David M. Johnson Geographer United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service Research and Development Division Spatial Analysis Research Section

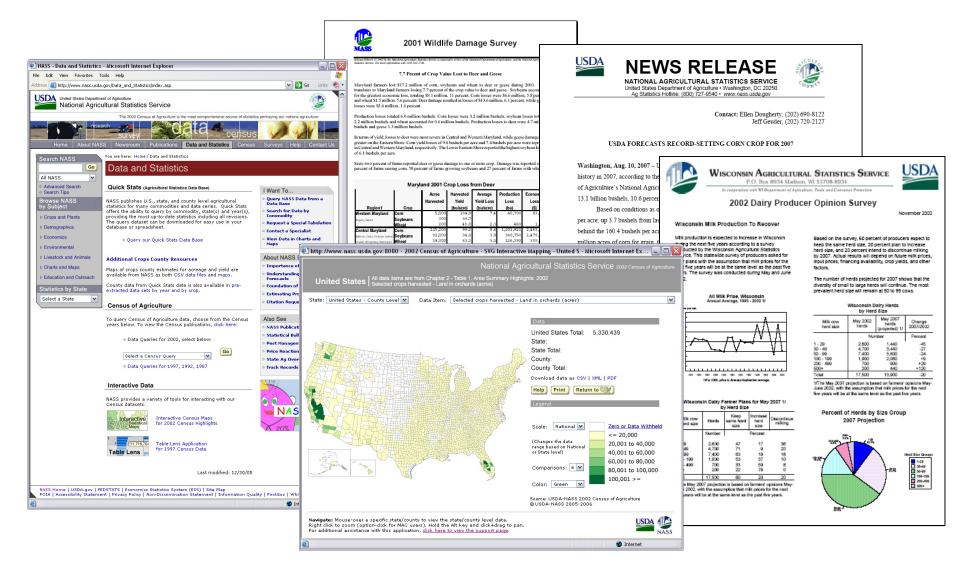
An Overview of USA Crop Production Monitoring and the Role of Satellite Remote Sensing

International Meeting on Food Security, Earth Observations and Agricultural Monitoring November 21, 2013, Secure World Foundation, Brussels, Belgium



National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Provider of timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture



www.nass.usda.gov

Continuous Agricultural Statistics Programs

Crops:

grains hay oilseeds cotton tobacco potatoes sugar other field crops citrus fruit non-citrus fruit nuts vegetables floriculture

crop progress acreage - prospective plantings - planted - harvested yield & production - forecasts - final - by utilization stocks disposition processing prices received b farmers agricultural chemical use

Livestock:

	cattle	inventory	number of farms
	hogs	- total	land in farms
	sheep	- by class - births	land values
	goats equine	- deaths	cash rents
on by	poultry	- predator losses	agricultural labor
	milk & dairy products aquaculture bees & honey mink	marketings slaughter	 number of workers hours worked
		production/dispositio	- wages paid
		n - meat - other products (milk, dairy	cold storage - holdings - capacity
		products, wool,	cash receipts
		mohair, eggs, honey, etc.)	production expenditures
		prices received by farmers inventory/production values	

Other:

Agricultural Census

total area & land use irrigation land in government programs field & forage crops fruits, nuts & berries vegetables & melons horticultural specialties livestock & poultry animal specialties aquaculture production contracts gross value of sales direct sales to consumers government loans government program payments farm-related income grain storage capacity operator characteristics farm organization

fertilizer & chemical use farm production expenses inventory & value of machinery & equipment market value of land & buildings farm labor

~ years ending in "2" & "7" ~

inventories as of December 31 ~ production, sales & other information for calendar year

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 Research, Science, and Technology Education and Outreach 	USDA Forecasts Record-High Corn Production in 2013	 Date Subject Keyword
Statistics by State	NASS to Release 2013 Farm Computer Usage Results on August 20	 Release Day Title Browsing our Guide to
	U.S. Farm Production Expenditures Keep Climbing	Products and Services
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CENSUS SURVEY	ANIMALS & PRODUCTS CROPS DEMOGRAPHICS ECONOMICS ENVIRONMENTAL	ANIMAL TOTALS AQUACULTURE CROP TOTALS DAIRY ENERGY EXPENSES FARMS & LAND & ASSETS FIELD CROPS FRUIT & TREE NUTS	AG LAND AG SERVICES AG SERVICES & REF	NT ECREATIONAL SERVICES
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Select Time (one of	or more) 🖓			



Recent Census Years





ISSN: 1948-3007

Released September 9, 2013, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Special Note

NASS's annual September surveys on crops and livestock. In the first two weeks of September, NASS will survey U.S. small grains growers for final production. We will also ask hog producers about their summer pig crop, current inventory, and farrowing intentions for the next six months. The responses will provide the foundation for 2013 production estimates. Farmers should watch for their survey and be sure to respond. Your information matters!

Corn Dough – Selected States

[These 18 States planted 92% of the 2012 com acreage]

		2008 2012			
State	September 8, 2012	September 1, 2013	September 8, 2013	2008-2012 Average	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	
Colorado	98	87	96	93	
Illinois	100	93	95	96	
ndiana	100	91	95	96	
owa	100	73	86	90	
Kansas	100	94	97	99	
Kentucky	100	85	92	9	
Michigan	93	79	89	8	
Minnesota	100	68	85	9	
Missouri	100	94	97	9	
Nebraska	100	93	98	9	
North Carolina	100	100	100	10	
North Dakota	100	71	90	8	
Ohio	99	91	95	9	
Pennsylvania	94	89	93	8	
South Dakota	97	90	98	9	
Tennessee	100	97	100	10	
Texas	97	91	93	9	
Wisconsin	94	61	76	8	
18 States	99	84	92	9	



ISSN: 1949-1522

Released June 28, 2013, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Corn Planted Acreage Up Slightly from 2012 Soybean Acreage Up 1 Percent All Wheat Acreage Up 1 Percent All Cotton Acreage Down 17 Percent

Corn planted area for all purposes in 2013 is estimated at 97.4 million acres, up slig the highest planted acreage in the United States since 1936 when an estimated 102 n expect to harvest 89.1 million acres for grain, up 2 percent from last year.

