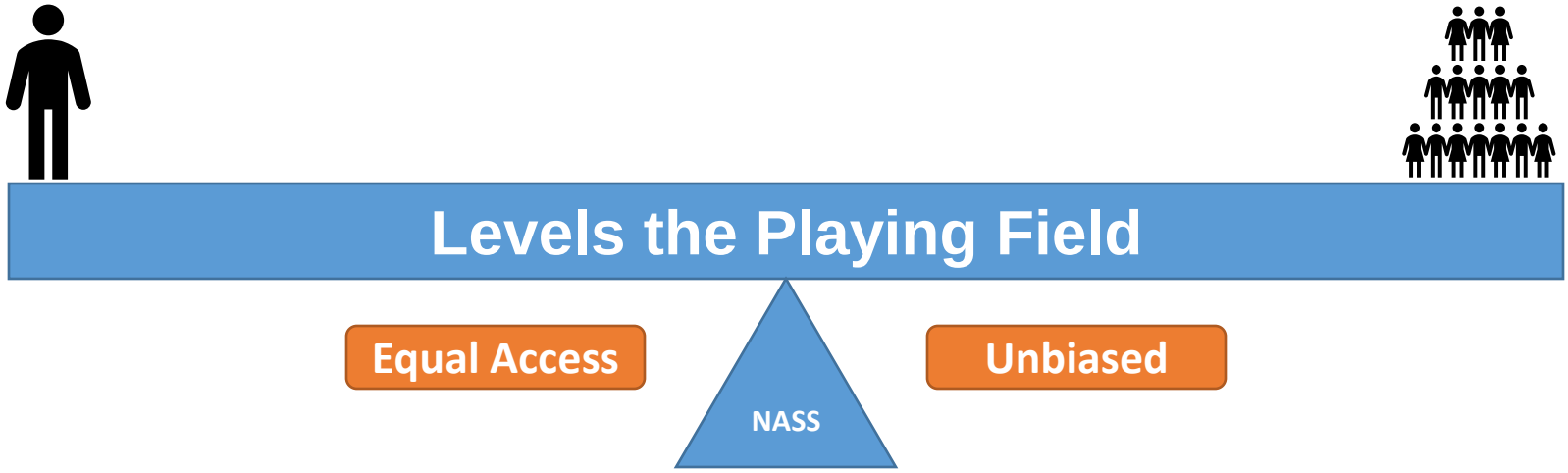
WHY NASS PUBLISHES ESTIMATES

Used by…

- Farmers
- Policymakers
- Agribusinesses
- State & Local Government
- Researchers
- USDA
- Etc.

Used for…

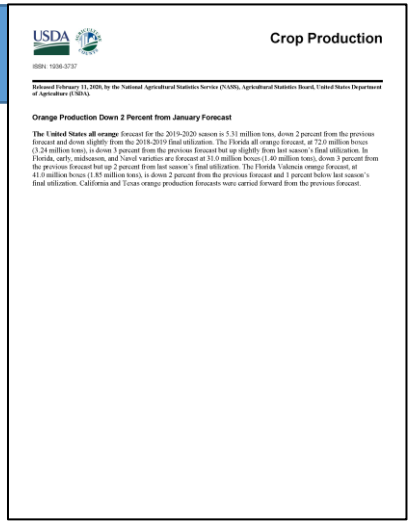
- Marketing Decisions
- Designing Programs
- Product Distribution
- Local Programs
- Varietal Improvements
- Designing & Administering Farm Bill Programs
- Etc.



Who's Responsible for USDA Estimates

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

- USDA's Statistical Arm
- Measure all aspects of agriculture in U.S.
- Monthly *Crop Production* Reports



USDA

Crop Production

ISSN: 1936-3737

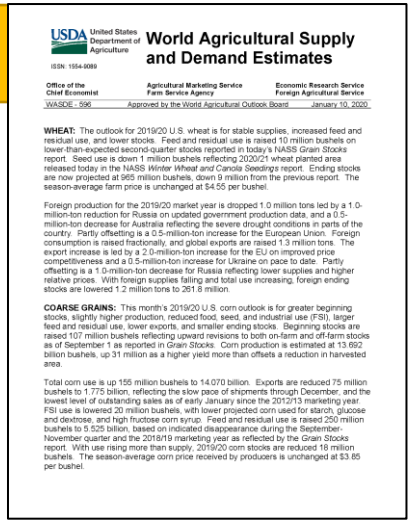
Released February 11, 2020, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Orange Production Down 2 Percent from January Forecast

The United States all orange forecast for the 2019-2020 season is 5.31 million tons, down 2 percent from the previous forecast and down slightly from the 2018-2019 final utilization. The Florida all orange forecast, at 72.0 million boxes (3.24 million tons), is down 3 percent from the previous forecast but up slightly from last season's final utilization. In Florida, early, midseason, and Navel varieties are forecast at 31.0 million boxes (1.40 million tons), down 3 percent from the previous forecast but up 2 percent from last season's final utilization. The Florida Valencia orange forecast, at 41.0 million boxes (1.85 million tons), is down 2 percent from the previous forecast and 1 percent below last season's final utilization. California and Texas orange production forecasts were carried forward from the previous forecast.

World Agricultural Outlook Board(WAOB)

- Office of the Chief Economist
- Projections for the World
- Monthly *WASDE* Reports



USDA United States Department of Agriculture

World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates

ISSN: 1554-9089

Office of the Chief Economist	Agricultural Marketing Service Farm Service Agency	Economic Research Service Foreign Agricultural Service
WASDE - 596	Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board	January 10, 2020

WHEAT: The outlook for 2019/20 U.S. wheat is for stable supplies, increased feed and residual use, and lower stocks. Feed and residual use is raised 10 million bushels on lower-than-expected second-quarter stocks reported in today's NASS *Grain Stocks* report. Seed use is down 1 million bushels reflecting 2020/21 wheat planted area released today in the NASS *Winter Wheat and Canola Seedings* report. Ending stocks are now projected at 965 million bushels, down 9 million from the previous report. The season-average farm price is unchanged at $4.55 per bushel.

Foreign production for the 2019/20 market year is dropped 1.0 million tons led by a 1.0-million-ton reduction for Russia on updated government production data, and a 0.5-million-ton decrease for Australia reflecting the severe drought conditions in parts of the country. Partly offsetting is a 0.5-million-ton increase for the European Union. Foreign consumption is raised fractionally, and global exports are raised 1.3 million tons. The export increase is led by a 2.0-million-ton increase for the EU on improved price competitiveness and a 0.5-million-ton increase for Ukraine on pace to date. Partly offsetting is a 1.0-million-ton decrease for Russia reflecting lower supplies and higher relative prices. With foreign supplies falling and total use increasing, foreign ending stocks are lowered 1.2 million tons to 261.8 million.

COARSE GRAINS: This month's 2019/20 U.S. corn outlook is for greater beginning stocks, slightly higher production, reduced food, seed, and industrial use (FSI), larger feed and residual use, lower exports, and smaller ending stocks. Beginning stocks are raised 107 million bushels reflecting upward revisions to both on-farm and off-farm stocks as of September 1 as reported in *Grain Stocks*. Corn production is estimated at 13.692 billion bushels, up 31 million as a higher yield more than offsets a reduction in harvested area.

Total corn use is up 155 million bushels to 14.070 billion. Exports are reduced 75 million bushels to 1.775 billion, reflecting the slow pace of shipments through December, and the lowest level of outstanding sales as of early January since the 2012/13 marketing year. FSI use is lowered 20 million bushels, with lower projected corn used for starch, glucose and dextrose, and high fructose corn syrup. Feed and residual use is raised 250 million bushels to 5.525 billion, based on indicated disappearance during the September-November quarter and the 2018/19 marketing year as reflected by the *Grain Stocks* report. With use rising more than supply, 2019/20 corn stocks are reduced 18 million bushels. The season-average corn price received by producers is unchanged at $3.85 per bushel.

WAOB FUNCTION

Provide economic information & coordinate USDA's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)

Coordinate Analysis Across Agencies

- World Agricultural Outlook Board **(WAOB)**
- Agricultural Marketing Service **(AMS)**
- Economic Research Service **(ERS)**
- Farm Service Agency **(FSA)**
- Foreign Ag Service **(FAS)**
- Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration **(GIPSA)**

Nine Interagency Commodity Estimates Committees (ICEC)

- **Wheat**
- **Rice**
- **Feed Grains**
- **Oilseeds**
- **Cotton**
- **Sugar**
- **Meat Animals**
- **Poultry**
- **Dairy**

Other USDA Data

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- Administers Numerous USDA Farm Programs
  - Certified Acreage
  - Limited Acreage Failed Data
  - Prevent Plant Acreage

Most Useful for Planted Acreage

Summer Reporting Deadlines

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

- Administers Crop Insurance Program
  - Acreage and Yield Data for Insured Crops
  - Acreage Failed Data

Both Planted Acreage and Yield

Yields Reported After Harvest

Who's Responsible for USDA Estimates

2022-2023
Corn/Soybeans

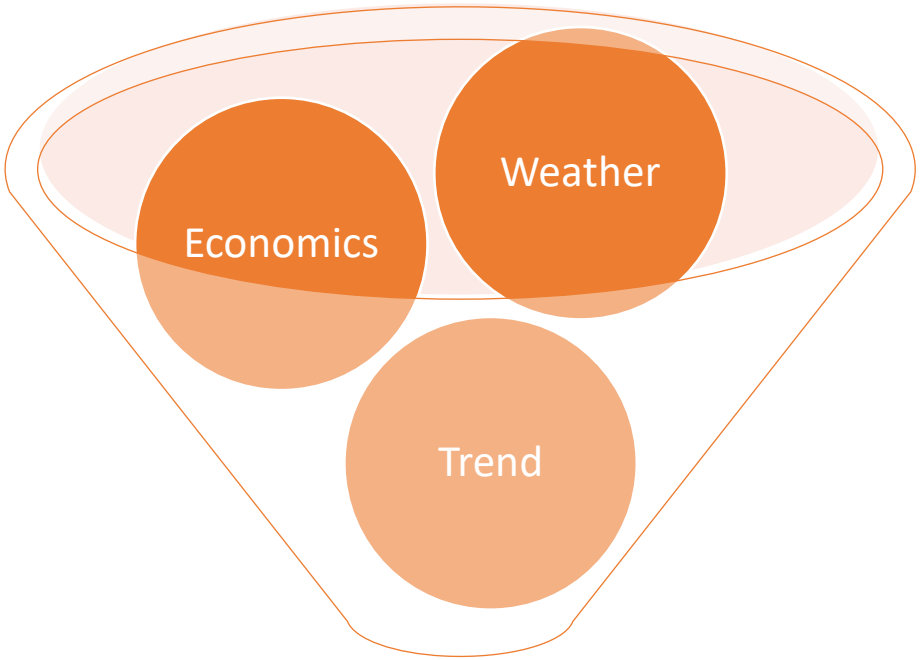
WAOB → NASS

Harvested Acres: End of June

Yield/Production: August

Month	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield	Production	Ending Stocks
January 2022	--	--	--	--	--
February	--	--	--	--	--
March	NASS	--	--	--	--
April	NASS	--	--	--	--
May	NASS	WAOB	WAOB	WAOB	WAOB
June	NASS	NASS	WAOB	WAOB	WAOB
July	NASS	NASS	WAOB	WAOB	WAOB
August	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
September	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
October	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
November	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
December	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
January 2023	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
February	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
March	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
April	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
May	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
June	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
July	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
August	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	WAOB
September	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS
October	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS	NASS

