

Obtaining and Using USDA Market and Production Reports

Production Forecasts

- Production estimate
 - ✓ Planted and harvested acres
 - ✓ Yield

- Based on conditions at the time

- Assumes normal weather for the remainder of season

- NASS adjusts for weather events

Planted and Harvested Acres

- June survey is largest of year
- Two samples
 - ✓ Area Frame
 - ✓ List Frame
- Combine and compare list and area information

Yield Forecast

- Farmers monthly crop yield projections
- Objective yield surveys
- Statistical model estimation
- Revisions for weather, etc.
- Combine yield and harvested acres to get a production estimate

Table 1. Objective Yield Forecast Variables for Number of Fruit and Weight per Fruit*

| Crop | Component | Forecast Variable |
|----------|--------------------------|---|
| | Ears | Stalks, ears and ear shoots, ears with kernels |
| Corn | | |
| | Ear weight | Historic average, length over husk, kernel row length, ear diameter |
| | Plants Pods per plant | Plants, mainstem nodes, lateral branches, blooms, flowers and pods |
| Soybeans | | |
| | Pod weight | Historical average, pods w/ beans |
| | Bolls | Squares, blooms, small bolls, large bolls, open bolls |
| Cotton | | |
| | Boll weight | Historical average, large boll weight |
| | Heads | Stalks, heads in boot, emerged heads |
| Wheat | | |
| | Head weight | Historical average, fertile spikelets, grains per head |

Use of Production Forecasts

- Crop Production report
- World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report

NASS Reports vs. Industry Reports

- NASS survey most extensive
- Industry estimates guess what NASS/USDA will say
- NASS/USDA is the benchmark
- NASS data
 - ✓ Public information
 - ✓ Private firms estimates/potential conflicts

Crop Progress Reports

- Released every Monday during growing season

- Progress and conditions
 - ✓ Percent planted
 - ✓ Various stages of maturity
 - ✓ Percent harvested

- Compared to previous (week, year, five-year average)

- Watched by traders