Soybean planted area for 2013 is estimated at a record high 77.7 million acres, up 1 harvest, at 76.9 million acres, is up 1 percent from 2012 and will be a record high, if is estimated in New York, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota.

All wheat planted area for 2013 is estimated at 56.5 million acres, up 1 percent from planted area, at 42.7 million acres, is 3 percent above last year and up 2 percent fron about 29.4 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 9.96 million acres are Soft Red Winte Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2013 is estimated at 12.3 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The estimated Durum wheat pl 1.54 million acres, down 28 percent from the previous year.

All cotton planted area for 2013 is estimated at 10.3 million acres, 17 percent below 10.0 million acres, down 17 percent from 2012. American Pima area is estimated at 2012.



Acreage



ISSN: 1936-3737

Released August 12, 2013, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Special Note

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service is suspending a number of statistical surveys and reports for the remainder of the fiscal year resulting from reduced funding. Suspended commodity programs impacting the *August Crop Production* report are hops, commercial apples, peaches, pears, and grapes. Check the NASS website at <u>www.nass.usda.gov</u> for any future updates to these programs.

Planted Acreage Update

Survey respondents who reported soybean acreage as not yet planted in Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin during the survey conducted in preparation for the *Acreage* report, released June 28, 2013 were re-contacted in July to determine how many of those acres were planted or still intended to be planted. Acreage estimates in this report reflect this updated information.

Corn Production Up 28 Percent from 2012 Soybean Production Up 8 Percent from 2012 Cotton Production Down 25 Percent from 2012 Winter Wheat Production Down Slightly from July Forecast

Corn production is forecast at 13.8 billion bushels, up 28 percent from 2012. If realized, this will be a new record production for the United States. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 154.4 bushels per acre, up 31.0 bushels from 2012. If realized, this will be the highest average yield since 2009. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 89.1 million acres, unchanged from the June forecast but up 2 percent from 2012.

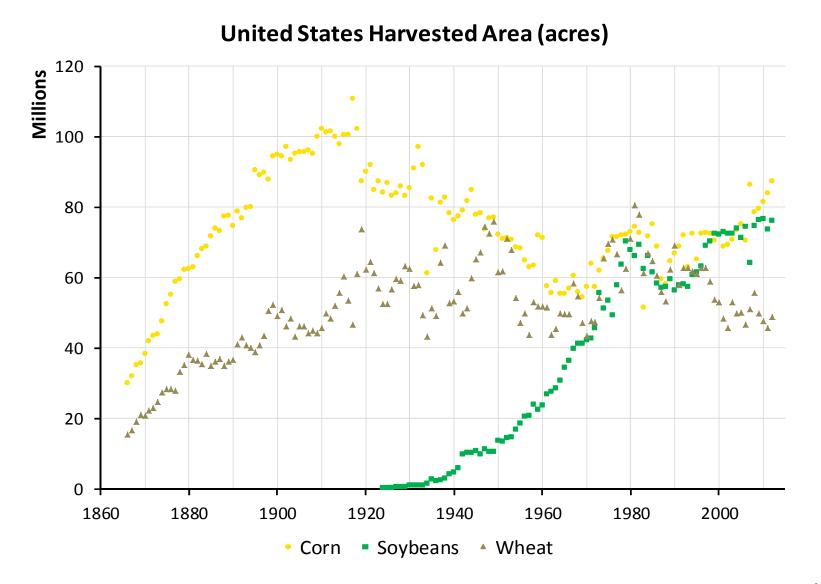
Soybean production is forecast at 3.26 billion bushels, up 8 percent from last year. If realized, production will be the third largest on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 42.6 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from last year. If realized, the average yield will be the fifth highest on record. Area for harvest is forecast at 76.4 million acres, down less than 1 percent from June but up slightly from 2012. Planted area for the Nation is estimated at 77.2 million acres, 9 acres, down less than 1 percent from June.

US crop area ranked statistics

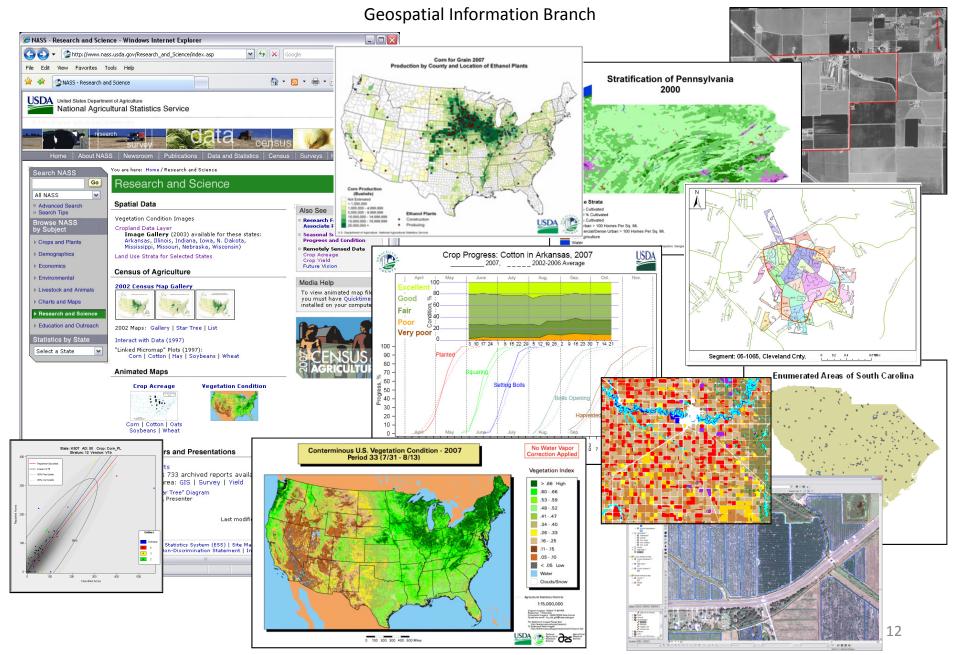
Largest crops by area	<u>mil. ha. (2012)</u>			
Corn	35.4			
Soybeans	30.8			
Wheat	19.8			
(Winter, spring, durum)	(14.1, 4.9, 0.9)			
Нау	22.8			
(alfalfa, all other)	(7.0, 15.8)			
Cotton	3.8			
Sorghum	2.0			
Barley	1.3			
Rice	1.1			