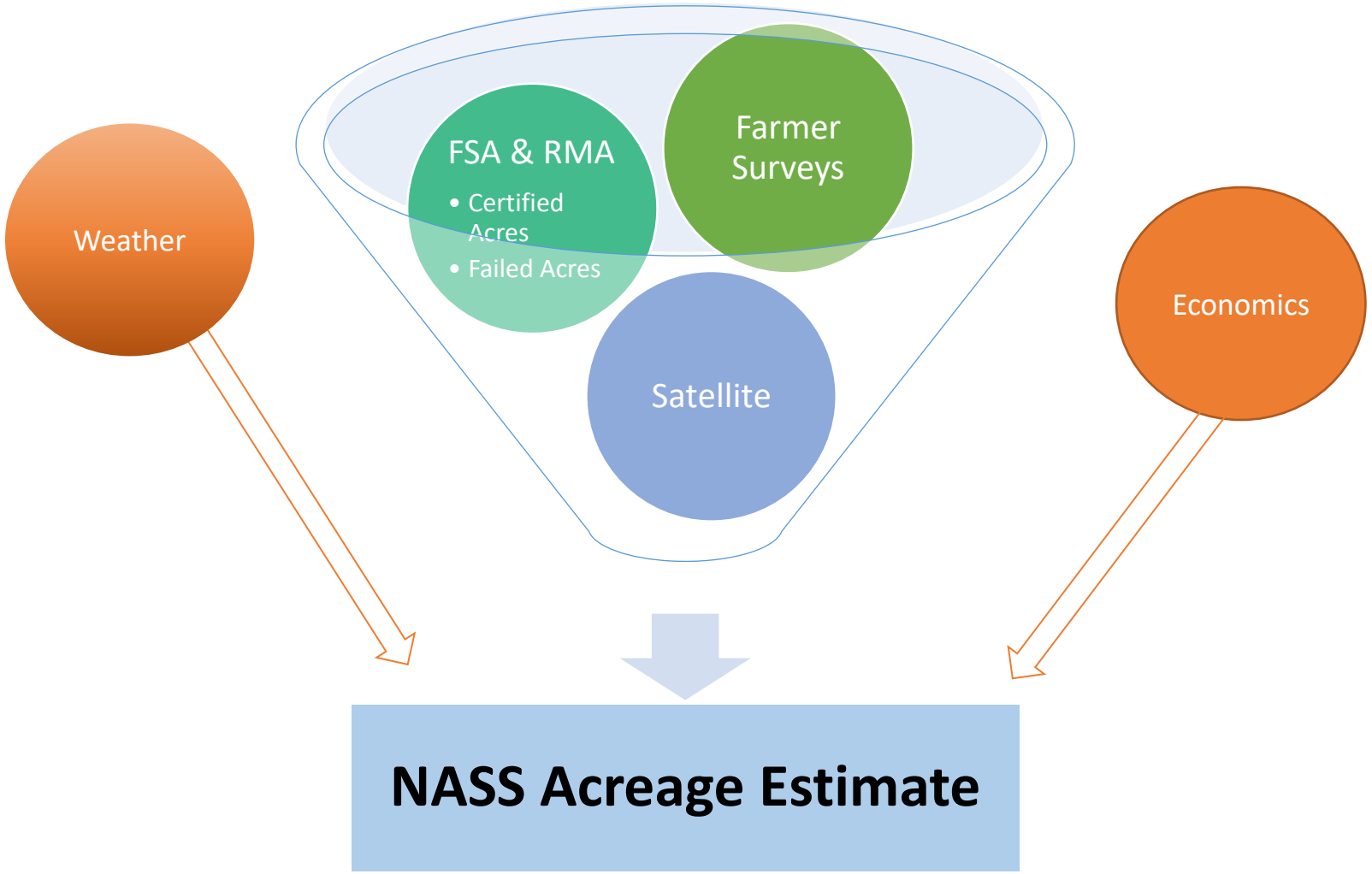
Where WAOB Estimates Come From



WAOB Estimate

Acreage, Yield

Where NASS Estimates Come From



Census vs Annual Program

Census	Annual Program
• All Farms	• Sample Surveys
• Virtually All Items	• ~90-95% Crop & State Coverage
• Conducted Every 5 Years	• Weekly, Monthly, Annual
• Required by Law	• Mostly Voluntary

2022 Census of Agriculture Timeline

- June 2022 – Signup Ends
- Nov/Dec 2022 – Mail Out
- Dec 2022-Jan 2023 – Reminders, Follow-Up Contact
- Feb 2023 – Response Deadline
- 2023 – Data Processing & Analysis
- Early 2024 – Data Release

Typical Annual Program Process

- Mail Questionnaire & Web Response Instructions
- Follow-Up Contact
  - Telephone (Call Centers)
  - Personal Enumeration (Limited)
- Data Analysis & Estimate Establishment
- Report Release

Where NASS Estimates Come From

Farmer Surveys

Primary Acreage Surveys

March
Agricultural Survey

- ~79,000 Farmers
- ~First 2 Weeks of March

Prospective Plantings

June
Agricultural Survey
Area Survey

- ~100,000 Farmers
- ~First 2 Weeks of June

Acreage

December
Agricultural Survey

- ~78,000 Farmers
- ~First 2 Weeks of December

Annual Crop Production

Where NASS Estimates Come From

FSA & RMA
- Certified Acres
- Failed Acres

Acreage Data from FSA & RMA

FSA
Certified Acres

- August
- October
- Annual

Crop Production

FSA & RMA
Failed Acres

- Annual

Annual Crop Production

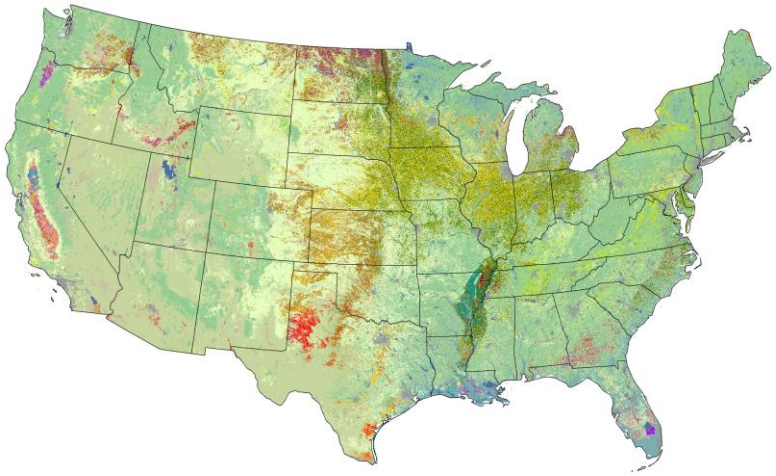
Where NASS Estimates Come From

Satellite

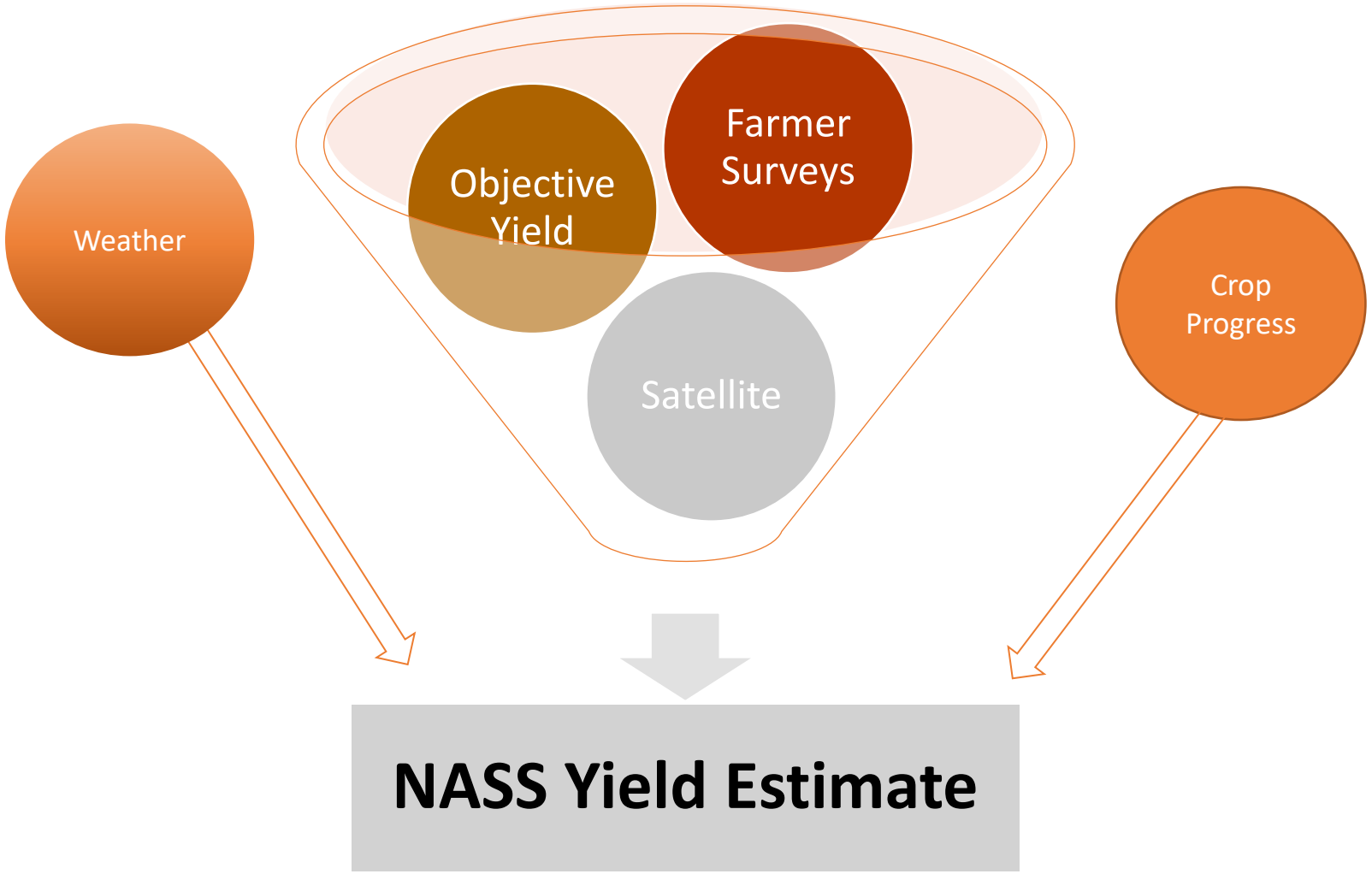
Acreage Data from Satellites

- Annually released, geo-referenced, 30m, **crop-specific** land cover dataset
- Produced with **optical satellite imagery** spanning the growing season
- Leverage **FSA Common Land Unit** for ground reference data
- Provide NASS with **independent acreage estimates**
- Over 100 **cropland categories**
  - Major commodities, double cropping, specialty crops, etc.
- **National** scale since 2008 and 9 billion pixels/year

Cropland Data Layer



Where NASS Estimates Come From



Where NASS Estimates Come From

Farmer Surveys

Objective Yield

Primary Yield Surveys

Ag Yield

- August - November
- 8,000 – 21,000 Farmers

Objective Yield

- September - November
- >1,000 Sample Fields

December Agricultural Survey

- ~78,000 Farmers
- ~First 2 Weeks of December

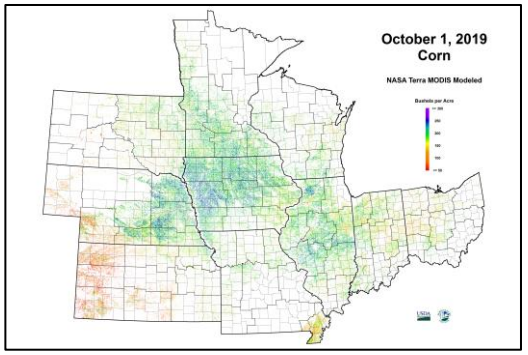
Crop Production

Annual Crop Production

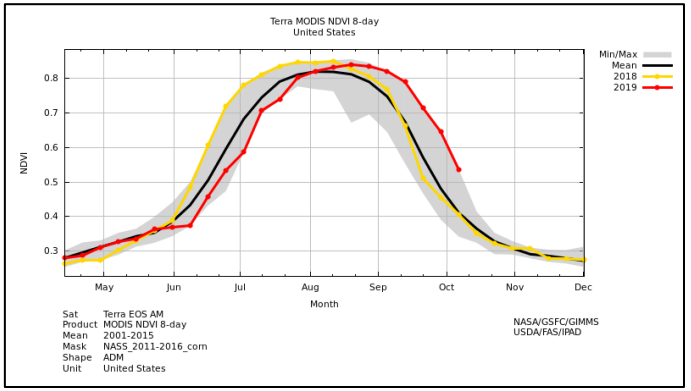
Where NASS Estimates Come From

Satellite

Yield Data from Satellites



- Utilize time-series 250m MODIS satellite data to obtain biomass and temperature estimates throughout the growing season
  - Empirically-based prediction model based on historical imagery and NASS county-level yield statistics
  - Integrate crop phenology over growing season
  - Use Cropland Data Layer (CDL) to isolate known crop areas
- Estimate corn and soybean yield over major production states
  - Positive relationship between crop yield and biomass – plant vigor "greenness" – NDVI
  - Negative relationship between crop yield and land surface temperature
- Produce August 1 national and state yield estimates
  - Followed by September 1st, October 1st, and November 1st
  - Independent of NASS Objective and Agricultural Yield surveys
- Must be timely, accurate, and useful
  - Perform within crop season at monthly intervals with little latency
  - Using decision trees (Rulequest Cubist)



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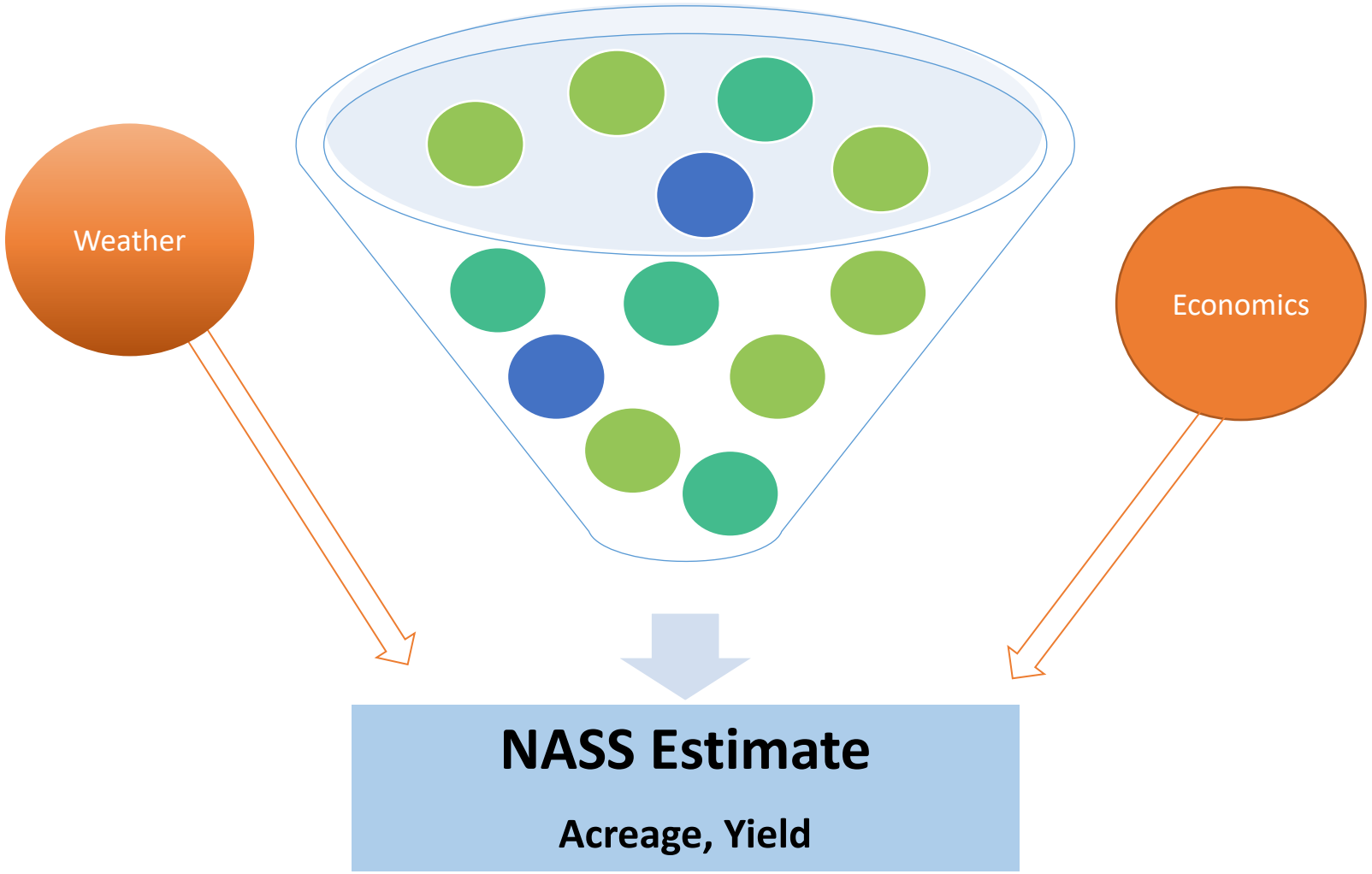

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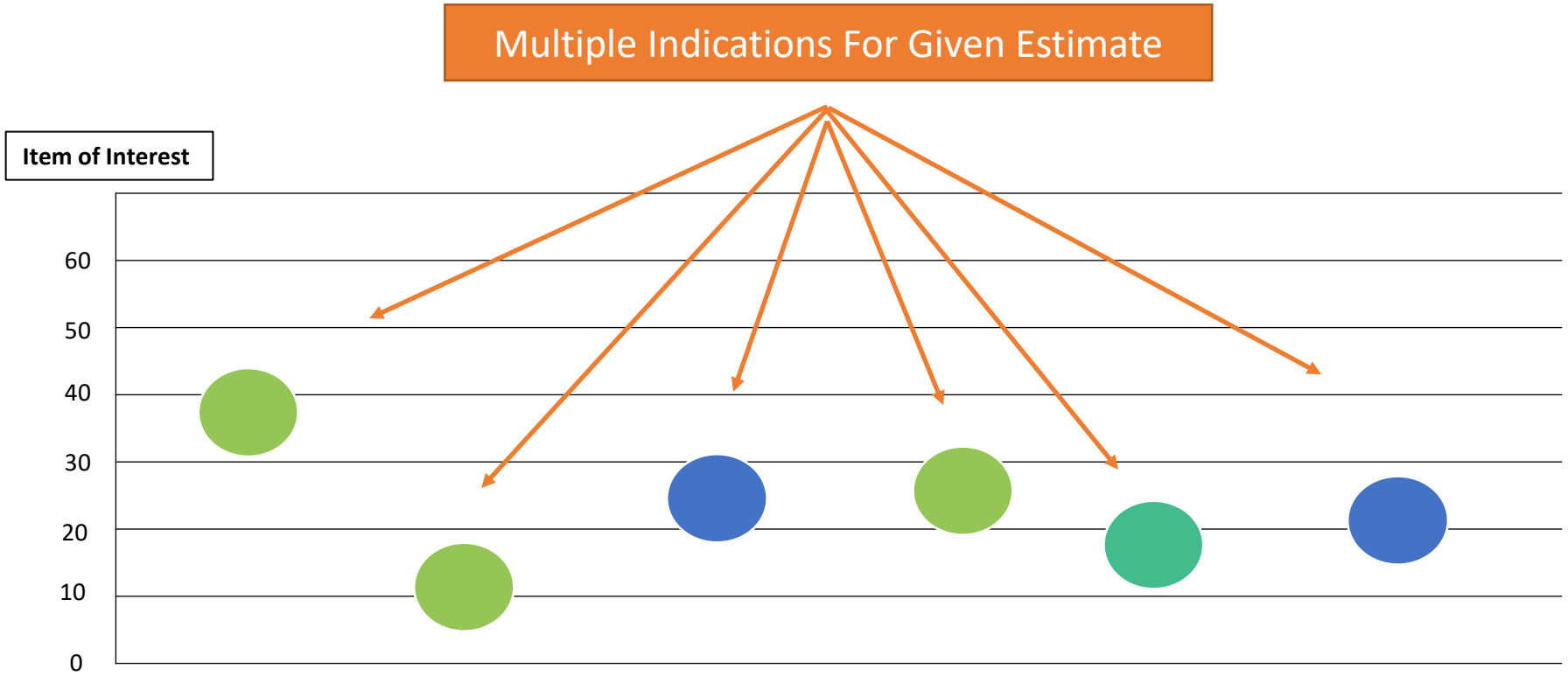