Figures established by a large "area frame" based survey conducted early each June

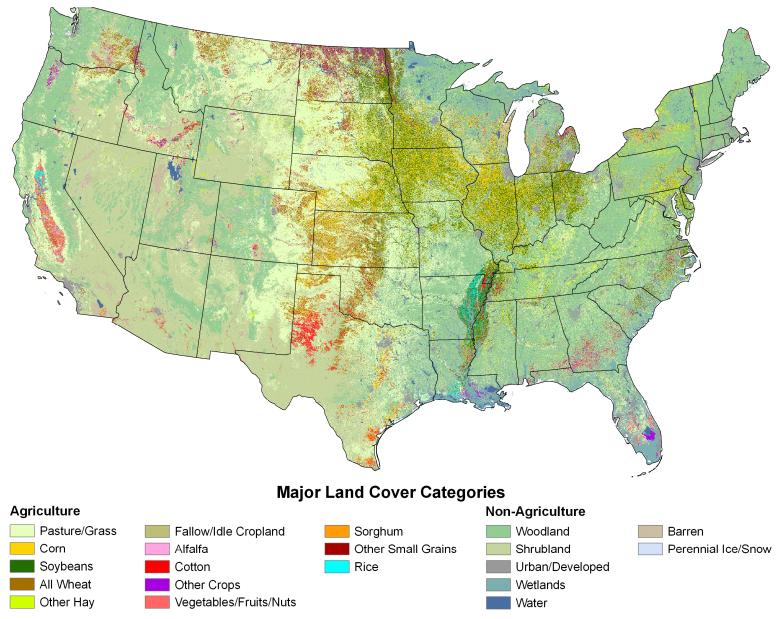
Area trends of the top US 3 crops



NASS Research and Development Division

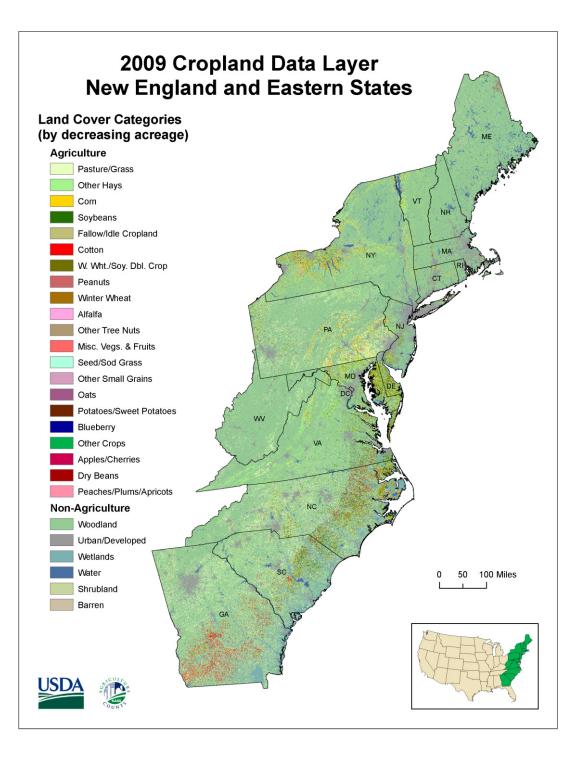


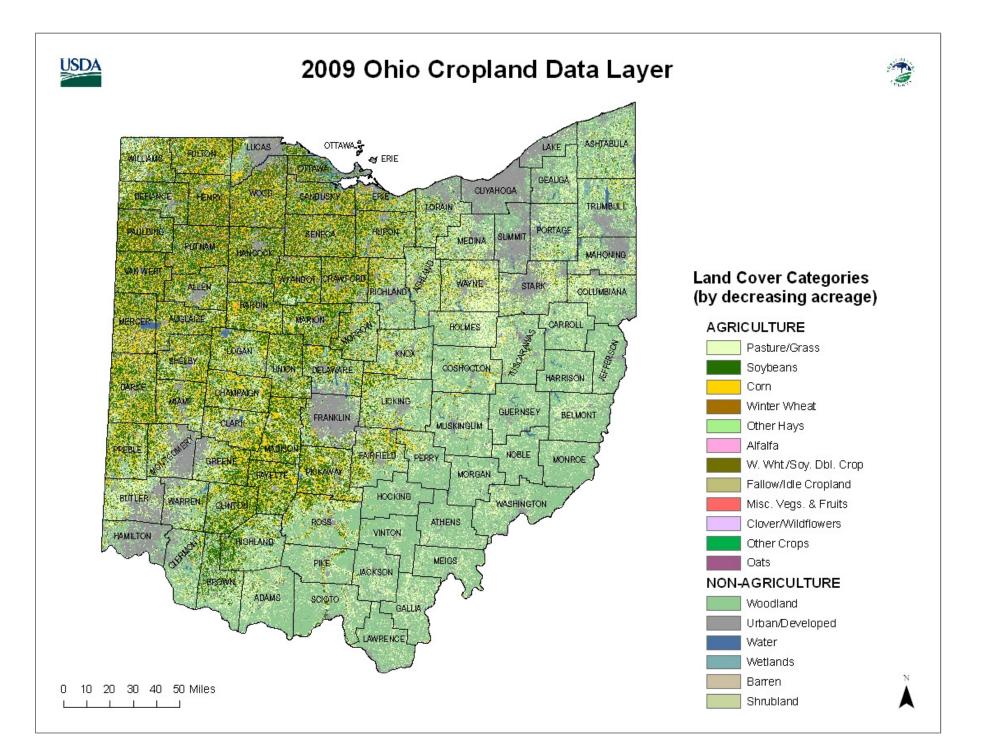
Annually derived Cropland Data Layer (CDL)

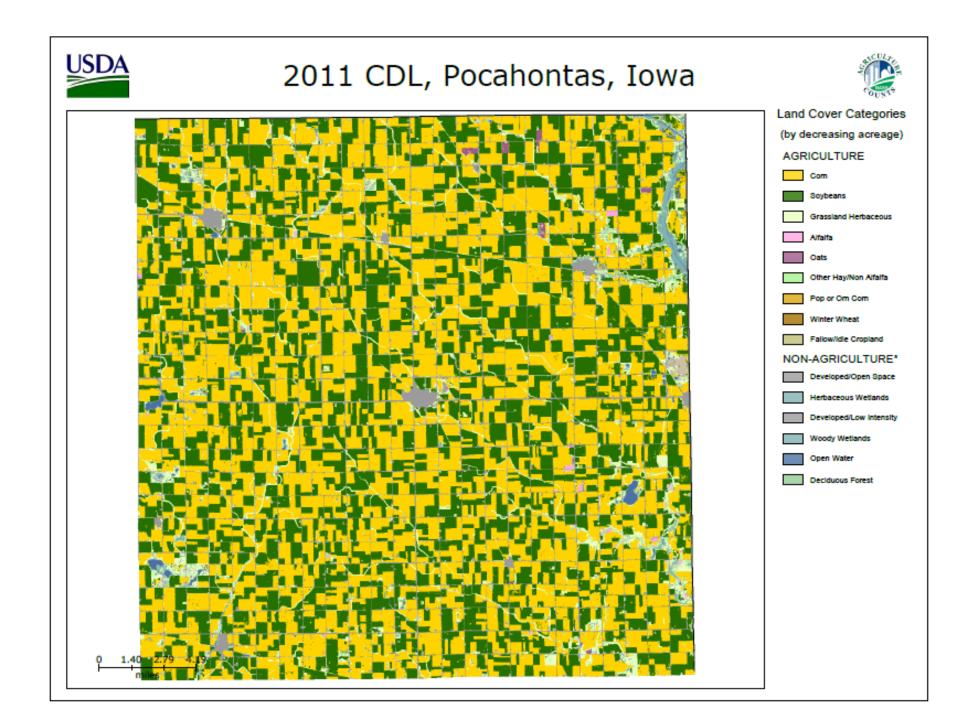


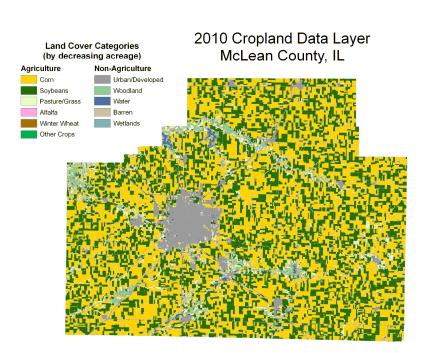
Mapped Crop Categories

1	Corn	41	Sugarbeets	73	Other Tree Fruits	227	l	Lettuce
2	Cotton	42	Dry Beans	74	Pecans	228	(Cucumbers
3	Rice	43	Potatoes	75	Almonds	229		Pumpkins
4	Sorghum	44	Other Crops	76	Walnuts	230	l	Lettuce/Durum Wht
5	Soybeans	45	Sugarcane	77	Pears	231	l	Lettuce/Cantaloupe
6	Sunflower	46	Sweet Potatoes	80	Other Non-Tree Fruit	232	l	Lettuce/Upland Cotton
10	Peanuts	47	Misc. Vegs. & Fruits	92	Aquaculture	233	l	Lettuce/Barley
11	Tobacco	48	Watermelons	204	Pistachios	234	l	Durum Wht/Sorghum
12	Sweet Corn	49	Onions	205	Triticale	235	1	Barley/Sorghum
13	Pop. or Orn. Corn	50	Pickles	206	Carrots	236	l l	WinWht/Sorghum
14	Mint	51	Chick Peas	207	Asparagus	237	ł	Barley/Corn
21	Barley	52	Lentils	208	Garlic	238	l l	WinWht/Cotton
22	Durum Wheat	53	Peas	209	Cantaloupes	239	9	Soybeans/Cotton
23	Spring Wheat	54	Tomatoes	210	Prunes	240	9	Soybeans/Oats
24	Winter Wheat	55	Caneberries	211	Olives	241	(Corn/Soybeans
25	Other Small Grains	56	Hops	212	Oranges	242	ł	Blueberries
26	Dbl. Crop WinWht/Soy	57	Herbs	213	Honeydew Melons	243	(Cabbage
27	Rye	58	Clover/Wildflowers	214	Broccoli	244	(Cauliflower
28	Oats	59	Sod/Grass Seed	216	Peppers	245	(Celery
29	Millet	60	Switchgrass	217	Pomegranates	246	ł	Radishes
30	Speltz	61	Fallow/Idle Cropland	218	Nectarines	247	-	Turnips
31	Canola	62	Pasture/Grass	219	Greens	248	ł	Eggplants
32	Flaxseed	66	Cherries	220	Plums	249	(Gourds
33	Safflower	67	Peaches	221	Strawberries	250	(Cranberries
34	Rape Seed	68	Apples	222	Squash	251	(Corn - Non-Irrigated
35	Mustard	69	Grapes	223	Apricots	252	9	Soybean - Non-Irrigated
36	Alfalfa	70	Christmas Trees	224	Vetch	253		WinWheat - Non-Irrigated
37	Other Hay	71	Other Tree Nuts	225	WinWht/Corn			
38	Camelina	72	Citrus	226	Oats/Corn			