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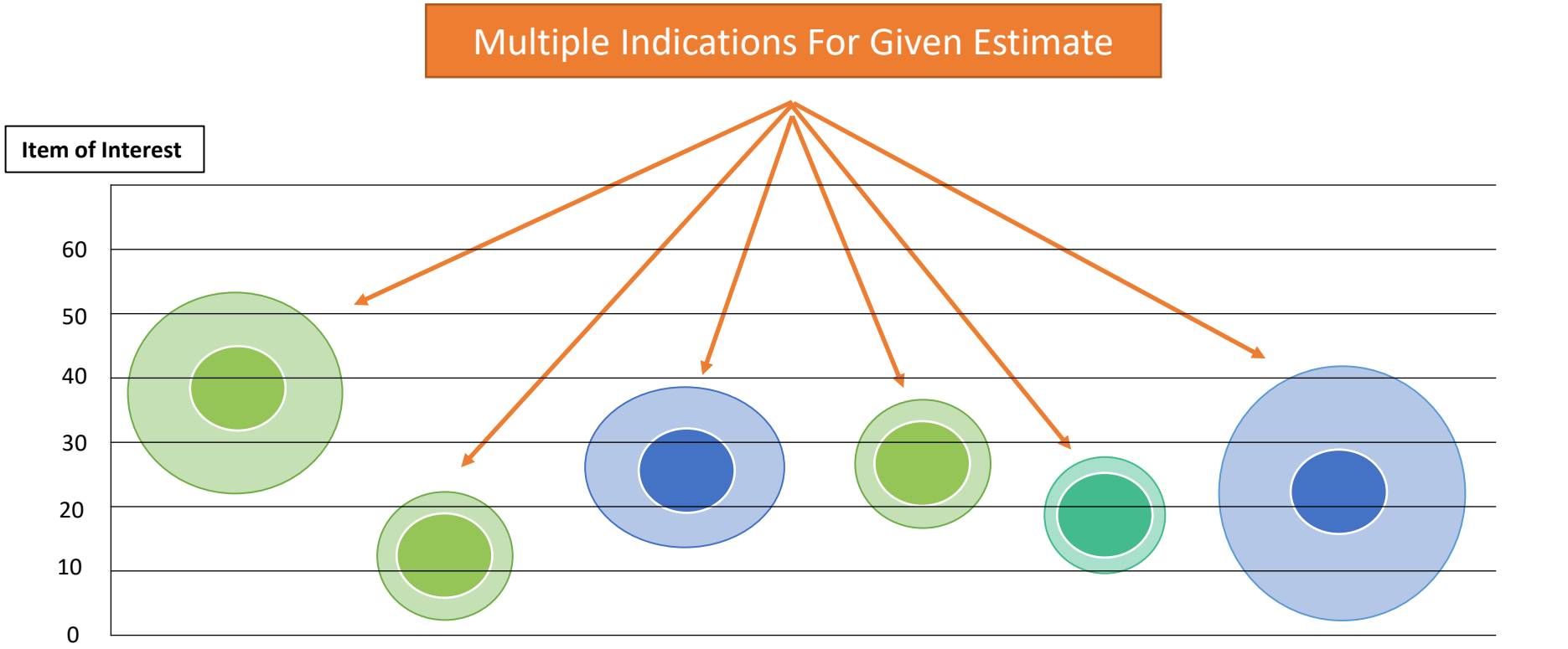
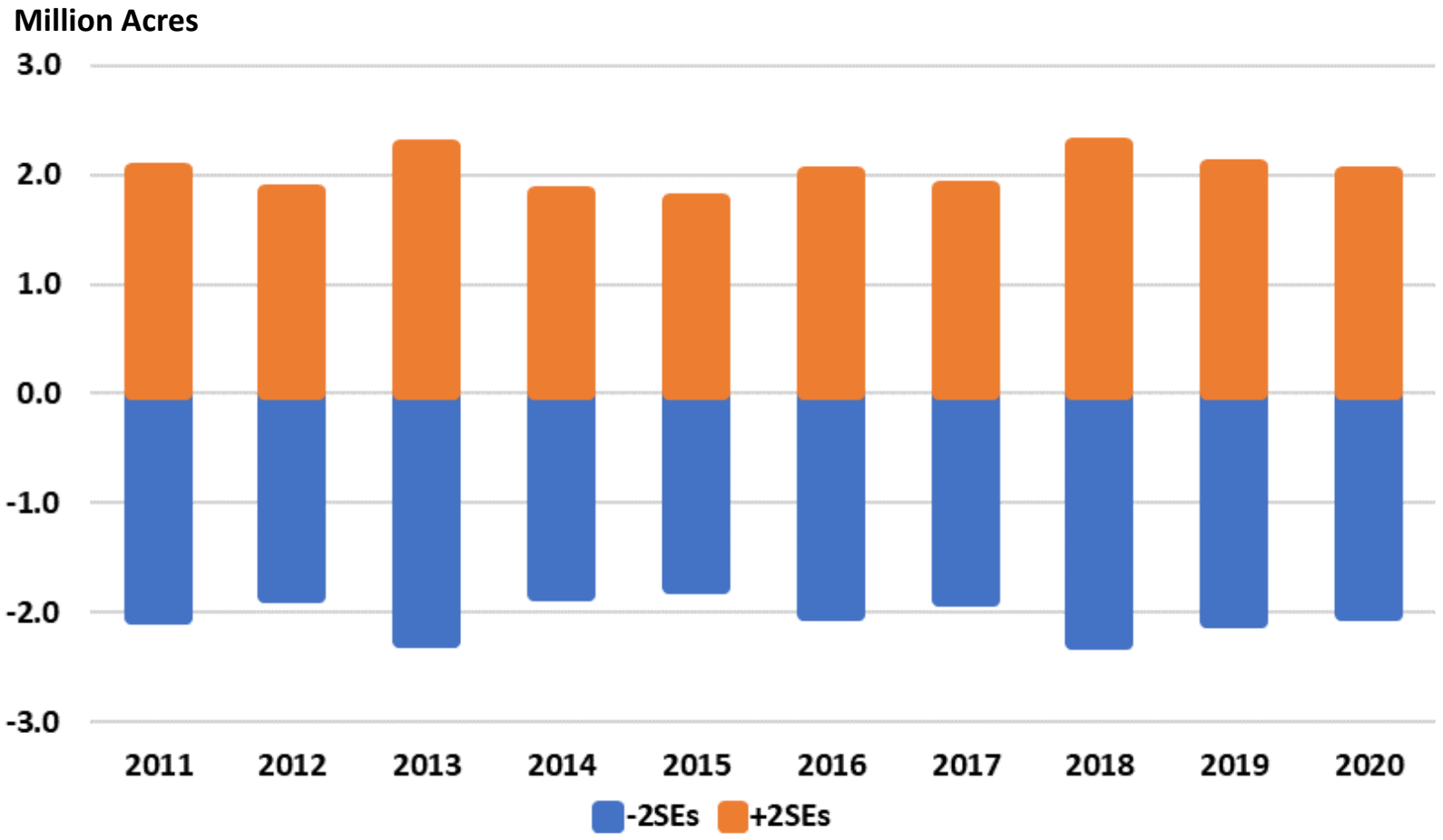


Precision/Accuracy
Coefficient of Variation (CV)

Range Around Indication

U.S. Corn Planted Acres

Measure of Uncertainty Relative to Estimate

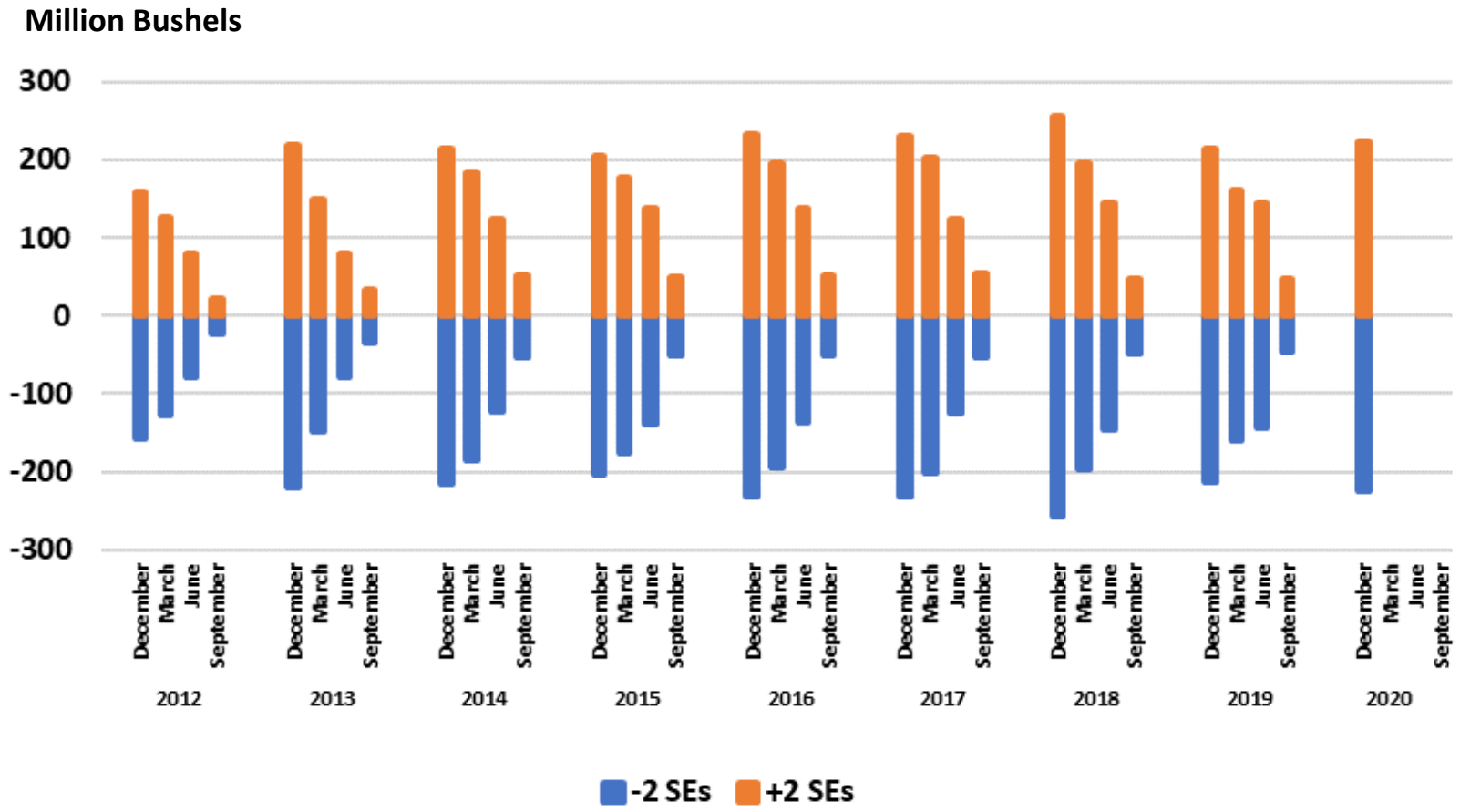


United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Survey CV applied to published estimate.