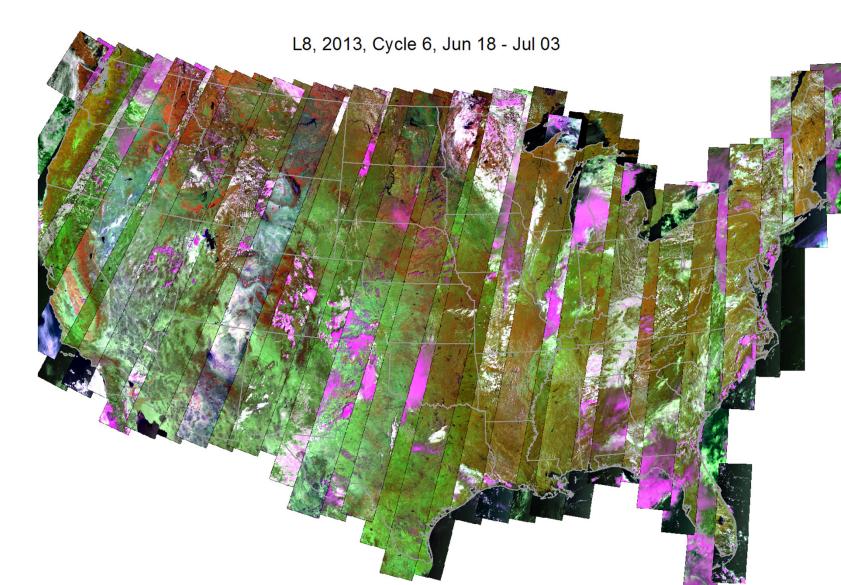
CDL generalities

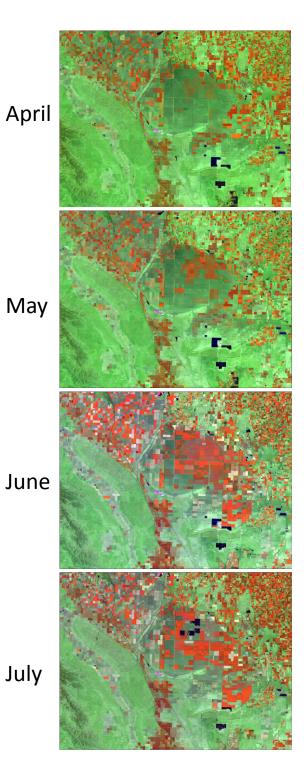
- Annual land cover classification targeted to identifying *circa* summer cultivated crops
- Encompasses all of conterminous USA (since 2008, some states prior)
- 56m or 30m resolution
 - Depending on year but now all 30m
- Built with a supervised boosted classification tree methodology
 - Implemented with See 5.0
- Utilizes ground/training data from USDA Farm Service data and ancillary data from National Land Cover Database
- Highly robust for dominant crop types
 corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, cotton, etc.
- Used internally by NASS to refine planted acreage estimates
- Derived primarily from
 - Resourcesat-1 AWiFS
 - Landsat-5 TM
 - DMC Deimos-1 and UK-2
 - Landsat-8 OLI and TIRS

DMC Deimos-1/UK2 Collections



Landsat 8 Collections





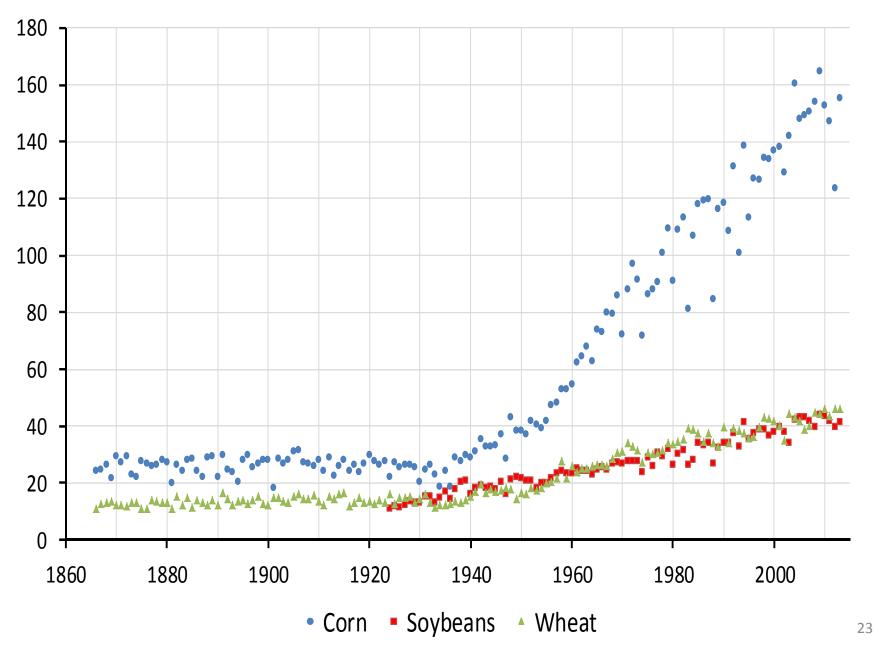
August with farm data Land Cover Categories Agriculture Pasture/Grass Alfalfa Fallow/Idle Cropland Winter Wheat Barley Cotton Almonds Corn Н Durum Wheat Final CDL

Crop area mapping lessons learned

- Heavy volumes of time-series imagery important
 - Agriculture is a dynamic land cover
- Fine spatial resolution is somewhat important
 - Particularly if field sizes are relatively large
- Multi-spectral resolution least important
 - The time component reigns supreme
- Crop area estimation by "pixel counting" alone is not sufficient
 - A bias measurement of the classification is needed
 - "regression estimator"
- Some sort of reasonably accurate "ground truth" needed to drive the classifier

- ~ 1% of land cover might be sufficient

United States Yield (bushel/acre)



Yields results primarily derived from two surveys

Agricultural Yield

- Farmer reported survey data of expected crop yields.
- Data obtained throughout the growing season.
- Conducted in all states except Alaska and Hawaii.
- Sample size in the 1000s per state.
- Farm operator contacts are selected from the March Crops/Stocks survey (small grains) and the June Crops/Stocks survey (late season crops and tobacco).
- Primarily telephone based.



Objective yield

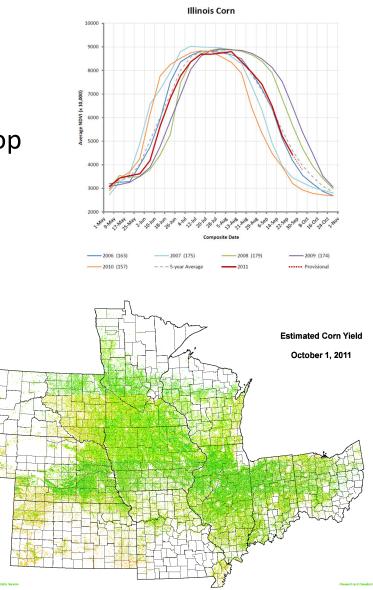
- Corn, Cotton, Soybeans, Wheat, Potatoes.
- Only done in states where the commodities are primarily found.
- Samples selected from areas found in June Area Survey ("Acreage").
- Performed at 100s of sample sites per state.
- Biophysical plant/seed measurements obtained.
- Each plot revisited a few times per season.



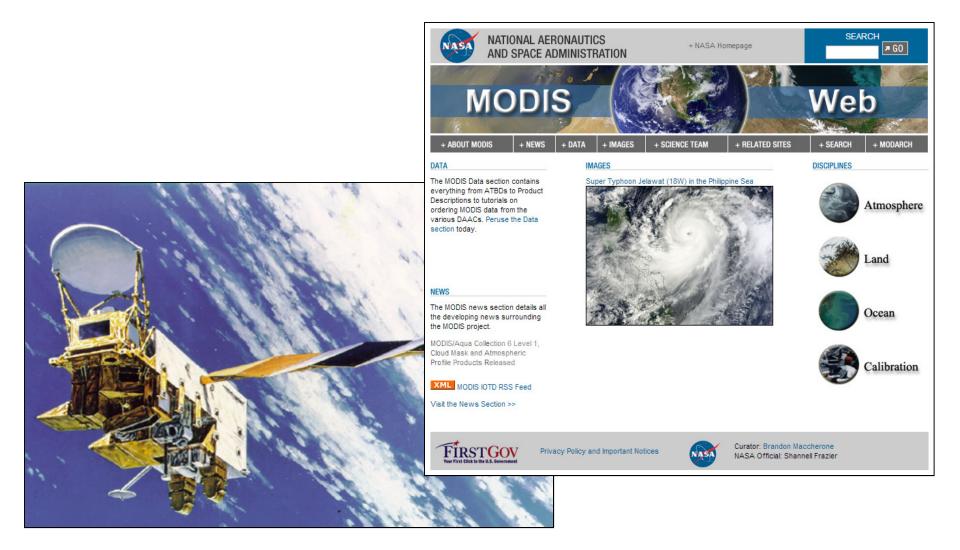
Remote Sensing Yield

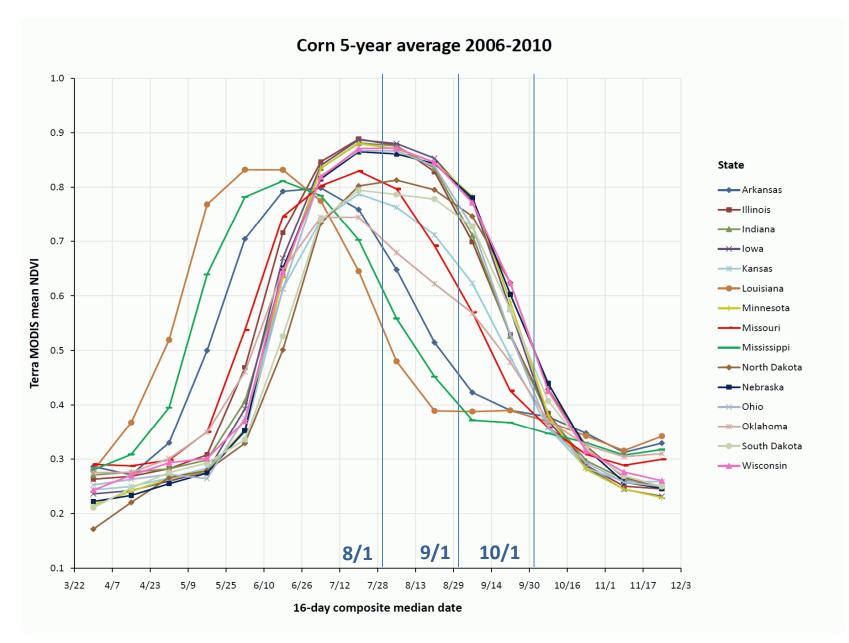
Third method for yield estimates

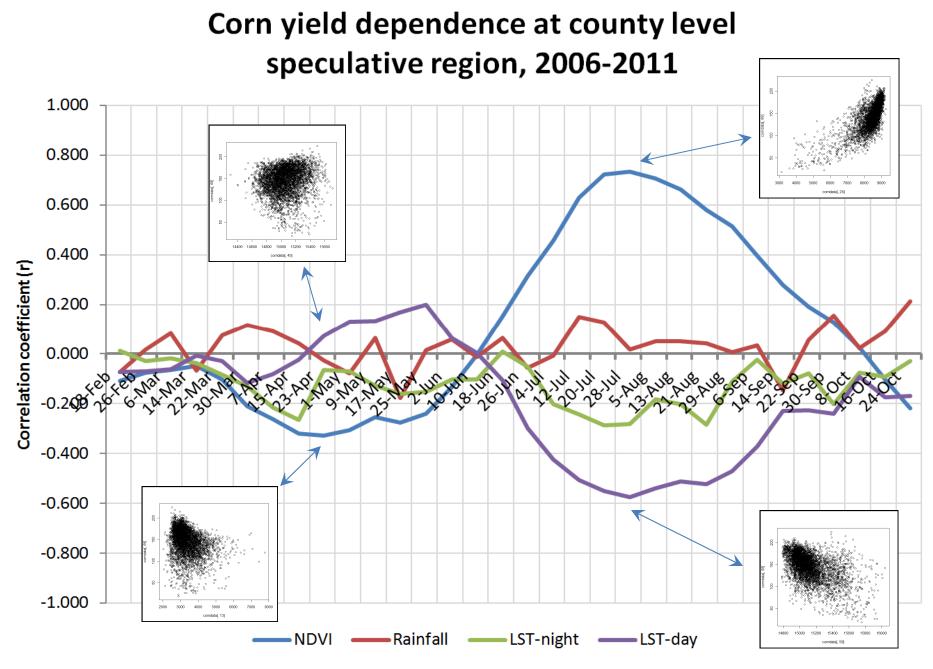
- Premise
 - There is a Relationship between crop
 - Biomass, vigor, "greenness", NDVI – and
 - Land surface temperature
 - And the resulting crop yield
- Utilize MODIS data to obtain biomass and temperature variables
- National, State, ASD, and County
 - Corn and Soybeans only
 - "Speculative" region only
 - i.e. Corn Belt