U.S. Corn On-Farm Stocks

Measure of Uncertainty Relative to Estimate



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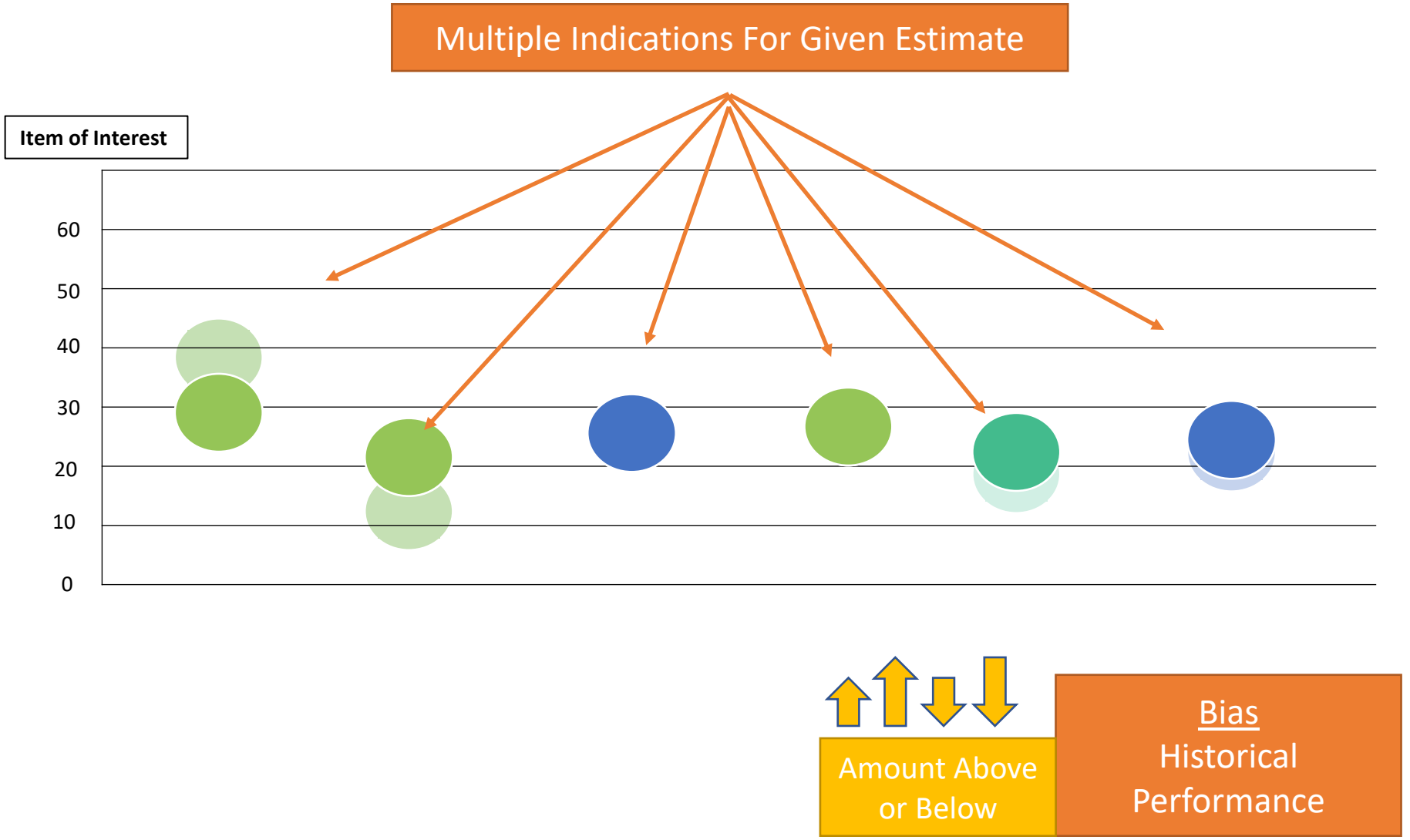
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Survey CV applied to published estimate.

Where NASS Estimates Come From

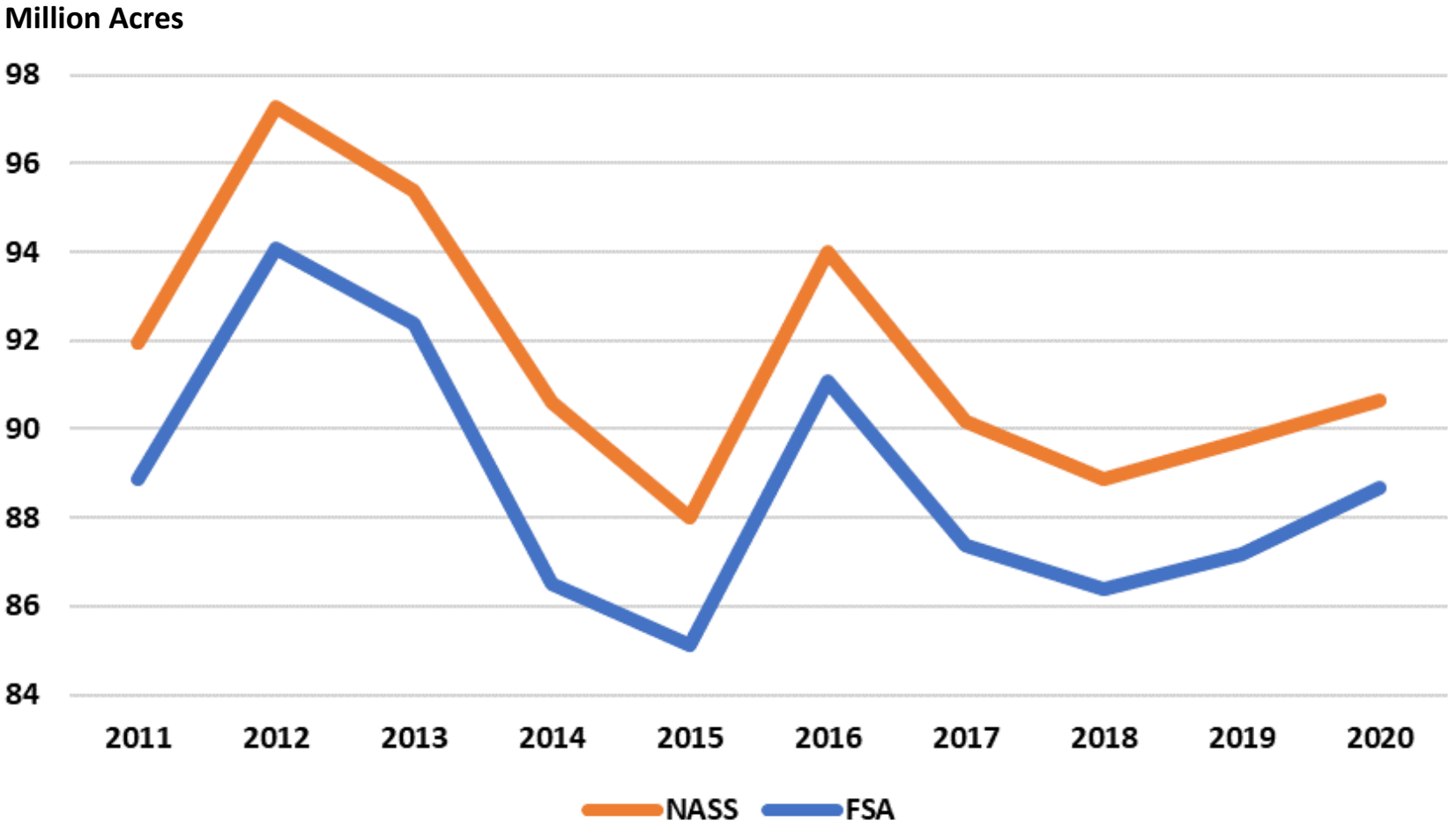


Amount Above or Below

Bias
Historical Performance

U.S. Corn Planted Acres

NASS Estimate vs FSA Certified Acres

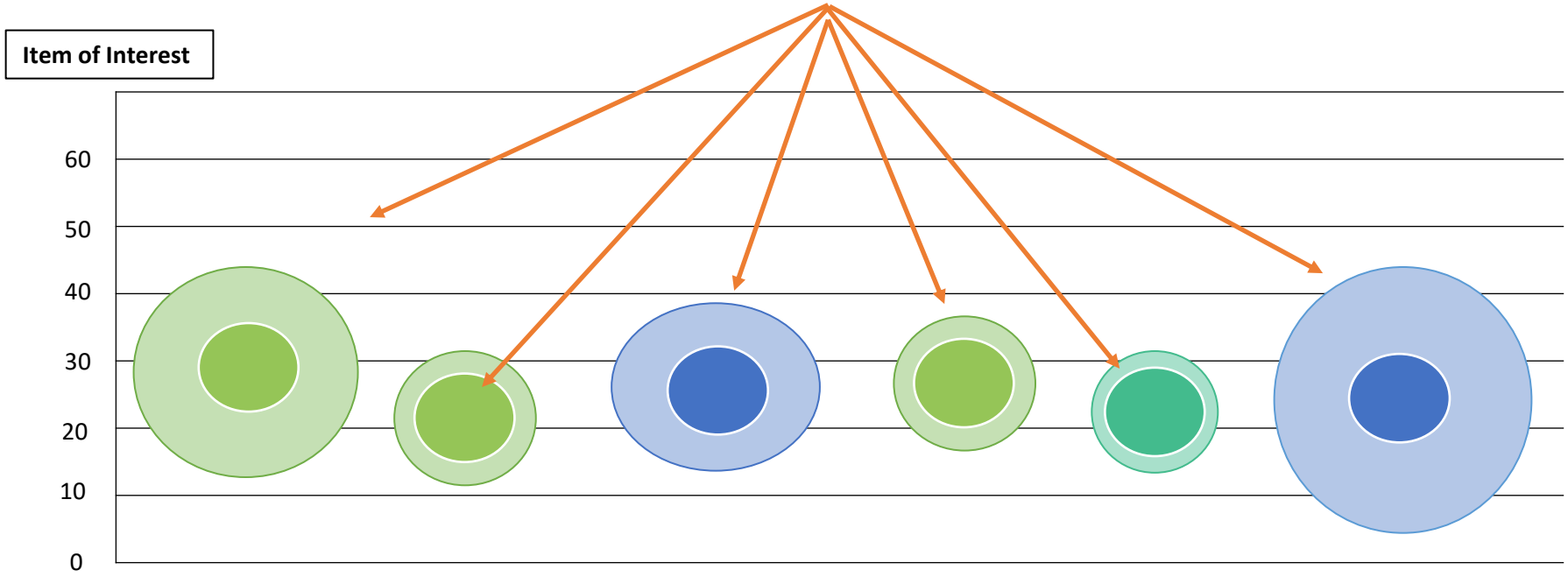


United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Not all acres are certified with FSA.

Where NASS Estimates Come From

Multiple Indications For Given Estimate



Precision/Accuracy
Coefficient of Variation (CV)

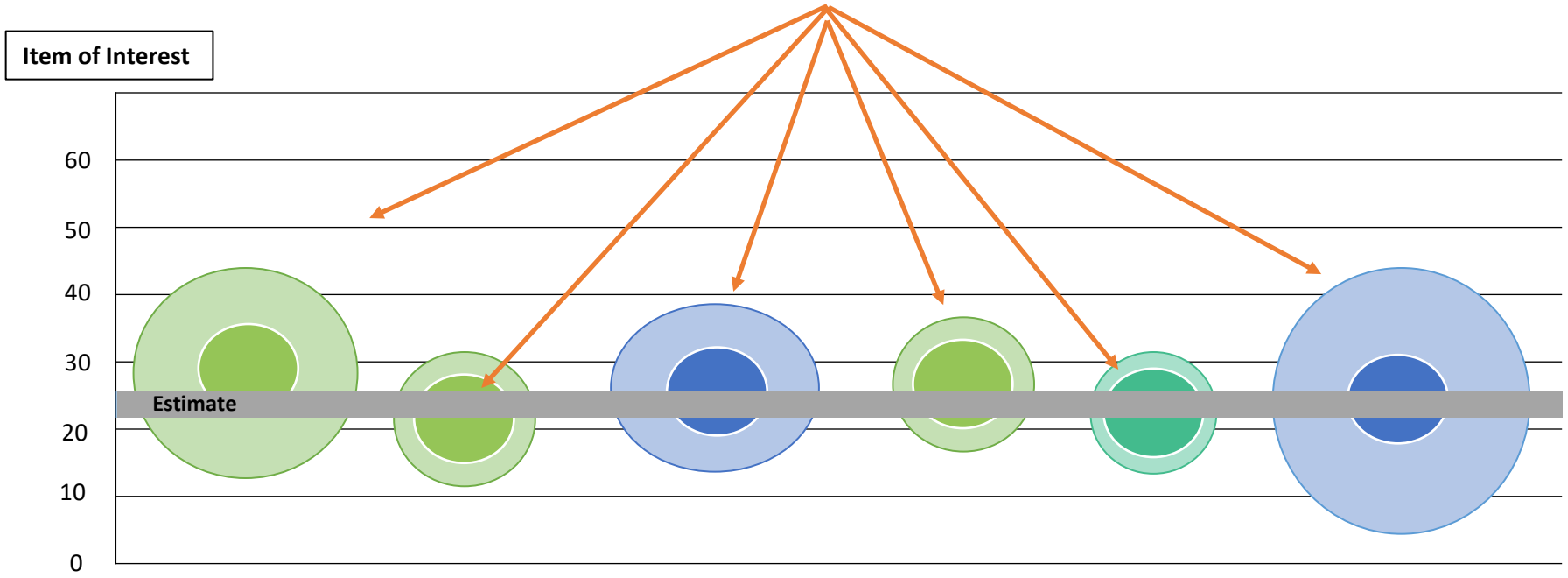
Range Around Indication

Amount Above or Below

Bias
Historical Performance

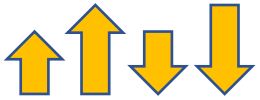
Where NASS Estimates Come From

Multiple Indications For Given Estimate



Precision/Accuracy
Coefficient of Variation (CV)

Range Around Indication



Amount Above or Below

Bias
Historical Performance

Disclosure

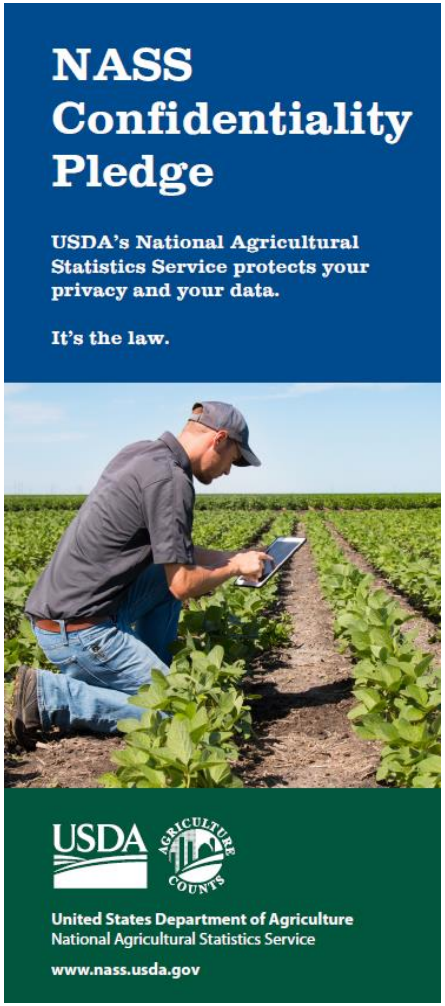
Certain Requirements Must be Met to Publish

Confidentiality

- Must have at least 3 positive reports.
- No single operation can represent large proportion of total.

Fit for Use

- Data must be sufficient to meet statistical standards.
- Various "Publication Standards" in place across programs.

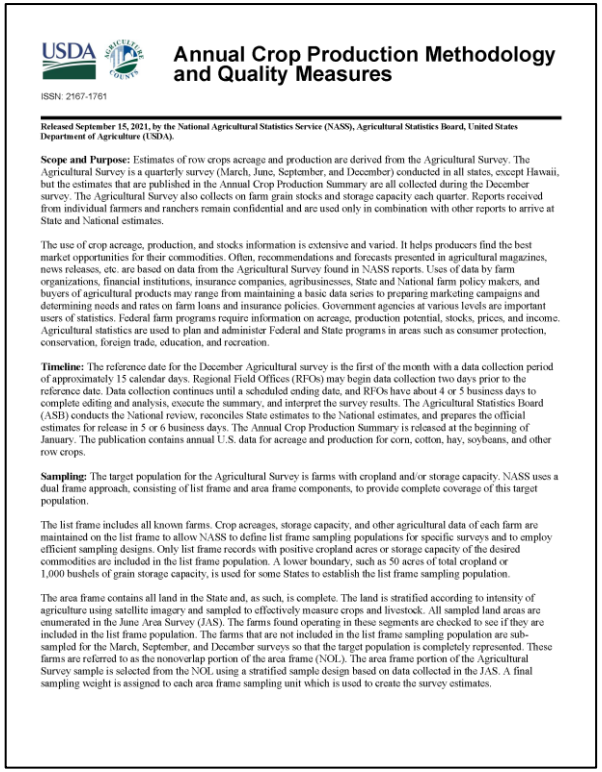


Transparency

Methodology and Quality Measure Reports

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Methodology_and_Data_Quality/index.php

- Survey Methodology Discussion
- Sample Size
- Survey Response Rate
- Weighted Item Response Rate
- Coefficient of Variation (CV)



USDA

Annual Crop Production Methodology and Quality Measures

ISSN: 2167-1761

Released September 15, 2021, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Scope and Purpose: Estimates of row crops acreage and production are derived from the Agricultural Survey. The Agricultural Survey is a quarterly survey (March, June, September, and December) conducted in all states, except Hawaii, but the estimates that are published in the Annual Crop Production Summary are all collected during the December survey. The Agricultural Survey also collects on farm grain stocks and storage capacity each quarter. Reports received from individual farmers and ranchers remain confidential and are used only in combination with other reports to arrive at State and National estimates.

The use of crop acreage, production, and stocks information is extensive and varied. It helps producers find the best market opportunities for their commodities. Often, recommendations and forecasts presented in agricultural magazines, news releases, etc. are based on data from the Agricultural Survey found in NASS reports. Uses of data by farm organizations, financial institutions, insurance companies, agribusinesses, State and National farm policy makers, and buyers of agricultural products may range from maintaining a basic data series to preparing marketing campaigns and determining needs and rates on farm loans and insurance policies. Government agencies at various levels are important users of statistics. Federal farm programs require information on acreage, production potential, stocks, prices, and income. Agricultural statistics are used to plan and administer Federal and State programs in areas such as consumer protection, conservation, foreign trade, education, and recreation.

Timeline: The reference date for the December Agricultural survey is the first of the month with a data collection period of approximately 15 calendar days. Regional Field Offices (RFOs) may begin data collection two days prior to the reference date. Data collection continues until a scheduled ending date, and RFOs have about 4 or 5 business days to complete editing and analysis, execute the summary, and interpret the survey results. The Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) conducts the National review, reconciles State estimates to the National estimates, and prepares the official estimates for release in 5 or 6 business days. The Annual Crop Production Summary is released at the beginning of January. The publication contains annual U.S. data for acreage and production for corn, cotton, hay, soybeans, and other row crops.

Sampling: The target population for the Agricultural Survey is farms with cropland and/or storage capacity. NASS uses a dual frame approach, consisting of list frame and area frame components, to provide complete coverage of this target population.

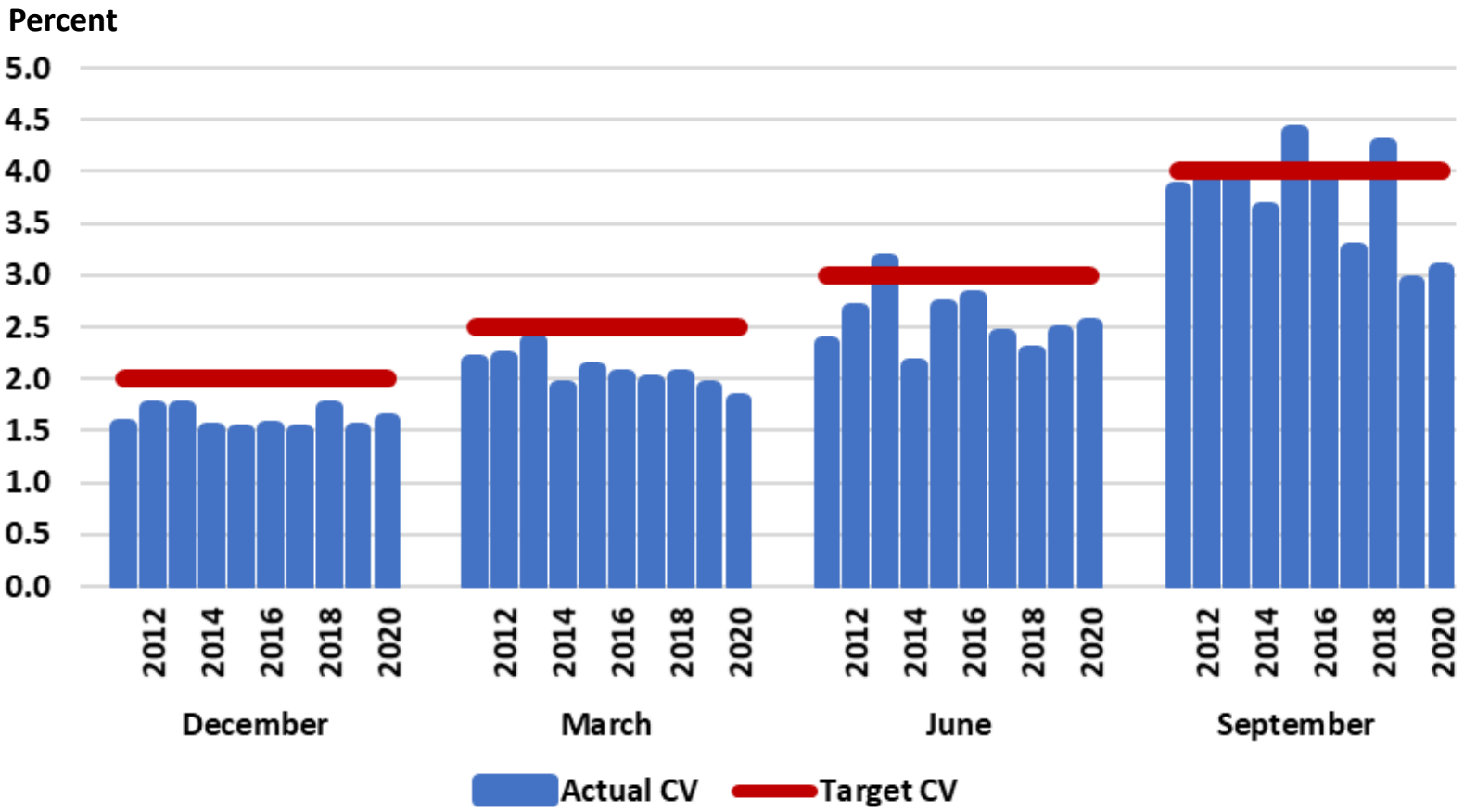
The list frame includes all known farms. Crop acreages, storage capacity, and other agricultural data of each farm are maintained on the list frame to allow NASS to define list frame sampling populations for specific surveys and to employ efficient sampling designs. Only list frame records with positive cropland acres or storage capacity of the desired commodities are included in the list frame population. A lower boundary, such as 50 acres of total cropland or 1,000 bushels of grain storage capacity, is used for some States to establish the list frame sampling population.