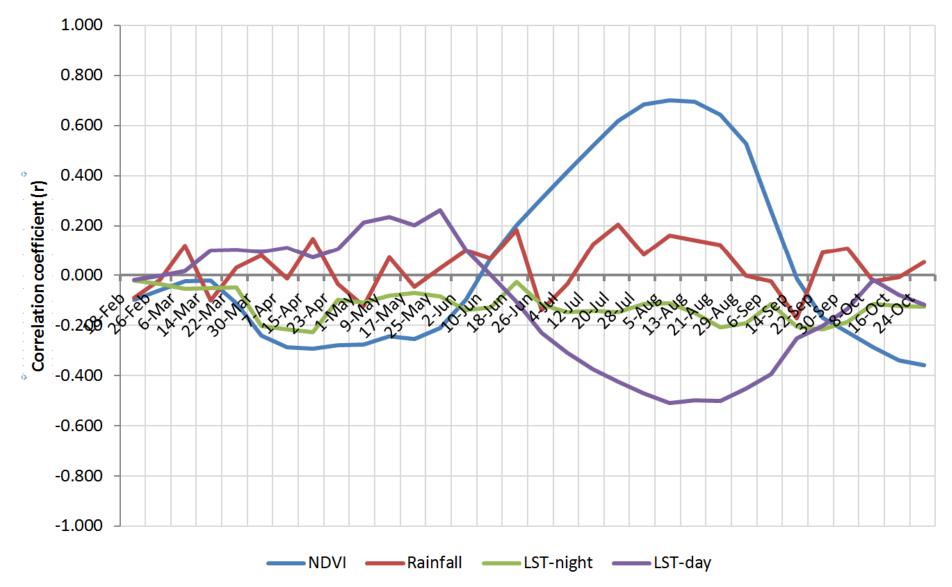
Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS)



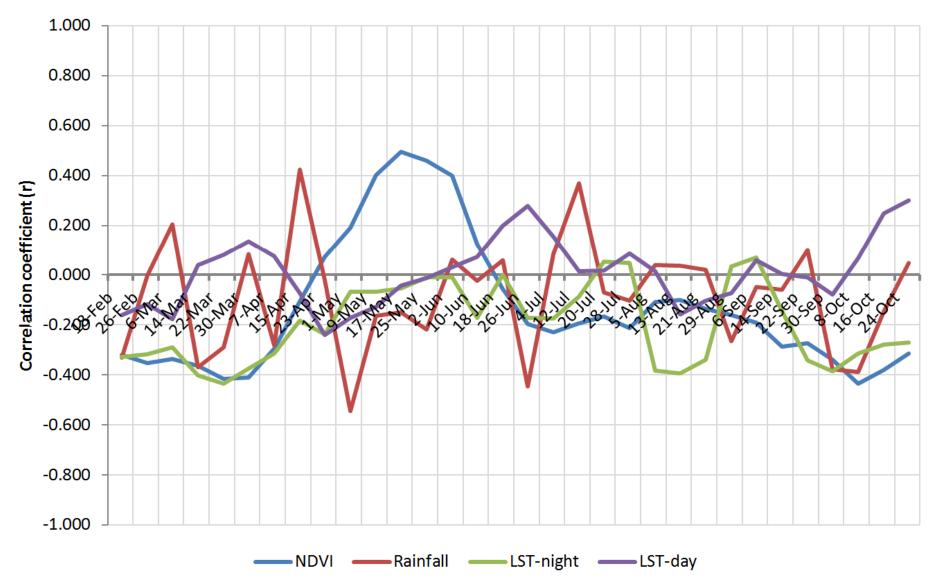




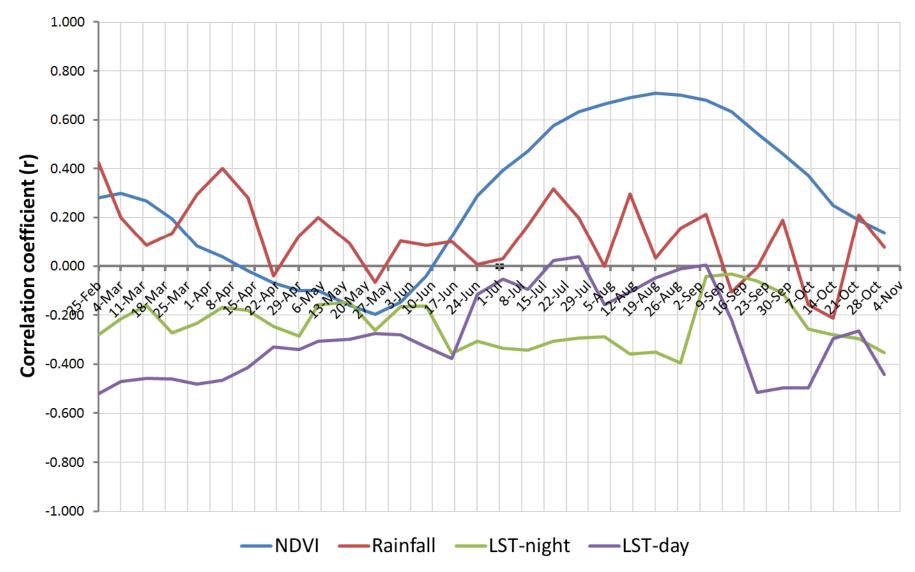
Soybean yield dependence at county level speculative region, 2006-2011