The area frame contains all land in the State and, as such, is complete. The land is stratified according to intensity of agriculture using satellite imagery and sampled to effectively measure crops and livestock. All sampled land areas are enumerated in the June Area Survey (JAS). The farms found operating in these segments are checked to see if they are included in the list frame population. The farms that are not included in the list frame sampling population are sub-sampled for the March, September, and December surveys so that the target population is completely represented. These farms are referred to as the nonoverlap portion of the area frame (NOL). The area frame portion of the Agricultural Survey sample is selected from the NOL using a stratified sample design based on data collected in the JAS. A final sampling weight is assigned to each area frame sampling unit which is used to create the survey estimates.

Transparency

U.S. Corn On-Farm Stocks

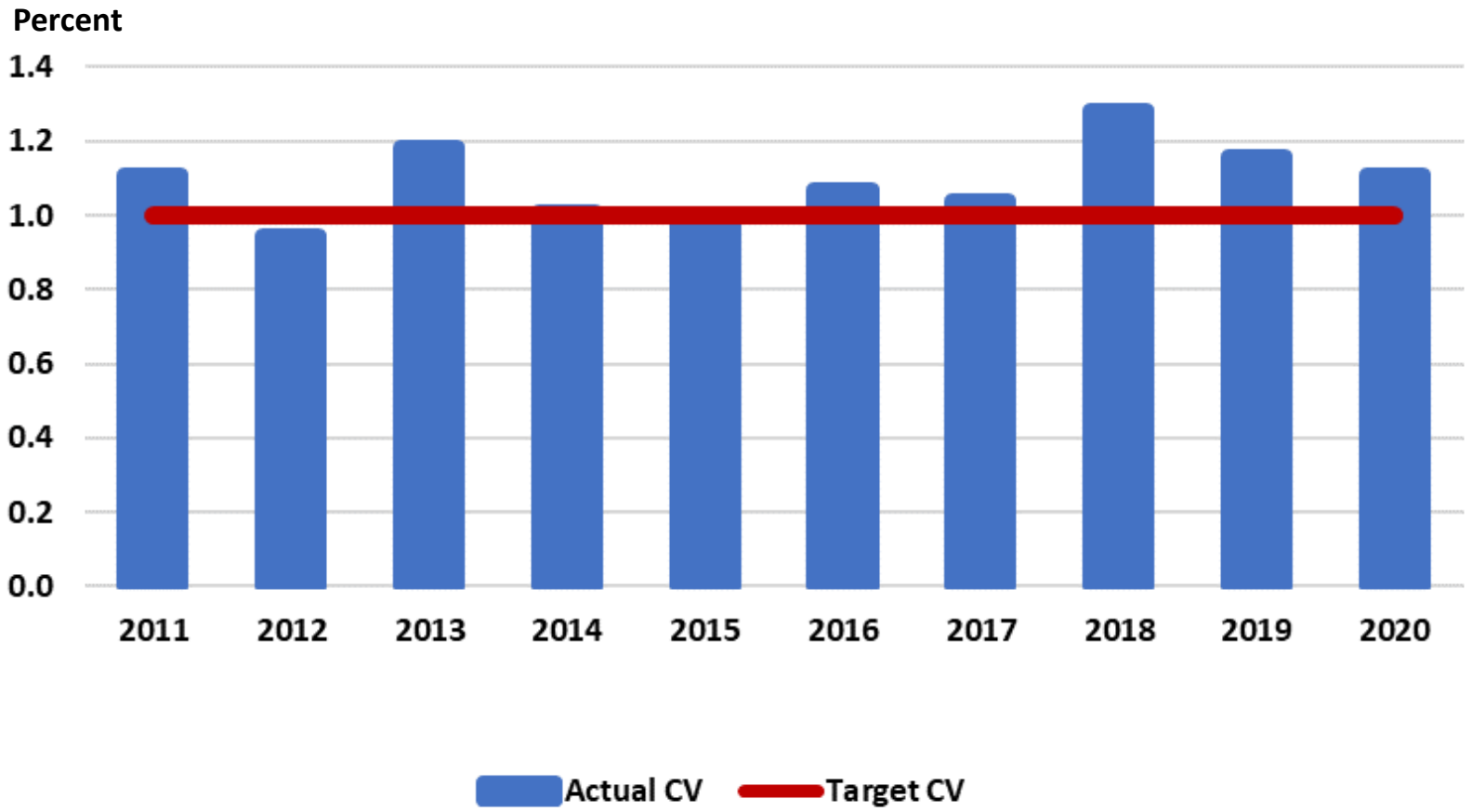
Actual CVs (%) vs Target CVs (%)



Transparency

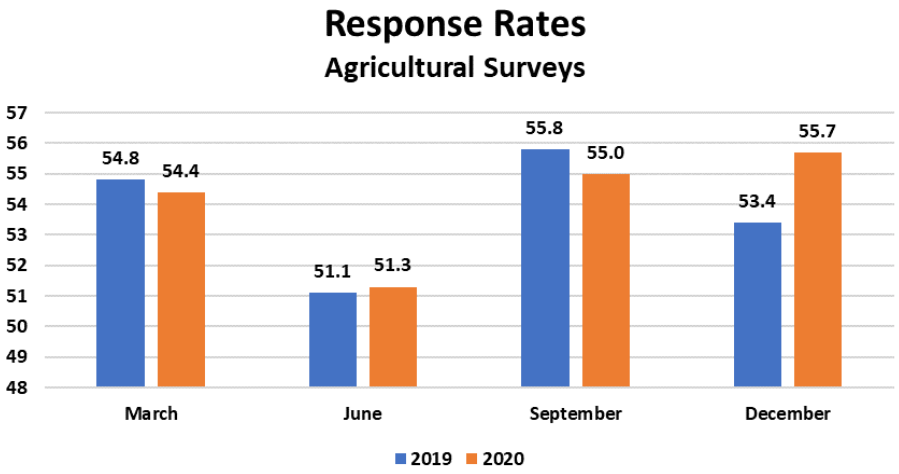
U.S. Corn Planted Acres

Actual CVs (%) vs Target CVs (%)



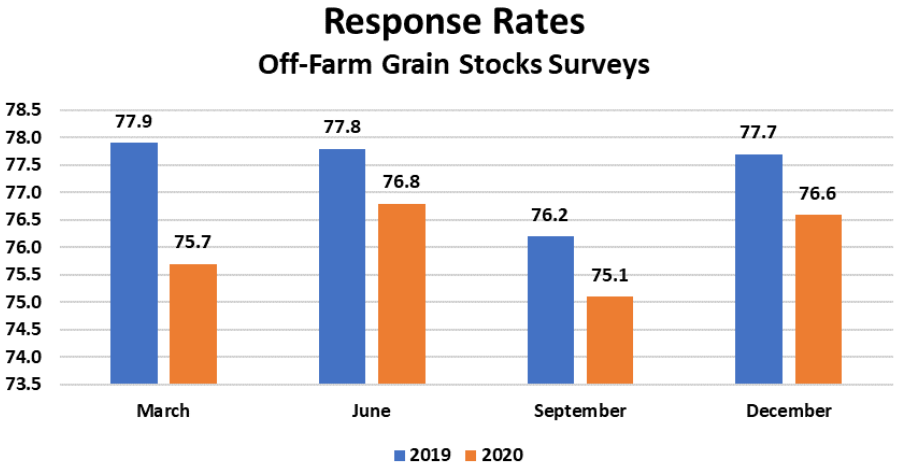
Transparency

Response Rates



Acres, Yield, Production
On-Farm Stocks

Off-Farm Stocks



More Data is Always Better!

Looking Ahead

Grain Stocks

Complete Program Review

- Sampling
- Reporting Form
- Methodology
- Estimating Procedures
- Documentation
- Publication

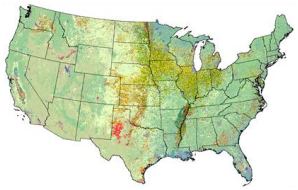
2021
Review/Assessment

2022
Evaluation/Implementation

Looking Ahead

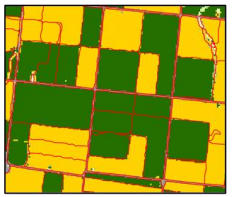
IMAGES Project

Integrated Modeling and Geospatial Estimation System

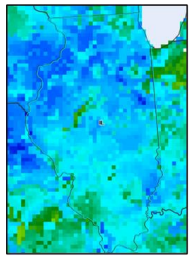


Cropland Data Layers (CDL)

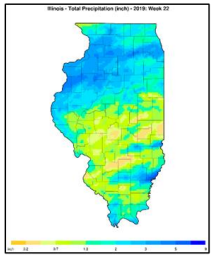
FSA Common Land Unit and 578 data



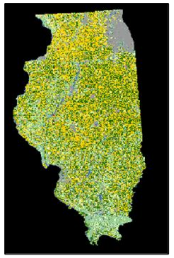
Crop Sequence Boundaries ("Fields")



Soil Moisture Data



Precipitation Data

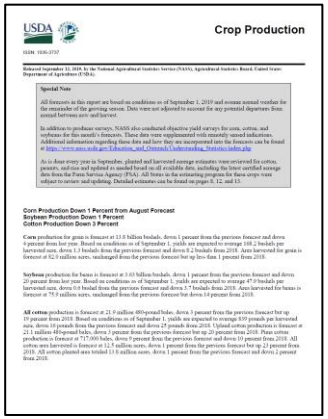


Early Season CDLs

- **Utilize a fuller variety of data**
- **Identify and link more farms to the List Frame**
- **Operates within USDA's new Enterprise Data Analytics Platform and Toolset (EDAPT) for dynamic high-performance computing**

Documentation/Information

Enhanced release time information and communication.


Crop Production

ISSN: 1936-0797

Released September 12, 2019, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Special Note

All forecasts in this report are based on conditions as of September 1, 2019 and assume normal weather for the remainder of the growing season. Data were not adjusted to account for any potential departures from normal between now and harvest.

In addition to producer surveys, NASS also conducted objective yield surveys for corn, cotton, and soybeans for this month's forecasts. These data were supplemented with remotely sensed indications. Additional information regarding these data and how they are incorporated into the forecasts can be found at https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Understanding_Statistics/index.php

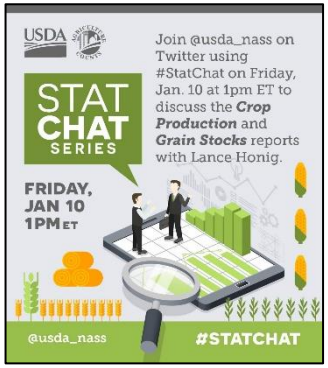
As is done every year in September, planted and harvested acreage estimates were reviewed for cotton, peanuts, and rice and updated as needed based on all available data, including the latest certified acreage data from the Farm Service Agency (FSA). All States in the estimating program for these crops were subject to review and updating. Detailed estimates can be found on pages 8, 12, and 13.

Corn Production Down 1 Percent from August Forecast
Soybean Production Down 1 Percent
Cotton Production Down 3 Percent

Corn production for grain is forecast at 13.8 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 4 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 168.2 bushels per harvested acre, down 3.1 bushels from the previous forecast and down 8.2 bushels from 2018. Acres harvested for grain is forecast at 82.0 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but up less than 1 percent from 2018.

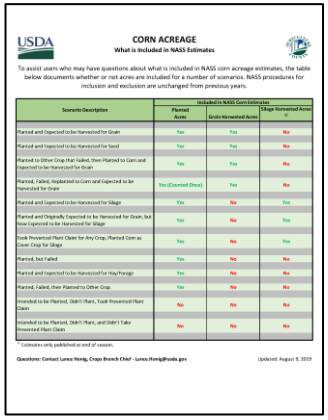
Soybean production for beans is forecast at 3.83 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 20 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 47.9 bushels per harvested acre, down 0.6 bushel from the previous forecast and down 5.7 bushels from 2018. Acres harvested for beans is forecast at 79.9 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 14 percent from 2018.

All cotton production is forecast at 21.9 million 480-pound bales, down 3 percent from the previous forecast but up 10 percent from 2018. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 839 pounds per harvested acre, down 16 pounds from the previous forecast and down 25 pounds from 2018. Upland cotton production is forecast at 21.1 million 480-pound bales, down 3 percent from the previous forecast but up 29 percent from 2018. Pima cotton production is forecast at 717,000 bales, down 9 percent from the previous forecast and down 10 percent from 2018. All cotton acres harvested is forecast at 12.5 million acres, down 1 percent from the previous forecast but up 23 percent from 2018. All cotton planted area totaled 13.8 million acres, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 2 percent from 2018.



Both quick reference and in-depth documentation of procedures.

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


CORN ACREAGE
What is included in NASS Estimates

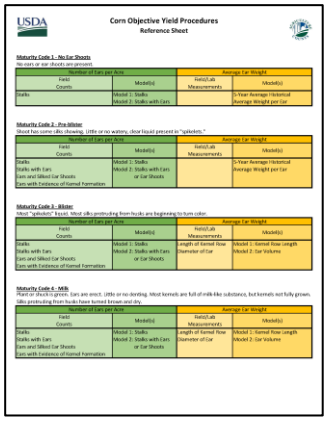
To assist users who may have questions about what is included in NASS corn acreage estimates, the table below documents whether or not acres are included for a number of scenarios. NASS procedures for inclusion and exclusion are unchanged from previous years.

Scenario Description	Included in NASS Corn Estimates: Planted Acres	Grain Harvested Acres	Silage Harvested Acres [1]
Planted and Expected to be Harvested for Grain	Yes	Yes	No
Planted and Expected to be Harvested for Seed	Yes	Yes	No
Planted to Other Crop that Failed, then Planted to Corn and Expected to be Harvested for Grain	Yes	Yes	No
Planted, Failed, Replanted to Corn and Expected to be Harvested for Grain	Yes (Counted Once)	Yes	No
Planted and Expected to be Harvested for Silage	Yes	No	Yes
Planted and Originally Expected to be Harvested for Grain, but Now Expected to be Harvested for Silage	Yes	No	Yes
Took Prevented Plant Claim for Any Crop, Planted Corn as Cover Crop for Silage	Yes	No	Yes
Planted, but Failed	Yes	No	No
Planted and Expected to be Harvested for Hay/Forage	Yes	No	No
Planted, Failed, then Planted to Other Crop	Yes	No	No
Intended to be Planted, Didn't Plant, Took Prevented Plant Claim	No	No	No
Intended to be Planted, Didn't Plant, and Didn't Take Prevented Plant Claim	No	No	No

[1] Estimates only published at end of season.

Questions: Contact Lance Honig, Crops Branch Chief - Lance.Honig@usda.gov

Updated: August 9, 2019


Corn Objective Yield Procedures
Reference Sheet

Maturity Code 1 - No Ear Shoots
No ears or ear shoots are present.

Number of Ears per Acre		Average Ear Weight	
Field Counts	Model(s):	Kernel Lab Measurements	Model(s):
Stalks	Model 1: Stalks Model 2: Stalks with Ears		5-Year Average Historical Average Weight per Ear

Maturity Code 2 - Pre-Silker
Shoot has some silks showing. Little or no watery, clear liquid present in "spikelets."

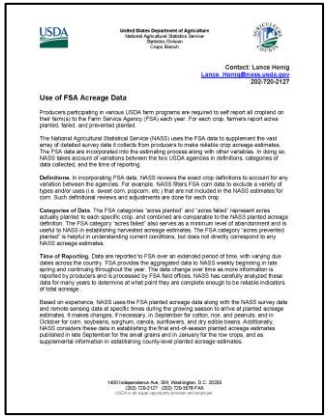
Number of Ears per Acre		Average Ear Weight	
Field Counts	Model(s):	Kernel Lab Measurements	Model(s):
Stalks Stalks with Ears Ears and Silked Ear Shoots Ears with Evidence of Kernel Formation	Model 1: Stalks Model 2: Stalks with Ears or Ear Shoots		5-Year Average Historical Average Weight per Ear

Maturity Code 3 - Silker:
Most "spikelets" traced. Most silks protruding from husks are beginning to turn color.

Number of Ears per Acre		Average Ear Weight	
Field Counts	Model(s):	Kernel Lab Measurements	Model(s):
Stalks Stalks with Ears Ears and Silked Ear Shoots Ears with Evidence of Kernel Formation	Model 1: Stalks Model 2: Stalks with Ears or Ear Shoots	Length of Kernel Row Diameter of Ear	Model 1: Kernel Row Length Model 2: Ear Volume

Maturity Code 4 - Milk
Plant or shuck is green. Ears are erect. Little or no denting. Most kernels are full of milk-like substance, but kernels not fully grown. Silks protruding from husks have turned brown and dry.

Number of Ears per Acre		Average Ear Weight	
Field Counts	Model(s):	Kernel Lab Measurements	Model(s):
Stalks Stalks with Ears Ears and Silked Ear Shoots Ears with Evidence of Kernel Formation	Model 1: Stalks Model 2: Stalks with Ears or Ear Shoots	Length of Kernel Row Diameter of Ear	Model 1: Kernel Row Length Model 2: Ear Volume


United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Statistical Methods Group

Contact: Lance Honig
Lance.Honig@nass.usda.gov
202-720-2127

Use of FSA Acreage Data

Producers participating in various USDA farm programs are required to self report all cropland on their farm(s) to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) each year. For each crop, farmers report acres planted, failed, and prevented planted.

The National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) uses the FSA data to supplement the vast array of (detailed) survey data it collects from producers to make reliable crop acreage estimates. The FSA data are incorporated into the estimating process along with other variables. In doing so, NASS takes account of variations between the two USDA agencies in definitions, categories of data collected, and the time of reporting.

Definitions. In incorporating FSA data, NASS reviews the exact crop definitions to account for any variation between the agencies. For example, NASS filters FSA corn data to exclude a variety of types and/or uses (i.e. sweet corn, popcorn, etc.) that are not included in the NASS estimates for corn. Such definitional reviews and adjustments are done for each crop.

Categories of Data. The FSA categories "acres planted" and " acres failed" represent acres actually planted to each specific crop, and combined are comparable to the NASS planted acreage definition. The FSA category "acres failed" also serves as a minimum level of abandonment and is useful to NASS in establishing harvested acreage estimates. The FSA category" acres prevented planted" is helpful in understanding current conditions, but does not directly correspond to any NASS acreage estimates.

Time of Reporting. Data are reported to FSA over an extended period of time, with varying due dates across the country. FSA provides the aggregated data to NASS weekly beginning in late spring and continuing throughout the year. The data change over time as more information is reported by producers and is processed by FSA field offices. NASS has carefully analyzed these data for many years to determine at what point they are complete enough to be reliable indicators of total acreage.

Based on experience, NASS uses the FSA planted acreage data along with the NASS survey data and remote sensing data at specific times during the growing season to arrive at planted acreage estimates. It makes changes, if necessary, in September for cotton, rice, and peanuts, and in October for corn, soybeans, sorghum, canola, sunflowers, and dry edible beans. Additionally, NASS considers these data in establishing the final end-of-season planted acreage estimates published in late September for the small grains and in January for the row crops, and as supplemental information in establishing county-level planted acreage estimates.

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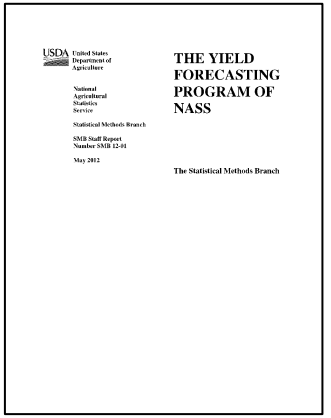
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

THE YIELD FORECASTING PROGRAM OF NASS

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Statistical Methods Branch

SMB Staff Report Number SMB 12-01

May 2012

The Statistical Methods Branch

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Join NASS Crops Branch Chief Lance Honig on Twitter after the release of major @usda_nass crop reports every month for a live Q&A #StatChat. Check www.nass.usda.gov for the next scheduled chat.
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