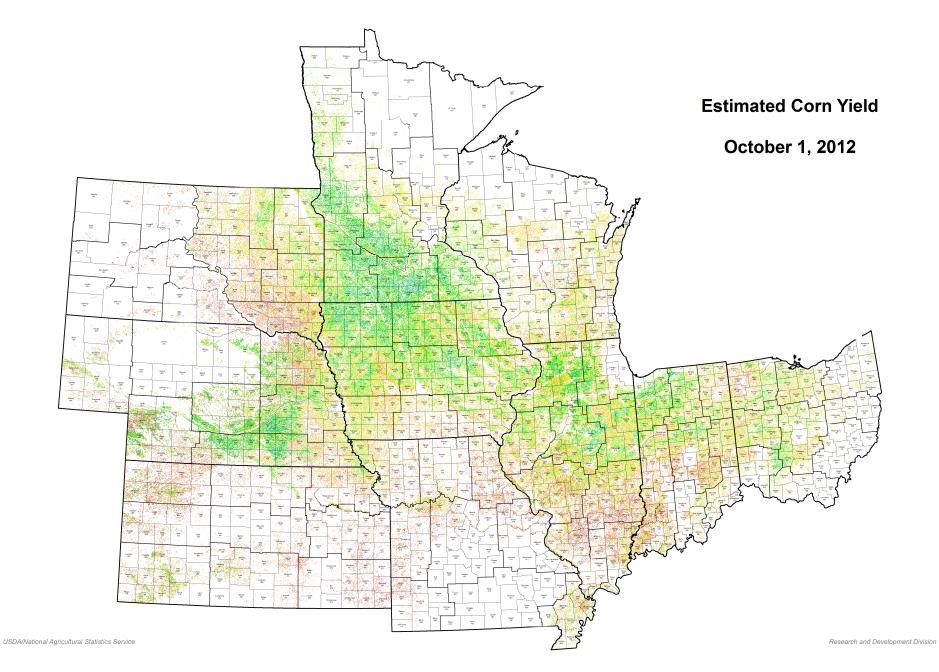


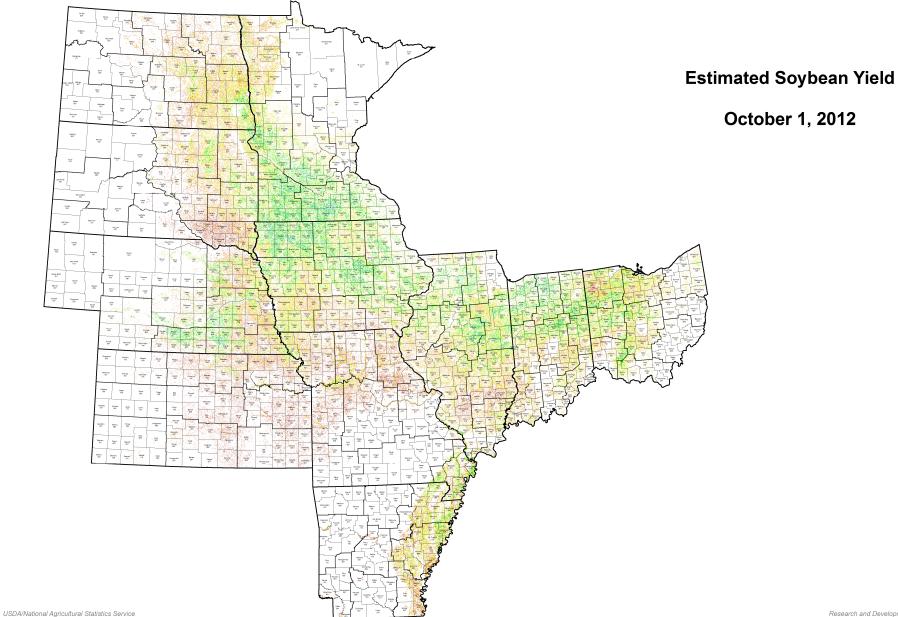
Winter wheat yield dependence at county level Kansas, 2006-2011



Cotton yield dependence at county level TX & AR, 2005-2011

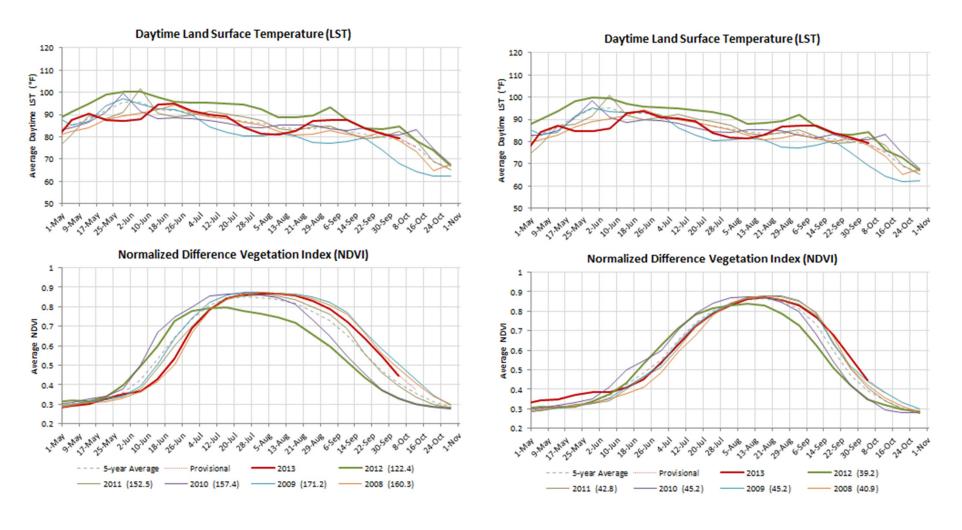






Research and Development Division

MODIS-derived crop dynamics based on CDL areas



Soybeans

Corn

This winter: Try to understand all common MODIS derived variables and how they relate to various crops' yields

- Explore fully beyond only corn and soybeans
 - Wheat
 - Rice
 - Potatoes
 - Cotton
- Compare the full suite of common MODIS variables
 - NDVI
 - EVI
 - LAI
 - FPAR
 - LST (daytime and nighttime)
- Test Both Terra and Aqua platforms
 - Truly assess the AM vs PM overpass time
- Look at pixel scale issues
 - 250 m vs. 500 m vs. 1000 m (particularly for NDVI)

Final thoughts about crop production monitoring using earth observation satellites

- A wealth of satellite data already exists
 - Free and with significant history
 - Terra and Aqua MODIS
 - Landsat 7 and 8
 - Others are out there too to supplement
 - DMC, Rapideye, Digital Globe, SPOT, IRS, etc...
 - Plus those coming online like VIIRS, Sentinel II,
- Computing infrastructure can handle it
-and the research is there to guide best practices

Thank You

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www.nass.usda.gov http://www.nass.usda.gov/Research_and_Science/ http://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape



